

2026 KPURA Election for Board of Directors

Biography for Sooz Klinkhamer

I enjoy being on the board of KPURA and organizing events for our members, both in-person and virtual events. The opportunity to renew friendships, make new ones, and stay involved in activities with KPU such as Community Days is satisfying and inspiring.

I first became involved in 1977 with Douglas College, as Interior Designer and Space Planner for the New Westminster campus (\$40 million, 440,000 sq.ft). In 1983 I joined the faculty of Interior Design at Kwantlen - Richmond Campus. Key initiatives were to 'mature' the two year diploma into a four year Bachelor degree program, and have that degree accredited by CIDA (then FIDER) - North American accreditation for Interior Design. The degree was conferred in 1994 and accreditation in 2000. The Bachelor degree was Kwantlen's first.

Community service has always been an important activity in my life. I have held numerous professional organization positions and received many honours during my 50 years in practice and service. And proud to say that the IDSN program accomplished over 20 separate 'service learning' projects bringing design services to groups that would otherwise not benefit from them; (Jericho Hill school; Central City Mission; Canadian Paraplegic Association; Jack Wasserman Foundation Hospice; etc.).

I retired from KPU in 2009, having been Chair of IDSN for 13 years.

I joined the retirees association as they began in 2018, and in 2020 was elected to the KPURA Board of Directors and soon after became the 'event coordinator'. I have remained on the board since, and have now had the pleasure of Astrid Opsetmoen join the board and our events coordination as our 'virtual event' manager.

Looking forward, I am hoping to be re-elected this year, and continue planning and offering our members and friends interesting events and activities over the next two years.