

October 12, 2018



Dear Fig Tree Community:

Open Membership Governance + Board Retirements

Effective September 19, 2018, Fig Tree Foundation changed its ByLaws from a closed-membership to an open-membership society. This was the culmination of much groundwork and discussion among Board members and volunteers – we went through 11 drafts over a period of nine months! The voting membership roster was expanded from Board Members only to also include volunteers, large donors, and Roundtable Members (one vote per organisation). An estimated 100 voting members now directly elect the Board. There were many other progressive governance changes in the comprehensive new set of ByLaws that will help Fig Tree Foundation “walk the talk” in one of our four core principles – transparency.

One-third of the Board of Fig Tree Foundation are now up for election at each Annual General Meeting of members, which happened at our September 27, 2018 AGM. Re-elected to the Board to each serve a 3-year term were Dr. Sarah Skett (Chair), Kathleen Spelliscy (Secretary to the Board), and Tom Smillie (Treasurer). Long-time Board members Paul Gomes and John Moreland were approved for a term extension beyond the cumulative 9-year limit. Rounding out the current Board are Iain Stewart and three vacancies, which are anticipated to be filled by Board appointment to serve until the next AGM.

Retiring from the Board are Rick Castiglione and long-time member Dr. Bob Schulz. We thank both of these gentlemen for their contribution to Fig Tree. In Fall 2017, former Chair of the Board Trevor Haynes retired after more than six years of dedicated service. He was also a Founding Funder of Fig Tree. In his honour, Fig Tree created the Haynes Volunteer Award to recognize in our volunteer team the qualities he embodied – service, integrity, commitment, and dedication. Marie Delaporte was the first recipient of this annual award, which acknowledges all volunteers for their valuable time.

We are now recruiting additional Board members and are seeking candidates who believe in our four core principles of collaboration, effectiveness, sustainability, and transparency. Previous board experience or knowledge of international development would be an asset. Please direct all prospects to me at the email address below and I will follow up with them directly.

Fig Tree Foundation has experienced many changes in the past year and we look forward to continuing the momentum in the coming year!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Skett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Sarah Skett,
Chair

sarahs@figtreefoundation.com