

# Meet the Steering Committee

## Julie Simard, Chair

Julie, an Aurora resident, has been a LiPS member since 2018 and a Steering Committee member since 2022. She has extensive experience in healthcare and worked on the frontline as an emergency room RN and in hospital administration, as well as healthcare consulting. Julie holds a PhD in Health Services Research from the University of Toronto where her research is focused on optimizing hospital-physician relationships. Julie is passionate about improving healthcare and access to health services in her community and is excited about her new role as Chair and the opportunity to impact Southlake and the local community by growing the LiPS membership in support of important health projects.

## Susan M. Allen

Susan is a new member to both LIPS and the Steering Committee. She is an accomplished real estate executive with over 25 years experience in the Commercial Real Estate Industry. In her last role she was the General Manager, CF Toronto Eaton Centre with Cadillac Fairview. Susan is the President and CEO of BOMA Toronto, the second largest BOMA organization in North America. She holds her dual MBA from Northwestern University-Kellogg School of Management & York University Schulich School of Business, her ICD.D Designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors and her RPA designation from BOMI International. Susan is passionate about driving change, collaboration, and mentoring women.

## Jacqui Kirkland

With over 20 years in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, Jacqui built a career helping organizations prepare for the unexpected. Now retired, she brings that same strategic mindset to her role on the LiPS Steering Committee—supporting fundraising efforts for lifesaving equipment at Southlake. Whether planning a campaign or perfecting her golf swing (two holes-in-one and counting!), she believes in doing the right things for the right reasons—on the course, in business, and in giving back.

## Lana Freeman, Southlake Liaison

Lana is a long-standing member of LiPS and has recently re-joined the Steering Committee. Her career in healthcare has spanned over 25 years and she finds being able to directly contribute to the equipment needs of Southlake extremely empowering! As the Director of Planning for Southlake, Lana is continuously engaged in discussions and projects that relate to the on-going needs of all of the clinical programs, staff and patients. Outside the world of Healthcare Lana has a passion for cooking and entertaining.

## Robin Taylor-Smith

Robin has been a LiPS member for many years, and decided now was the time to step up to the plate and join this Steering Committee. Robin has been a strong supporter of community initiatives for many years, including working behind the scenes for the Run for Southlake among other events. Robin, who lives in Aurora, is committed to building and improving health services in our community and is excited for the vitalization of LiPS and moving this group towards an exciting next chapter.

## Tarana Rahimi

Tarana Rahimi earned her degree from the University of Toronto, where she majored in Political Science and Public Law with a focus on Women and Gender Studies. Professionally, Tarana serves as Manager of Corporate Donor Relations at United Way Greater Toronto, where she manages a portfolio generating over \$5 million in fundraising revenue. In 2020, Tarana founded Afghan Women Strong, dedicated to amplifying the voices of women around the world. Tarana also serves on the Advisory Board of the Afghan Youth Engagement and Development Initiative (AYEDI). Her passion for human rights and equity has grown through years of advocacy and community engagement, driven by a deep commitment to raising awareness about social justice issues and empowering marginalized voices.

## Sarah Powell, Past Chair

Contact us at [lipssouthlake@gmail.com](mailto:lipssouthlake@gmail.com)

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