

**Personal Statement of Qualification
Brockton Councillor Vacancy**

Robin Zettel

Walkerton, Ontario | N0G 2V0

2015 was the year I came home to community. At eight months pregnant and along with our 2-year-old daughter, my husband Jon and I took a leap in life and came home to Brockton.

As an educator, as a community volunteer, and as a parent to four beautiful children, I believe in the vitality of our community. I strive to foster a positive and inclusive environment, not only for my children, but for everyone in Brockton. I am running for the seat on council because I believe in community and contributing to meaningful actions that will benefit everyone. I am the best person for this position.

Through my volunteer work I have gained the experience and connections that can make a sustainable difference in the community. I understand the value of everyone's contributions and the social fabric that encompasses Brockton and beyond. I can make those challenging decisions and support the decisions that positively impact Brockton and its growth. Through the lens of arts & culture, I have been able to make professional connections that I bring back to my community, opportunities in diversity and inclusion that brings our community together, connecting us through the arts and have lasting positive impacts beyond the arts and into everyday life.

I am the Jubilee Arts & Music chairperson at Victoria Jubilee Hall. I am a volunteer and play a key role in leading the venue in programming and operations along with a team of dedicated volunteers. I have been part of the Victoria Jubilee Hall Project Committee, contributing to the financial decisions to promote sustainability for arts & culture in our community. I have raised over \$50,000 in grants and donations. From the start of my position, I have made connections with networks such as the Ontario Presents Network where I have built relationships with other professionals across Ontario, paving the way for the expansion and diversity in programming that reflects our community, and the relationships beyond. Whether it is inclusive LGBTQIAE+ programming with Amanda Rheame or forging relationships through arts by showcasing the Sultans of String: Walking Through the Fire, an Indigenous collaboration presented in our community that had a successful turnout with rave reviews from the Walkerton Herald Times. Through my networking we have become a presenting venue with the Ontario Festival of Small Halls as they looked to widen their scope from the Ottawa region and into ours. This is community growth.

I am the Executive Director, board member and founder of Sistema Walkerton, a non-profit after-school music program that delivers violin lessons to school-aged children at no cost to them. The core of the program being inclusive where music is for everyone, reflecting our inclusive community.

Since its inception in 2022, I have utilized my skills to network with Sistema organizations across Canada, develop relationships, and contribute to the Sistema Canada Network meaningfully, collaborating with other professionals to promote diversity, equity and inclusion through music. I connect with stakeholders and various community members to ensure the support for the program socially and financially. I have had successes in grants, raising over \$10,000 in grants and donations and continue to seek out all opportunities as the program expands with the second location in Chesley, connecting our community with neighbouring communities, creating meaningful and lasting relationships. This is community growth.

We all have roots to build upon, we all have a vision for our families, we all can make a difference. Together we are stronger. Together we will make a positive difference, not only for my family, but for everyone across Brockton. More and more people are moving here and as the community grows, it needs to be supported into the future. I have a strong interest in contributing to this. I am the person you need to sit with you and make those meaningful decisions and foster community growth.

The Municipality of Brockton's commitment to community and its growth aligns perfectly with my values and professional goals. I am excited to contribute my skills and expertise to support Brockton's vision and objectives. With my strategic mindset, strong leadership skills, and experience with various committees and networks I am confident in my ability to effectively lead alongside Council, Brockton staff, community volunteers, and all residents to keep our community thriving and competitive.

In 2015, my family came home to community...we came home to Brockton. If we all can make a difference for even one person, that is how community strengthens itself – one person at a time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robin Zettel