

EDMONTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS 2026 BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Recommendation

1. That the appointments of the Boards of Directors to the Business Improvement Area associations, as set out in Attachment 1 of the December 8, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02875, be approved, and that the term of appointment be January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
2. That the appointments of the Board of Directors to the Chinatown and Area Business Association, as set out in Attachment 2 of the December 8, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02875, be approved, and that the term of appointment be January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
3. That Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 of the December 8, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02875 remain private pursuant to section 34 (information that is or will be available to the public within 60 days) of the *Access to Information Act*.
4. That Attachment 3 of the December 8, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02875 remain private pursuant to sections 20 (disclosure harmful to personal privacy), 29 (advice from officials) and 32 (privileged information) of the *Access to Information Act*.

Requested Action	Decision Required
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.	Regional Prosperity
City Plan Values	THRIVE
Corporate Business Plan	Managing the Corporation
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C462C - Business Improvement Areas Policy
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 8, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02876, Edmonton Business Improvement Areas 2026 Budgets

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Executive Summary

- The 13 Edmonton Business Improvement Area (BIA) associations referenced in this report have submitted their 2026 Board of Director rosters for City Council's approval.
- Individuals are eligible to be directors for a BIA association board if they have been nominated by a BIA tax-levy paying business member of the BIA and have consented to be a director.
- Council appointments are required in accordance with municipal and provincial processes and regulations.

REPORT

A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a defined geographic area in which businesses combine resources and work together through a formal association of business members to enhance the conditions that attract businesses, events, experiences and patrons to their area. Edmonton's 13 BIA associations and their board members are important partners in achieving the City's strategic goal of Regional Prosperity as well as the delivery of the Economic Action Plan. The City does not fund BIA operations, but collects and disburses the member BIA tax levies to each of the BIA associations.

A BIA and its related association is created by City bylaw, and each of Edmonton's 13 BIAs has its own bylaw. Each year, City Council must review board member nominations and appoint individuals to serve as directors on the boards of these associations. This requirement is pursuant to the provincial *Municipal Government Act, Business Improvement Area Regulation* and the City's BIA bylaws.

Individuals are eligible to be directors on a BIA association board if they have been nominated by a BIA tax-levy paying member of the BIA and have consented to act as a director. All 13 BIA associations have completed their required annual general meetings (AGMs), which included soliciting nominations to their boards, reviewing nominations and selecting recommended candidates. In accordance with each individual BIA bylaw, all recommended board candidates have accepted their nomination to stand for appointment. Each BIA may have up to 15 directors on their board, although some BIAs choose to govern with smaller boards.

Legal Implications

Section 51(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* and s. 7(1) of the BIA bylaws indicate that City Council is responsible for appointing nominated individuals to the board of a Business Improvement Area association. Council may approve or decline the appointment of a nominated individual. Additional legal implications are included in private Attachment 3.

Community Insight

In September and October each year, Edmonton's 13 Business Improvement Areas hold their AGMs where BIA members are invited to participate and vote on the composition of their board of directors for the coming year. All 13 board member lists presented to City Council with this report (Attachment 1) were voted on and approved by the membership in attendance for the AGMs.

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GBA+

BIA association Executive Directors and boards are expected to anticipate the needs of equity-seeking groups and business owner members. Administration develops resources for partner organizations to help them to learn about and apply an equity lens on the planning and execution of BIA initiatives. Integrating GBA+ processes can help ensure that the work and budget allocation contributes to the accessibility and equity of BIA services.

As BIAs are independent entities with their own member-selected boards of directors, procedures and operating guidelines, City Administration is responsible for:

- Periodically reviewing the bylaws, policies and procedures that govern BIAs which requires a GBA+ process in board recruitment and selection processes.
- Collaborating with all 13 BIA association administrators so they can understand, appreciate and apply a high-quality GBA+ process in the recruitment of potential board members as well as in regular business planning.

Environment and Climate Review

This report was reviewed for environment and climate risks. Based on the review completed no significant interactions with the City's environmental and climate goals were identified within the scope of this report.

Attachment

1. Private - Edmonton Business Improvement Areas - 2026 Boards of Directors
2. Private - Chinatown Business Improvement Area - 2026 Board of Directors
3. Private - Advice from Officials and Privileged Information