



2026 Board of Directors Election Candidate Bio

Name	Running for the position of	Residence
Amanda Desmarais	Director-at-Large (2-year term)	Montreal, Quebec

Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer Experience:

Leadership & Governance Experience

Board Member | National Gallery of Canada Foundation
Ottawa, ON (Jan 2026–Present)

- Provide strategic governance and philanthropic leadership, fundraising initiatives, cultivating private support and major gifts to ensure long-term financial stability and enrichment for the Gallery's collections and programs.

Board Member | Skate Canada
Ottawa, ON (May 2025–Present)

- Focus on high-level governance and strategic oversight, setting the organization's vision and policies for sustainable growth and development.

Board Member | McGill University Health Centre Foundation
Montreal, QC (Sep 2023–Present)

- Provide strategic oversight for fundraising initiatives supporting healthcare innovation; monitor organizational performance metrics.

Board Member | Council for Canadian American Relations
(May 2025–Present)

- Contribute to binational cultural partnerships through governance and policy development.

International Committee Member | Jean-Paul Riopelle Foundation
(2021–Present)

- Collaborate on initiatives promoting Canadian cultural heritage globally; advise on international partnerships and programming.

*To note: I have completed many board training modules, courses and sessions throughout my professional board experiences. (Ex. Governance, Risk, Conduct & Ethical Concerns, EDI, Respect in Sport, etc.)

Experience Relevant to the Skate Canada Board of Directors

My relevance to the Skate Canada Board of Directors is rooted in the dual perspective of a competitive youth athlete and the strategic expertise of a business leader and philanthropist. My professional journey has been defined by building vast networks, driving growth, and engaging in responsible governance.

As a Youth Athlete

My commitment to this sport is personal. Having competed for nearly a decade with C.P.A. Saint-Léonard/Ville Mont-Royal, I possess an innate understanding of the dedication required by our athletes,



coaches, and volunteers. This background ensures that my decision-making at the board level always considers the "on-ice" reality and the grassroots system that fuels our national success.

Strategic Governance & Vision

Since joining the Skate Canada Board in May 2025, I have been dedicated to setting the organization's vision and policies for sustainable future growth and development. My governance approach is holistic; I understand that valid strategy requires not just oversight, but the ability to anticipate market trends and mitigate risk. My current board roles with McGill University Health Centre Foundation, the National Gallery of Canada Foundation, and CCAR, allow me to bring best-in-class governance practices to Skate Canada, ensuring our policies and strategy remain robust and forward-thinking, while positioning the organization for long-term stability.

Philanthropy & Revenue Generation

Beyond governance, I offer the tangible skill set of a philanthropist and business builder. I view the Board's role as pivotal in securing the organization's financial and strategic future.

Fundraising: Throughout my professional board positions, I actively cultivate private support and major partnerships to ensure long-term financial and strategic stability. I am experienced in engaging high-level stakeholders and navigating complex partnerships to drive philanthropic growth.

Business Acumen: My background as a business owner complements my non-profit leadership. Having co-founded and directed an advisory firm for nearly a decade, I possess a deep understanding of revenue diversification, market expansion, risk mitigation, and strategy development and fulfillment. I bring this entrepreneurial mindset—focused on tangible KPIs and fiscal health—to Skate Canada, ensuring we have the resources to support our strategic ambitions and strategic plan.

I am eager to continue applying this unique blend of athletic passion, boardroom discipline, philanthropic drive, and widespread network to ensure Skate Canada's continued health and excellence on the national and international stage.

Areas of Interest Within Skate Canada:

My primary area of interest is providing strategic oversight to ensure Skate Canada's long-term financial stability and future success. I am passionate about supporting the organization's evolution by championing governance strategies that ensure long-term financial resilience and innovation.

Specifically, I am focused on partnerships and sponsorships from a board perspective - supporting the team in identifying high-level opportunities and ensuring their success. My interest is to foster an environment where strategic connections can thrive, driving revenue that directly fuels Skate Canada's core pillars - from grassroots programs to High Performance and Alumni engagement.

This holistic approach ensures we have the resources to support every pillar of our sport.