

Melanie Schwerdt She/Her

(Nominated by Jesse Matheson)

Lived MG DNA.	Governance	Finance/Accounting	Human Resources
3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced
Risk Management	Arts/Event Sector	Legal	Business Strategy
3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced

I cherish the history of SGLMG and I am driven to continue relevance for our diverse communities.

As a board member I openly collaborate to provide the governance obligations of a director in a not-for-profit charity to ensure its sustainability for our future generations to experience and enjoy.

As Co-Chair of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras Arts since 2020, I bring to the board my experience as a community volunteer and advocate with decades of professional experience leading change management programmes and implementing governance for not-for-profits, government and commercial organisations in NSW and Australia.

I have proudly led Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in preparation for Sydney WorldPride 2023.

During this time, I have added value to Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras' governance structures, policies and processes and have proven experience to apply legal, regulatory and financial frameworks, commercial management, not-for-profit sector experience, managing conflict and compliance.

I bring to the board my professional experience in accounting and finance, including financial management, budgeting and audit, human resources, leadership, including building capability and succession planning, management of risk, legal expertise and business strategy.

LGBTQIA+ alliances

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

Queer Screen

Equality Australia

ACON's TransHub

Queers of Joy

Limes

Lemons with a Twist...



MELANIE SCHWERDT

PROFILE

Community volunteer and advocate with decades of professional experience leading change management programmes and implementing governance for not-for-profits, government and commercial organisations in NSW and Australia.

In the face of adversity, I will continue to act in the best interests of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras Arts.

CONTACT

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EXPERIENCE – BOARD AND VOLUNTEER

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras: Co-Chair

March 2020 – Present

- Chaired 2021 and 2022 Festival season, media and spokesperson
- Community townhalls, Committee oversight and co-ordination
- Delivered policy review, Ethics charter, strategic plan 2022-2025

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras: Director

October 2019 – Present

- People and Culture Committee board representative
- Audit and Risk Committee board representative
- Strategic plan review Committee

Sparkee Pty Ltd: Company Secretary

October 1999 – Present

- Corporate governance, compliance and reporting obligations
- Executive director operational duties and reporting
- Business opportunity and risk identification, business sustainability

Volunteering:

SGLMG Fair Day bump in, fundraising, workshop bbq, community event participation

WORK EXPERIENCE

NSW Department of Customer Service: Regulatory Schemes

November 2016 – Present

- Policy implementation for Statewide customer protection
- Change management, legislative interpretation, challenging status quo
- Business strategy, process improvement, risk management

Commonwealth Department: Senior Case Management Accountant

October 2007 – November 2016

- Auditing and case management, governance, compliance
- Stakeholder engagement, teamwork and leadership
- Critical thinking, financial and environmental analysis

Health Practice Creations Group: Project Lead and Business Manager

February 2010 – July 2016

- Financial budgeting and forecasting, business health checks,
- Project management, Human resources and recruitment
- Strategic planning, business continuity, procurement

EDUCATION

Admission Supreme Court – NSW
Graduate Diploma Legal Practice
Chartered Accountants provisional
Master of Business (Accountancy)
Advanced Diploma in Justice Studies
Bachelor Applied Science

Awards: Law - Frank Astill prize for academic success