



Burnaby Council Candidate: Maita Santiago - Burnaby Citizens Association

Maita Santiago is a mother of two and a long-time resident of Burnaby. For three decades, Maita has worked to improve the lives for people through grassroots organizing and political advocacy. She owns a small business (immigration consulting) and has also run a family daycare. Maita's work as a Citizen Representative on Burnaby's Social Issues Committee and Sub-Committee on Childcare gives her the experience and knowledge to bring her values to Burnaby City Hall. Maita will work to address issues like housing affordability, climate change, and workers' rights so that everyone can live vibrant lives in an inclusive Burnaby.

What skills would you bring to the Councillor's position and how would those apply to the business community?

I bring a strong connection to the Filipino community, of which I am a member. I know the challenges of finding good, family-supporting jobs. Burnaby's business community is broad and diverse, and it will thrive if City Council helps to address liveability and affordability issues. I have a small business (immigration consulting) and I also once ran a family daycare. I know the challenges small businesses face and the important contributions they make to our community.

I know the business community cares about affordability, equality, and climate change, as these things affect businesses directly. I look forward to working with the business community to tackle these challenges together.

What strategies do you think the City of Burnaby should adopt to foster the growth and success of our local businesses?

We're looking for new ways that the City of Burnaby can help advocate for businesses, especially in sectors that still haven't recovered to their pre-COVID levels. We want to be part of the solution; we want to give people the option of in person events with their communities, making sure that we create events that honour the land we live in and celebrate the rich history and ongoing legacy of the hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples in a way we can all engage with and honour. We need to be providing venues for people to re-connect, engage, and explore the many neighbourhoods, parks, and businesses that Burnaby has to offer.

How would you propose the City of Burnaby manage its continued densification and the development of its town centers?

Taking a more equity-based lens, I want to see the city create protections so that residents and local, community organizations and businesses are not left to compete against the highest bidder - that they have the protections from renovictions and price gouging.

If elected, what would be your top goals for your coming term in office?

My top goals are: to be an effective voice for communities who traditionally have felt excluded from city governance; to pursue reconciliation with Indigenous people in a deliberate and good way; to make progress in addressing the housing needs of current and future residents; to contribute to keeping Burnaby the best municipality in the region when it comes to liveability!