

DEBRA ADAMSON

I wish to join the Executive Council because I feel I can bring expertise and experience from my career in the U.S., with a background in community-based organizations (CBOs), grant proposal writing, and business development.

I have worked with CBOs and small businesses in blighted areas such as Joliet, Illinois, on projects which included:

- Helping banking institutions implement a federally funded program to help homeowners upgrade and renovate homes with 2% loans.
- Helping a CBO establish a neighborhood clinic to support the ESL (English as a Second Language) population and to provide after-school activities for at-risk youth.
- Helping a CBO with a welfare-to-work program that trained welfare recipients in computer and interviewing skills.

Here in Belize, over the past three years, I have been in an advisory position with government agencies to provide cybersecurity awareness to the public and businesses. For example, I recently presented a webinar to BCCI members on cyber security awareness.

I have been involved with IT since 1984, in many different roles:

- Computer Resources Manager for the Learning Resource Center at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Student Computing Center Manager at the same college, supporting mainframe and personal computers.
- At CText, installation and training, as well as phone and on-site technical support, for newspaper editorial and classified systems, with 100 clients in the U.S. This involved hardware, networking, and database support.
- Internal phone and on-site technical support for Waste Management's 200-plus U.S. and Canadian locations. This involved hardware, networking, and database support for IBM AS/400 midrange systems.
- Contract consulting for numerous Fortune 100 companies, community-based organizations, and small private businesses.

My background includes an extensive history in Information Technology, including:

- Applications development
- Systems analysis
- Systems programming
- Database design and implementation
- Phone and on-site technical support

Recognizing the customer demand for database applications with attractive graphic interfaces, I have been involved in 2D/3D graphics design and arts, as well as online community development, for much of my career.

I developed third-party solutions and content for 3D chat platforms, virtual museums, and virtual simulations for training, as well as interfacing platforms with payment processors.

I worked as a database consultant for Abbott Labs, Hartford Insurance, Ameritech, and other Fortune 100 corporations.

My U.S. corporation, Cross Design Group, LTD, was incorporated in June 2007 as the focal point for my online graphics activities.

As an artist, have sold many prints to private collectors, and my works have been featured as cover art and the featured image for the Sci-fi Channel online e-zine.

My specialties are:

- Corporate strategy development
- Relationship building
- Project management
- Product development
- Business automation
- Application/system development
- Virtual World management
- Community Education teacher
- Corporate trainer
- Grant proposal writing

My philanthropic activities include:

- Establishing The Realm Project as a philanthropic organization that offers resource support to the Ministry of Education in Belmopan and San Ignacio, as well as the local Inspiration Center contact, in working with children on the autism spectrum.
- Working with the Cayo Animal Welfare Society and fostering over a dozen rescue animals.