



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2026-70
IN CITY COUNCIL
March 30, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Will MacArthur to the Open Data Review Board for a term of two years, effective March 30, 2026, to fill the seat vacated by Anna Decker, who moved out of Cambridge.

The city's Open Data Program makes government data easily available in useful formats, and is intended to increase transparency, foster engagement among residents, and create new opportunities for collaboration between the City of Cambridge and the public.

The Open Data Review Board, comprised of at least three residents and four or more city employees, will meet quarterly to help ensure that the program balances its goals of transparency and accessibility with the city's obligation to protect private, confidential, and sensitive information.

The City Manager's office posted a request for applications for a newly vacated seat on the Open Data Review Board on the City website and via a news release on January 12, 2026, with a closing date of February 13, 2026. During that time, members of the Board conducted outreach with their networks to encourage a diverse slate of applicants. The call for applicants was also posted in several of the City's daily email updates, social media and in postings on the City website. There were 18 applicants, 7 of whom were interviewed. The interview panel, made up of City staff members, has recommended the appointment of one of those applicants.

There are no other current vacancies on the Open Data Review Board. The timing of the next vacancy is uncertain and will depend in part on whether current members continue to serve and seek reappointment. If an additional vacancy arises, it will be filled through the City's standard public posting and appointment process.

I am pleased to recommend Will MacArthur for the vacant resident seat on the Open Data Review Board (ODRB).

1. Will MacArthur is the Data and Research Manager at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, where he supports data-driven policy-making, conducts high-priority data projects including data visualizations for the statewide housing plan and address quality improvement initiatives, and builds data culture across the agency. Previously, he served as a Program Analyst at Enterprise Community Partners, performing mixed-methods evaluations



of housing programs, and as a Research Consultant conducting urban planning and community-informed research for clients including the Boston Planning and Development Agency. He holds a Master's degree with Distinction in Public and Urban Policy from the University of Glasgow and a Bachelor's degree magna cum laude in Social Studies from Harvard University. Will is a lifelong Cambridge resident, having attended Cambridge Public Schools from kindergarten through his graduation from Cambridge Rindge and Latin.

2. I am particularly impressed with Will's combination of professional data expertise and deep community ties. He has direct experience with Cambridge's Open Data Portal, which he has used for both personal and professional projects, including a 2019 report on the history of Cambridge's zoning ordinance published by the Mayor's office that drew on open data maintained through the Portal. As a shift supervisor and Finance Director at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter from 2016 to 2020, he conducted sensitive intake interviews, managed data collection for public grants, and navigated the practical intersection of data governance and constituent trust. He currently volunteers as an advanced-certified tax preparer through the VITA program, preparing federal and state returns for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

I believe that Will would be an excellent addition to the Open Data Review Board, bringing a unique combination of professional data expertise, direct experience with open data as both a practitioner and a user, and a lifelong commitment to the Cambridge community. His technical proficiency in GIS, R, Tableau, and Census data, along with his perspective as a public-sector data professional in Massachusetts, will be invaluable to the Board's work.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yi-An Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager