

Like music with many tracks, Michael Hwang's life has been a harmonious blend of diverse passions and pursuits.

At the core, Michael is a lawyer with a law degree from UBC, articulated with one of the "Big Four" law firms in Vancouver and established Amicus Lawyers, an award winning community-oriented law office with a focus on his own trademark, "Preventive Advice and Practical Solutions"™. As a pioneer lawyer in the Korean-Canadian community, Michael focused on providing public legal education seminars and pro bono services in partnership with many community organizations, and training articulated students and legal assistants to grow capacity for the community.

In the performing arts realm, Michael was the first organizer of the annual Korean Heritage Day Festival in 2002, and served as the co-president of Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society which organizes month-long events in May to celebrate pan-Asian contributions to Canadian heritage. Michael was instrumental in the acquisition and renovation of a heritage theatre in downtown New Westminster to contribute to its revitalization. He later assumed the management of the theatre to provide a gathering and performing space for many minority community groups including the LGBTQ and the hearing impaired, and to promote social justice and Reconciliation with Indigenous people.

As a seasoned policy governance advisor, Michael served as a director and chairperson of a credit union, orchestrating its transformation towards a policy-governance board model. Michael is currently a director of The New Vista Society which provides affordable housing and long-term care for seniors.

As a child born in Korea after the war, community development has been a cornerstone of Michael's life. He served as the BC's representative to Presbyterian World Service & Development committee, which was formed after the Korean War to help develop Korea, for six years to oversee emergency aid, public health, education and economic projects all over the world. He applied the lessons learned from there to a local non-profit organization, SHARE Community & Family Services Society which included operating food banks and thrift stores.

Michael is passionate about small business as the backbone of our community. He joined the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce board, founded North Road BIA and served as the President of Downtown New Westminster BIA. He was appointed to lead the BC's Small Business Task Force, and continues to serve on the Small Business Roundtable for the Province.