

CHRISTOPHER LEE

Christopher Lee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please see attached my application to be a VNC Community Officer and my response to the questions below. I must indicate that my response for question 5 is 117 words, beyond the 100 requested on the application - please let me know if you'd like me to shorten that response. I feel as what is said there is all necessary and that those 17 extra words do no-one any disservice.

I look forward to the Board consideration and to continuing to serve Venice.

— VNC Community Officer Application responses follow —

1.) As a member of the Venice community, it occurs to me that we have a duty to be engaged in conversations that affect our neighborhoods. From issues around litter, to concerns with the unhoused population, to business revival and affordable housing, the conversations that compose Venice require a public forum where they can be discussed and addressed. Accordingly, the VNC seems the outlet to take the voices of the community and to shape them into actionable initiatives that are brought to the city and other governmental entities so that we may actively contribute to the constant creation of Venice.

a. I have not yet served on the VNC Board or any other Neighborhood Council Board

b. I have served on the VNC Outreach Committee for 3 years as a volunteer.

c. As an event producer by trade, I am adept at listening to and managing a multitude of simultaneous conversations. I am familiar with budgets and doing what it takes to stay within them, and have learned to balance what a client (translated here into a community) needs with the constraints of other entities (translated here to be the city, county, state, business, homeowners, etc) require. Additionally, as the founder of a local nonprofit, I am keenly interested on how individuals can make a difference at the local level that support and grow our neighborhoods.

CHRISTOPHER LEE

d. I have been a stakeholder in the VNC area since July 2020 (3 years, 1 month).

2.) My neighborhood involvement is most easily traced to the founding and operation of Venice Community Cleanups, a local nonprofit that addresses litter in Venice. By default, people assume that these cleanups are specific to the beach – however, as Venice is composed of more than just the beach, this nonprofit strives to address the city streets of Venice as well, paying attention to the community as whole rather than just the popular areas. I am also a member of the Venice Chamber of Commerce, in regular communication with the Venice Beach BID, and am connected to our local press outlets.

3.) The three most pressing issues facing Venice right now are: the concerns around people experiencing homelessness, business revivals along our major business corridors, and public safety.

4.) The primary role of the VNC is to act as an advisory body to LA City Council. As such, it is imperative that we engage with and listen to the needs of our stakeholders so that we can assist in creating possible solutions that address those needs within a framework that is thought out and actionable for the City of Los Angeles.

5.) My vision for Venice is one where Venice is incredibly walkable along all of its major thoroughfares (Lincoln, Venice, Rose, OFW, Washington, etc) and where it is safe to do so. In addition to a safer Venice, I see our community as a beacon of artistic expression where art is seen as a spontaneous self-expression rather than something to be curated and controlled. Lastly, I see Venice as an example of a working solution to the multiple concerns I've listed in my response to question 3 – an example of how we can address the unhoused with humanity, how we can revive business without creating displacement, and increase public safety without sanitizing the spirit of our community.

6.) If not selected as a VNC Community Officer, I shall continue my service in the Outreach committee as well as the Rules and Selection committee.

—

Christopher Lee



SCOTT MAYERS

Venice Neighborhood Council



VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Qualifying Stakeholder Address (*Dirección*):

<u>Print Name/Nombre en letra de molde :</u> Dr. Scott Mayers			
Street address / Dirección	City / Ciudad	State / Estado	Zip/ Código Postal

Mailing Address (if different):

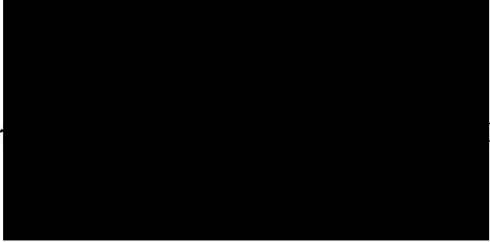
Street address / Dirección	City / Ciudad	State / Estado	Zip/ Código Postal
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Contact Numbers:

Phone (Day) / Teléfono (día)	Phone (Evening) / Teléfono (tarde)	Fax Number
<u>Email / Correo Electrónico</u> (very important)		

I hereby certify, that I wish to serve as a Community Officer on the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers and I live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature/Firma



Date

8/10/23



SCOTT MAYERS

Venice Neighborhood Council



Answer all these questions; please limit your answers to 100 words or less each.

Questions:

- 1) Please explain why you wish to serve as the VNC Board of Officers.
 - a) Have you served before on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where and when?
 - b) Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?
 - c) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.
 - d) How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC area?
- 2) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.
- 3) Please list the three most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community.
- 4) What do you see as the primary roles of the Venice Neighborhood Council?
- 5) What is your Vision for Venice?
- 6) If not selected, are you willing to participate in a VNC committee? Which committee interest you and why?

1. I have lived in Venice since 1965. I would like to be a part of preserving its future.
 - a. No.
 - b. No.
 - c. Nearly 60 years (since 1965).
2. I am very active in local and state politics and host many events for the Democratic Party at my home.
3. Public safety, homelessness, and housing
4. The primary role of the VNC should be engaging the community to raise awareness of local issues and act as a conduit between CD11 and Venice stakeholders to provide advice and recommendations to Traci Park's office.
5. Preserving Venice's eclectic charm as it evolves to meet the new challenges.
6. Yes, I have considered applying to LUPC, Preserving Public Places, and Outreach.

JASON SUGARS

01.] Why I wish to serve:

I am a fourth-generation, proud native Venetian. I want to find ways to forge a safe and prosperous future while maintaining respect and awareness for the unique and beautiful history that made Venice, CA the incredible place that my great-grandmother called home and the place that my great-grandchildren will one day call home.

- A - I served on the most recent iteration of the Venice Neighborhood Council.
- B - I sat on the Ad-Comm Committee and was set to co-chair a Social Equity Committee.
- C - I have worked in Public Relations, People Management and Pro Communications.
- D - I have been a stakeholder in the VNC area since I was born here, in Venice, in 1967.

02.] About my history of neighborhood and community engagement:

I have long been a Venice neighborhood advocate [and sometime activist]. I sit on the Board of Directors for the Venice Heritage Museum / Foundation, I am an Associate Entertainment Producer for the Abbot Kinney Festival. I am the founder, creator, and curator of a Venice-based Arts and Culture Collective that produces and presents the [JAZZ-IS Venice Rebel Jazz / Not-Jazz Festival. I am also a recent former member of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

03.] The three most pressing issues in Venice.

- A - Many might say the "Homeless Situation". I'll reframe that as a "Lack of Housing Issue".
- B - A notable lack of unity between the various Venice communities.
- C - The loss of the diversity, art, culture, and creativity that make Venice, CA "VENICE".

04.] How I would fulfill my obligation to my neighbors and neighborhood.

I engage as often and as deeply as I possibly can with Venetians representing all of the various class and culture subsets. It is important that as many diverse and different ideas and ideals are considered in the course of making decisions and recommendations that affect all of us, here.

I will then raise my hand and my voice to advocate for the things that the community wants, needs, and deserves to be heard on.

05. My Vision for Venice.

I would love to see a unified and respectful community that not only allows for and accepts other people, ideas, lives, styles, and cultures... it would be lovely to have Venice go back to being the neighborhood that invites, welcomes and encourages diversity on all sides and every front.

06. If elated, I would love to serve on the Ad-Comm committee again - to help to sharpen the context and conversation. I would love to start the Social and Cultural Equity Committee that was sidelined during the last term. I would like to serve on the Land Use and Planning Committee - which should be entirely open and fair and has NO representation of Renters or unhoused Venetians.