

# ALPKAN CAKICI

August 29, 2023

Alpkan Cakici



VNC Application Review,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the VNC Board of Officers. Living in Venice for over two years and owning a property at [REDACTED] has enriched my life and fostered a genuine desire to contribute positively to our community. While I've called the LA area home for over seven years, Venice's unique character has resonated with me deeply.

The primary reason I wish to serve on the VNC Board is to help shape the future of our community in 90291. My motivation stems from a belief in being a proactive contributor rather than a passive observer. I might not have direct VNC experience, but I have served as a representative during my college years at Northern Illinois University from 2012-2014. My professional background in real estate, leadership at Moser Legal, and my inherent leadership qualities have provided me with a unique perspective and skill set that I believe would be beneficial for the VNC Board.

Although I have yet to delve into the myriad ways one can engage with our community directly, my vision for Venice is clear: I aspire for Venice to evolve into a premier destination, attracting top-tier talent, ensuring heightened safety measures for residents, and fostering a harmonious and peaceful community environment.

Three issues I believe are paramount for the Venice community include:

1. The provision and promotion of affordable housing.
2. Ensuring cleanliness throughout our neighborhoods.
3. Addressing the homelessness crisis with compassion and effectiveness.

I view the Venice Neighborhood Council as an instrument of positive change. It should act as the backbone, supporting initiatives to enhance our collective quality of life and filtering out those changes that may be more detrimental than beneficial.

Should I not be selected for a role on the board, I remain open to the idea of joining a VNC committee. However, I would prefer to have a detailed conversation with a knowledgeable individual about the structure and mandates of each committee before deciding where I might best contribute.

Thank you for considering my application. Regardless of the outcome, I am committed to working collaboratively to ensure Venice remains a vibrant, safe, and prosperous community for all its residents.

Warm regards,

Alpkan Cakici

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# CHRISTOPHER CIKOWSKI

Venice Neighborhood Council Application – September 2023  
Christopher Cikowski

- 1) Venice has always been a special, eccentric neighborhood and I'd love to be a part of maintaining its charm so all can enjoy for years to come. I moved from Philadelphia to Los Angeles in 2010 to attend Loyola Marymount University's film program and instantly fell in love with Venice. It's a quintessential beach community with something for everyone. It's long been a beloved meeting place for my own friends and family. It's given me many great memories and I'd like to pay that forward. I want to spend some of my good energy giving back to my town.
  - a. I have not.
  - b. I have not.
  - c. In my day job, I'm the Vice President of Animation Programming at 20<sup>th</sup> Television Animation (a division of Disney) where I oversee a slate of 11 shows (SIMPSONS, FAMILY GUY, BOB'S BURGERS, AMERICAN DAD amongst others) alongside a robust development slate. I manage a team of 4 and constantly work productively and efficiently with all types of different folks around the world. I think and act pragmatically in business and would bring that and an open mind to this potential position.
  - d. My wife and I purchased our Silver Triangle home in March 2020. Venice has always been the place I want to live, and we consider ourselves lucky to own a tiny house here. It's our happy place.
- 2) I'm not currently involved in anything in the Venice (or other) communities. Work tends to monopolize a fair bit of my time. But as I get older, I'm realizing I need to prioritize giving back and getting involved with the people and places around me. I was elated to see the open board position this week and had to jump at the opportunity to apply.
- 3) The three most pressing issues for me are community safety, homelessness, and cleanliness.
- 4) Frankly, I don't know much about the neighborhood council, but I am a fast learner and born leader who will apply those skills towards whatever work needs to get done.
- 5) Los Angeles is the greatest city in the country with unique neighborhoods everywhere. I'd love to work towards solidifying Venice as the preeminent family, business, and artist friendly hub of the city. It needs to remain a place where all are welcome with something for everyone.
- 6) Absolutely, I just want to get involved. I'd be most interested in arts. Outside of my professional creative work, I'm a photographer with a passion for the arts. Art also feels core to Venice's identity to me and I'd like to do whatever I can to preserve and maintain that.

# 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.

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**Christopher Lee**

# EMMA VOIGT

Hello,

I am writing to express my interest in the open VNC Community Officer role. I have attached the PDF with my name and contact information here. My answers to the application questions are included below in this email.

A little about me, I am a consultant with Deloitte where I support Federal and local clients with process improvement and change management initiatives. Previously, I participated in AmeriCops where I supported community development efforts in New York. I spend most of my free time surfing or rock climbing.

1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the VNC Board of Officers - **I have always believed that it is important to be involved in improving the community you live in, and I see this as a way I can contribute my skills and experiences to my community.**

a) Have you served on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board - **No**

b) Have you served on a VNC committee - **No**

c) Please state your professional qualifications relevant to this position. **As a management consultant, I support a range of clients in understanding their challenges, creating time bound strategies to articulate their goals, and implementing the necessary actions to achieve their aims. A crucial part of my work is bringing diverse groups together to leverage various skill sets and resources to effectively execute plans. I believe my ability to understand unique challenges and facilitate effective dialogue to build consensus will be an asset to the board.**

d) How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC area - **just over 1 year**

2) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood community involvement - **Before moving to Venice, I served on the Board of Directors of Access CNY where I helped build connections and raise awareness of accessibility needs in Upstate New York. I was also the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the International Center of Syracuse. As an AmeriCorps VISTA, I supported a community development organization in efforts related to placemaking, small business development, workforce development, and urban revitalization. While completing my Master's I participated in several volunteer efforts meant to support local businesses and improve neighborhoods in Syracuse. While living in DC, I volunteered as the Community Manager for a podcast dedicated to navigating biases and racial reconciliation. Currently, I am an active member of my church in Venice. I also support the non-profit arm of my gym in Venice, which aims to address recidivism.**

3) Most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community - **Equity, Sanitation, Safety**

4) What do you see as the primary role of the Venice Neighborhood Council - **To advocate on behalf of Venice stakeholders to address the most pressing issues.**

5) What is your Vision for Venice - **to accentuate the vibrancy of the area while promoting dignity for all residents and sustainability.**

6) If selected, are you willing to participate in a VNC committee - **Yes, I would like to prioritize participating in the Community Resiliency Committee because I feel this is most in line with my experiences. However, I am also interested in the Outreach & Event Planning Committee as I have extensive experience leading communications efforts and have enjoyed planning events for other organizations I volunteer with.**

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to learning more.  
Respectfully,

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[Emma J. Voigt](#)