



Venice Neighborhood Council



PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
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Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 4, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Webinar ID: 833 4205 4077

Or click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83342054077>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +16699006833,,83342054077# or +13462487799,,83342054077#

Or Telephone: US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 5480282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcrPgiBjQy>

Focus on Children

- 5:30 **Call to Order - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and Agenda**
- 5:31 **Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda**
- 5:35 **Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s): None**

5:35 Initiative Updates & Presentations

- ✚ Robin Murez: [Venice Flying Carousel](#)
- ✚ Paul Davis: Update of [Youth Internship Program](#)
- ✚ Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Update of [Walkability Vision Goal](#) ideas for children:
[Safe Pedestrian Access to Library & Slow \(Family Friendly\) Streets Program](#) &
[Designing Streets for Kids](#)
- ✚ John Palka: [Games for Children](#)
- ✚ Joelle Dumas: [Child Care Advocate Program \(CCAP\)](#)
- ✚ Regan Kibbee: [Venice Moms](#)
- ✚ Sandy Bleifer: [LACMA Online Activities for Kids](#), [Learning Pods](#), Provide kids with Tech Tools

6:00 Discussion of possible initiatives related to assisting children's educational and social growth during the pandemic, as summarized at our August 3, 2020 meeting:

The discussion raised a variety of topics related to the impact of the pandemic on the education of children – including the need for teacher-student bonding and peer-to-peer socialization – and how to achieve these twin objectives in the context of the [Family Friendly Streets Initiative](#), particularly for K-5 children, in a way that could be a model for use effectively in all residential neighborhoods.

Among the ideas discussed was the possibility of using designated [Family Friendly Streets](#) for education pods (teacher-student bonding) and play/artwork areas (peer-to-peer socialization).

There was considerable skepticism about whether the [Family Friendly Streets Initiative](#) could be used to achieve this twin objective.

Other ideas were aired. One was to use parking lots or walk streets for these purposes. Another was the problems involved with reliance on webinars instead of in-school classes – issues then under discussion between school administrators, unions, and teachers and parents – and various hybrid options also came up.

There was no clear resolution of the matters raised except a clear interest in doing things which could help achieve the twin objectives via a model that could be emulated in all residential neighborhoods.

7:00 Adourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, February 1, 2021

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Future Joint Board & DFC Meetings

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210301 – 210405 – 210503 – 210607 – 210705 – 210802 – 210906 – 211004 – 211101 – 211206



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Discussion Forum Committee Mission Statement

Provide a monthly forum for discussion of long-term matters affecting the Venice Community within the context of the VNC Vision Goals*

*The VNC Vision Goals were adopted unanimously by the Board on April 21, 2009 as Standing Rule 20 and amended unanimously by the Board on May 20, 2014 to insert the **Focus on Children Vision Goal**. For further information about the DFC, contact its chair Joe Murphy at 310-305-1444 or at joedmur@gmail.com.

To **stimulate the vitality** of the VNC, the Board and VNC Committees are encouraged to consider the below **VNC Vision Goals** in their deliberations.

Although the VNC is a political body, and inevitably it may become embroiled in issues that divide the community, these goals are designed to promote a more proactive, collaborative vision for VNC Committees to include in their deliberations as they formulate recommendations for Board consideration. The **intent** is to create a working framework of integrated strategies capable of achieving, over time, broader consensus and increased:

Focus on Children

Consider strategies that promote & expand opportunities for children to experience direct meaningful involvement in all aspects of the social and economic and cultural activities of the Venice Community. Include this **Focus on Children** as an integral part of the **consideration** of **strategies** in all of the below **Vision Goals**.

Participation

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate broader involvement of stakeholders, major organizations, community groups, and government institutions, etc.

Walkability

Consider strategies that reduce the use of cars and that promote alternatives such as walking, skateboarding, biking & bike racks, circulation systems (trolleys), park & ride rather than additional parking, street-narrowing/sidewalk widening, walk/bike/skateboard lanes separated from traffic, easier neighborhood pedestrian access to commercial stores, etc.

Diversity

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate realistic recommendations designed to increase economic diversity, including affordable housing, etc.

Creativity

Consider strategies that promote the arts, encourage & facilitate creativity. This can apply to architecture, public art, social events (neighborhood gatherings/street movies/theatre/dance/pottery/...), etc.

Collaboration

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate 'level playing fields' for collaborative negotiation; opt for procedures & policies that 'promote flexibility & dialogue' over 'reacting defensively to rigid criteria', facilitation/mediation training, etc.

Brainstorming

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate exploring of non-traditional options for achieving shared objectives, etc.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS: The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Discussion Forum Committee on any agenda item before the Discussion Forum Committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Discussion Forum Committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Discussion Forum Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Discussion Forum Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

POSTING: In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd; Venice Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd; and at our website by clicking on the following link: www.venicenc.org, or at the scheduled meeting. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/your-government/government-information/subscribe-meetings-agendas-and-documents/neighborhood>. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact joedmur@gmail.com.

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the VNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.venicenc.org.

DISABILITY POLICY: The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request by contacting Melissa Diner, Secretary at secretary@venicenc.org.