



Venice Neighborhood Council



VNC Community Officer Application

Instructions: Stakeholders (those who live, work, or own property within the VNC boundaries) are welcomed to apply for consideration for an Officer's position on the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board of Officers. Nominations are opened at specified by the President at which time applications will be available online at <https://VeniceNC.org/Rules>. All application must be returned to Rules@VeniceNC.org and copied to Secretary@VeniceNC.org on or before the closing date and time which is published on the Rules webpage. The Board will select a new member at the following Board Meeting as described in the posted meeting agenda. Applicants need to show proof that they are stakeholders with their application and will give a short presentation at the Board meeting. No representatives will be permitted to speak for the applicant.

Applicant's name and answers to these questions will be made public, but not contact information such as address, phone number and email address.

VNC MISSION STATEMENT: To improve the quality of life in Venice by building community and to secure support from the City of Los Angeles for the resources needed to achieve our goals.

It is strongly recommended that you review the VNC bylaws before applying. They can be found on the VNC website at <http://www.venicenc.org/Rules>



Venice Neighborhood Council



VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Qualifying Stakeholder Address (*Dirección*):

<u>Print Name/ Nombre el letra de Molde</u> : Zachary Best			
<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>Venice</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>90291</u>
Street address / Dirección	City / Ciudad	State / Estado	Zip/ Código Postal

Mailing Address (if different):

<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>[Redacted]</u>
Street address / Dirección	City / Ciudad	State / Estado	Zip/ Código Postal

Contact Numbers:

<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>[Redacted]</u>
Phone (Day) / Teléfono (día)	Phone (Evening) / Teléfono (tarde)	Fax Number
<u>[Redacted]</u>		
Email / Correo Electrónico (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* [Signature] Date 07/19/2022



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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?

Hello there, my name is Zack Best and I wish to serve on the VNC Board of Officers. I live in the heart of Venice and I also operate a restaurant on the Venice Beach Boardwalk. There are a lot of things that I, my fellow co-workers, and neighbors think that can be improved up in order to keep Venice the amazing and unique place that it is. I have never served on any Neighborhood Council Board or VNC Committee, however what I lack in experience I think I make up for with my connections within the area. I've been working and living in Venice for nearly a decade now. As big as Los Angeles is, Venice is rather small. I've grown to know and collaborate with many locals and business owners. For example, George Francisco is a friend of mine and recommended that I apply to be apart of the VNC. If I had to narrow it down, I would say that three of the most pressing issues in the Venice Community would be: 1) Obviously, the homeless population, which isn't news to anyone. 2) The controlling of the Venice Beach Boardwalk. I've noticed that certain performers/vendors will actually deter business rather than promote it. For example, there is one group of musicians outside my establishment that plays so loud that customers will actually leave. I've been dealing with this for years. The police do what they can, but there is only so much they can do. 3) Another ongoing issue is the different points of view amongst residence as far as new and existing businesses go. Obviously, everyone wants to keep Venice as it is: Venice. There has definitely been an ongoing disconnect in the community and a fear of gentrification. I would say that the Venice Neighborhood Council has a lot on its plate as far as roles and responsibilities. Number one is to keep its residents and visitors safe. I've personally been the victim of an attempted home invasion. Luckily, I was able to fight off the individuals, yet others may not be as lucky. We are certainly all grateful that the insane Venice Beach Boardwalk tent saga has come to an end, however there is still plenty of work to be done. After COVID, getting tourism back up is essential to our businesses. Numbers are up for many businesses, but we're all still recovering. The possibilities for Venice are endless. Since the world is finally opening back up again, we can come back with a vengeance. Personally, I think people are attracted to Venice for its unique vibe and lack of corporate influence. Everyone knows that change is inevitable, however it can be done in a way that does not disrupt the integrity of our incredible community. As far as being selected goes, I would be willing and enthusiastic to assist the community anyway possible. Like a large population of people, I'm not from Los Angeles. I'm from New York originally, but Venice has grown to be my home. Thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear from you soon. 3 of 3