

# Venice Neighborhood Council

LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) Email:  
Chair-[LUPC@VeniceNC.org](mailto:LUPC@VeniceNC.org)



## 2025 VNC LUPC APPLICATION

Stakeholders interested in joining the Land Use and Planning Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) are requested to complete the following application and return it to the LUPC Chair ([chair-LUPC@venicenc.org](mailto:chair-LUPC@venicenc.org)), Rules & Selections Committee ([rules@venicenc.org](mailto:rules@venicenc.org)), and the Secretary ([secretary@venicenc.org](mailto:secretary@venicenc.org)) **prior to 5PM on Tuesday August 12th.**

Your application will be forwarded to the VNC Board for review.

According to VNC bylaws, the VNC Board will select eight (8) members of the Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2025. Applicants are encouraged to attend to introduce themselves and speak before the board (representatives may not speak for you).

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

### LUPC Mission:

To advise the Venice Neighborhood Council and stakeholders about land use projects in or around Venice that will impact the quality of life of Venice residents, business owners and stakeholders.

To advise the Venice Neighborhood Council on planning issues and projects affecting the Venice community.

To make recommendations to the Venice Neighborhood Council's Board of Officers regarding any exceptions, modifications and variances to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan for the planning and construction of projects in Venice to forward to the Los Angeles City government entities which shall include but not be limited to Council District 11, City Planning Department, City Building & Safety and City Public Works as deemed necessary.

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## Contact Information:

Name: Colin Warn

*Nombre el letra de Molde*

Qualifying Stakeholder Address: 

*Dirección*

Street address (if different): 

*Dirección, si diferente*

City: Marina Dely Rey

*Ciudad*

State: CA

*Estado*

Zip Code: 90292

*Código Postal*

Email (mandatory) 

*Corero electronico (obligatorio)*

Phone (mandatory): 

*Telefono (obligatorio)*

I hereby certify, that I wish to serve on the Land Use and Planning Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council and I am a Stakeholder within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature

*Firma*

*Colin Warn*

Date

*2/27/2025*

Proof of stakeholder status via a valid credential must be presented at the August Board meeting. A valid credential includes, but is not limited to one of the following: a CA Driver's License or CA Residency Card (for an address within the VNC area); a school ID Card (for a school with in the VNC boundaries); a business card (in combination with any of the following with a matching Venice address: Business license, business check, or pay stub); a recent utility bill (for an address within the VNC area); an imprinted check (including an address within the VNC area); a Pay stub (from a business within the VNC area); a Passport (only in combination with any other credential item); a school report card (from a school with in the VNC boundaries); a property tax bill (with an address within the VNC area)

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**Answer all these questions; please limit your answers to 200 words or less each** and return to the chairs of the Land Use Committee ([chair-LUPC@venicenc.org](mailto:chair-LUPC@venicenc.org)), Rules & Selections Committee ([rules@venicenc.org](mailto:rules@venicenc.org)), and the Secretary ([secretary@venicenc.org](mailto:secretary@venicenc.org))

## Questions:

- 1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the LUPC.
  - a) Have you served before on the LUPC or other planning and land use related committee? If so, what committee and when?
  - b) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.
  - c) Please indicate your understanding of the time involved in terms of meetings and case work.
- 2) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.
- 3) Please list the three most critical planning and land use issues you feel are facing the Venice Community.
- 4) Please review the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan and the Venice Land Use Plan (which was certified by the California Coastal Commission) and comment on your opinion of each of them.
- 5) How do you view your role in private interactions with Applicants who have projects proposed before the Land Use and Planning Committee?
- 6) What is your understanding of and opinion on the VNC Ethics/Conflict of Interest requirements?

**Access VCZSP at** <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/complan/specplan/pdf/VenCoastal.pdf>.

**Access Venice Land Use Plan at** <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/complan/othrplan/OPAREA/VENLUP.HTM>

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## **Colin Warn – VNC Land Use and Planning Committee Application**

### **Questions 1 & 2**

I'm a 28-year-old aerospace engineer who pivoted into this field after spending my early 20s ghost-producing electronic dance music. I've worked on a wide range of satellite programs as both a propulsion engineer and satellite operator for clients including SiriusXM, NASA, and the Department of Defense. I currently work remotely as a satellite engineer for MDA Space.

Applying for a land use and planning position is something I never expected to do. My motivation comes from extensive travel and conversations with urban planners around the world. These experiences made it impossible to ignore how deeply flawed American land use policy is—particularly in its prioritization of perceived automobile convenience at the expense of people.

Since moving to Venice Beach in January of this year, I've engaged with the neighborhood in several ways:

- Volunteering as a music teacher with Safe Place for Youth
- Advocating for repaving and cleaning of neglected sections of the Marvin Braude Bike Trail
- Selling my Tesla to embrace a car-free lifestyle—so I can better understand the lived experiences of low-income Angelenos who rely on alternative modes of transportation (while also allowing me to more easily afford the cost of living in Los Angeles)

I love Los Angeles for its aerospace heritage, entertainment, and beautiful coastline. After visiting cities like Amsterdam and Paris that have successfully transitioned from car-centric to people-centric design, I'm convinced Los Angeles can do the same—transforming it into a city even more beautifully radiant. When I have children here, I want to be able to tell them I did my part to make this city safer and more affordable for them.

I understand this position will likely take a few hours of weekly time commitment without compensation. Whether or not I'm selected, I plan to attend meetings and contribute my perspective to Venice's land use conversations.

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### Question 3

I believe the most critical land use issue facing Los Angeles, and by extension Venice, can be summarized in one sentence:

[Los Angeles is a city designed for cars, not people.](#)

Roughly 25% of L.A.'s surface area is dedicated to car infrastructure. Of the 50% allocated to housing, about three-quarters of that supports financially unsustainable single-family homes ("[Suburbia is Subsidized: Here's the Math](#)"). Prioritizing cars leads to less housing, fewer parks, dangerous streets, and poor walkability—as exemplified by our homeless crisis, lack of park accessibility, as well as the tragic death of Orson Bean on Venice Boulevard.

In line with the people-centric vision of Abbot Kinney, I believe the VNC Land Use Committee should:

1. Eliminate or significantly reduce parking requirements
  2. Upzone single-family areas
  3. Actively support safer, more convenient alternatives to car travel—walking, biking, and public transit
- 

### Question 4

#### **Regarding the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (VCZSP):**

The original link provided was broken, so I reviewed this version:

[Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan PDF](#)

Parking Requirements (Pages 25–29):

I would appreciate clarification from the board regarding how these parking minimums were determined. Are they appropriate in light of [the high costs associated with parking mandates](#)?

Underutilized Parking:

According to Fehr & Peers' [Parking Utilization and Transportation Management Strategies Report](#), much of Venice's parking goes unused even during peak hours. I would strongly advocate for implementing the report's recommendations as a baseline.

### Venice Land Use Plan Comments:

- The Venice LUP emphasizes preserving "pedestrian-scale single-family neighborhoods." This language should be removed. [The historical roots of single-family zoning are racially discriminatory](#) and [continue to limit equitable access to housing](#). We cannot claim to support Black lives while upholding exclusionary housing laws that, systemically, prevent them from living in our neighborhoods.
- Reiterating again: Reduce or eliminate parking minimums.
- Explore converting Abbot Kinney Blvd into a pedestrian-friendly zone. Research (e.g., [Bloomberg](#)) shows that car-free shopping districts often increase business activity. Given the underused parking on Abbot Kinney Boulevard during peak hours, short-term “block party” pilots during the summer could test this approach. If well-received, they could build support for a permanent car-free zone.





## Question 5

I wouldn't be applying for this role if it weren't for meaningful conversations with people whose life experiences differ from mine. Those conversations helped me understand that car centric planning was at the core of so many problems America faces, and motivated me to be part of the solution.

While I strongly believe in prioritizing people over cars, I know this committee's most important role is listening. Every applicant who brings a project before the Land Use Committee is trying to improve their community. Our job is to listen, learn, and help them realize that vision—provided it's consistent with making Venice more vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable.



## Question 6

The City Attorney's guidelines on conflicts of interest are clear and thorough:

[Conflict of Interest Laws for Neighborhood Councils](#)

I am fortunate to work in a completely separate field—spacecraft engineering—with a company based in Canada. As such, I don't anticipate any personal conflicts of interest. Should one arise, I would fully disclose and recuse myself from participating in that project's evaluation.