

Venice Neighborhood Council

LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 www.VeniceNC.org Email:
Chair-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), Rules & Selections Committee (rules@venicenc.org), and the Secretary (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: A. Helena Berge
Nombre el letra de Molde

Qualifying Stakeholder Address: [REDACTED]
Dirección

Street address (if different): _____
Dirección, si diferente

City: Venice State: CA Zip Code: 90291
Ciudad Estado Código Postal

Email (mandatory) [REDACTED] Phone (mandatory) [REDACTED]
Corero electronico (obligatorio) 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 A. ZL Berge Date 11 August, 2025
Firma

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), Rules & Selections Committee (rules@venicenc.org), and the Secretary (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>

1) Please explain why you wish to serv on LUPC.

a) Have you served before on the LUPC or on other planning and land use related committee? If so, what committee and when?

I have not served on a planning or land use committee. I hope to get the chance to serve on a planning/land use committee by working with LUPC alongside Mark Mack and the other members.

b) Please state your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement. Prof qualifications or relevant experience relevant

As a licensed architect with 25 years of experience, I have knowledge of many aspects of the work involved at LUPC. I have extensive experience with project submittals, including planning submittals and various exceptions/variances.

As a long-time Venice resident and homeowner of 25+ years, I have a deep passion for the neighborhood and its uniqueness. In addition, I worked in an architecture office on Abbot Kinney for 6+ years. I have a love for the neighborhood and relevant knowledge that would be useful to LUPC and the VNC. I would love to give back by serving on LUPC.

c) Please indicate your understanding of the time involved in terms of meeting and case work.

My understanding of the work required for LUPC is approximately 5 hours per month for meetings and 10 hours for case work: a total of 15 hours. Month. If more, I would be reallocating some of the volunteer time I today spend on AIA committee work to allocate correctly.

2) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.

At the Abbott Kinney architecture office, for 6+ years, we frequently contributed to the community by setting up art shows and in other ways opening our doors for the neighborhood. I have served on a couple of architecture community committees through AIA, Los Angeles. I currently serve on a committee with them.

3) Please list the three most critical planning and land use issues you feel are facing the Venice community.

- a) One critical planning tools which develop and preserve Venice's unique, diverse character through design standards is of the most important issues. Efforts should work towards development in sync our neighborhood's unique multifaceted blend of cultures, pedestrian qualities, and richness of experiences.
- b) Review and contribute to the City of Los Angeles updates to the Venice Community Plan and Venice Local Coastal Plan.
- c) Land use tools to encourage new housing using Housing overlay zones and Inclusionary zoning. These should continue to be reviewed to encourage affordable and mixed-income projects. In addition, climate concerns such as flood risk in the historic Venice Canals is critical. Local development needs to be guided, with the help of land use plans, to sensible decisions taking climate risks such as flooding into consideration, especially for larger local projects.

4) Please review the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan and the Venice Land Use Plan(....) and comment on your opinion of each of them.

The VCZSP is an older specific plan which needs updating. It does not properly address different issues such as for instance, historic neighborhood design standards.

Venice Land Use Plan comment on your opinion on it.

This Land use plan is leaving out several important issues and is issued prior the LCP.

5) My view of my role in private interactions with applicants who have projects proposes...

- a) I believe in assisting applicants in their process to submit at the same time as I believe that objectivity and professionalism. Transparency is important and I would ensure that I document and make available any information about discussions with applicants. I would follow the rules.

6) What is your understanding of and opinion on the VNC ethics/conflict of opinion interests' requirements.

- a) VNC requires transparency and impartiality. I would inform myself further of the rules and ensure that I work within the ethics framework of the VNC. I would voluntarily provide information to the VNC Board and as necessary recuse myself if risk for any ethics issue arises.

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