

## **1. Why do you want to serve on the VNC Board of Officers?**

I want to help strengthen community participation, improve communication, and bring data-driven problem-solving to Venice. With a Ph.D. in policy analysis from RAND, prior service as President of the Fulbright Association LA Chapter (2023-'24), and years of neighborhood-level, citizen science related fieldwork, I can contribute constructively and professionally. I value the VNC's work, but believe we can engage younger residents, build trust, increase voter turnout, and avoid the public conflicts that undermine credibility. I've lived in the Venice/Santa Monica area since 2017 and want to help move local concerns more effectively into City Hall.

### **1a. Prior NC Service**

No prior formal Neighborhood Council board service.

### **1b. VNC Committees**

No formal committee service, but I've participated in local community planning meetings in Santa Monica, including book clubs, potlucks, and discussions. Regular reader / less regular contributor to Venice Beachhead, LA Times, and Santa Monica Daily Press.

### **1c. Qualifications**

Ph.D. in policy analysis (RAND), MS/BS in electrical engineering, former President of the Fulbright Association LA Chapter (2023-'24) managing a 10-member board and programs with a \$30k State Department budget for international scholars across Southern California. Experienced in data analysis, surveys, stakeholder engagement, and public communication. Conducted neighborhood air-quality research involving door-to-door surveys. Strong quantitative, qualitative, and community-event organizing experience.

### **1d. Stakeholder Duration**

Santa Monica resident 2017–2023; returned to Venice area and have been a stakeholder since 2024.

## **2. Previous / Current Community Involvement**

Participated in Ocean Park Social Club events and planning meetings, local potlucks, book clubs, and neighborhood gatherings. Former Fulbright LA Chapter President, organizing community events, beach cleanups, cultural outings, and public programming.

### **3. Three Most Pressing Issues Facing Venice**

1. Homelessness, including incomplete or outdated local, point-in-time data that makes interventions less effective. Lack of humanizing our homeless population.
2. Very low civic participation and election turnout, which limits Venice's influence among the City's 99 Neighborhood Councils. Quantify VNC performance and track on VNC website.
3. Safety, lighting, noise enforcement, and overall public-space cleanliness. Reward CleanTeam / SafeTeam, Venice workers on a quarterly or monthly basis.

### **4. The Primary Roles of the VNC**

To represent stakeholder concerns accurately; provide transparent public forums; advise the City on locally relevant issues; strengthen communication between residents and government; and support projects that improve quality of life and inclusivity in Venice.

### **5. Vision for Venice**

A safe, clean, diverse, and culturally vibrant community where decisions are guided by real data, outreach is consistent, and residents feel heard. I envision more community events, stronger participation by younger residents, better relationships among Board Members, and a VNC that regularly and constructively influences (and tracks influence) at City Hall.

### **6. If not selected, will you join a VNC committee? Which one and why?**

Yes. I am specifically interested in the Homelessness Committee. I can contribute quantitative and qualitative research skills, design a Venice-wide survey to better understand needs, and help build constructive communication between service providers, residents, and CD11. My background in policy analysis and community engagement makes this the most impactful place for me to serve. My wife, a mechanical engineer, is also willing to support committee-level work.

