



Venice Neighborhood Council

550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



PO Box

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR Application (2025-2026 Term)

Deadline: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Instructions:

Stakeholders (those who live, work or own real property within the VNC boundaries *) interested in applying for Communications Chair of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) are requested to complete the following application and email to: (1) VNC Secretary (Secretary@VeniceNC.org), and (2) Rules & Elections Committee (Rules@VeniceNC.org) prior to 5PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

<https://www.venicenc.org/committees/viewCommittee/Communications>

Your application will be posted as a supporting document with the VNC Board Agenda, for review by the Board and the public (address, phone number and email address will be redacted). The VNC Board will select the new member at the December 16, 2025 Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting, to be held on Zoom. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend to introduce themselves and speak before the Board (representatives may not speak for you). ***Proof of stakeholder status must be included with this application.*** Please see the valid credentials accepted at the bottom of this page.

First Name: **Soraya** Last Name: **Moss** 



City: **Venice** State: **California** Zip: **90291**

I hereby certify that I wish to serve as Communications Chair of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and that I am a Stakeholder within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature:



Date: 12/10/2025

Valid Credentials – choose one of the following:

- CA Driver's License, CA ID Card, Passport, recent utility bill, most recent property tax bill, or current lease, with an address within the VNC boundaries *
- Business license, check, or pay stub, from a business within the VNC boundaries * * See VNC boundaries in VNC Bylaws (pg 6):

It's YOUR Venice - get involved!



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Applicant's name and answers to the following questions will be made public. All contact information--address, phone number and email address--will remain confidential.

1. Motivation

Please explain why you wish to serve as VNC Communications Chair.

I want to serve as the VNC Communications Chair because I believe Venice deserves clear, accessible, and energizing communication that brings people together. I am motivated to strengthen the effectiveness of our digital communications so that stakeholders, especially our younger residents, feel informed, welcomed, and empowered to participate.

I have the technical skillset, creative experience, and community passion necessary to succeed in this role. I am particularly committed to building stronger bridges between Communications and other committees to ensure our messaging reaches every corner of Venice. Ultimately, I want to make it simple and intuitive for anyone regardless of age, background, or familiarity with civic processes to get involved in their neighborhood.

2. Prior Service

Have you previously served on the Venice Neighborhood Council board or any VNC committee? If so, please list the committee(s), role(s), and dates of service.

Yes. I have served on the Venice Neighborhood Council Community Outreach Committee for the past year. I formally joined the committee on January 18, 2025.

My introduction to the VNC began through the Community Resiliency Committee, where I attended meetings as a stakeholder. I later began contributing to the Community Outreach Committee, where my work included designing both digital and paper media for the 2025 VNC election, assisting with tabling to engage Venice stakeholders, and supporting the Venice Neighborhood Council Election Candidate Town Hall.

I have continued to grow and contribute as an active member of the Community Outreach committee. My involvement has given me a strong understanding of how the VNC communicates with the public and where our opportunities for improvement lie.

3. Related Experience/Responsibilities

The Communications Chair is responsible for disseminating information to Venice Stakeholders. Specifically, (1) oversee the development, maintenance and updating of the VNC website; (2) produce and distribute email announcements; (3) maintain and update the stakeholder database while ensuring its confidentiality; (4) manage AV and electronic equipment/supplies for meetings; and (5) schedule/start virtual meetings. Please describe your professional qualifications, training, or other related experience relevant to communications, websites, email management, Zoom, etc.

I studied Computer Science and Engineering and have worked as a professional software engineer for more than five years, giving me extensive experience with website infrastructure, digital tools, technical troubleshooting, and system maintenance.

In addition to my technical background, my experience as a fitness instructor in San Francisco and Los Angeles has strengthened my communication, public-speaking, and community-building skills, particularly across diverse audiences.

As a former captain of a Bollywood fusion dance team, I coordinated set and stage production for a ten-minute competitive performance, managing audiovisual components, timing, equipment, and team logistics. This gave me hands-on experience with production workflows that translate well to managing AV equipment and virtual meetings.

Together, these roles have built a skillset that blends technical execution, creative communication, and logistical coordination.

4. Community Involvement

Please describe your past or current involvement in neighborhood, community, civic, or volunteer organizations—especially within the Venice area.

Community involvement has been a defining thread throughout my life. I was active in Student Government throughout middle and high school, serving as Class President for four consecutive years. In college, I joined organizations focused on service and education, including the campus tour guide program and Leaders in Interpersonal Violence Education.

When I moved to San Francisco, I volunteered at the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers and the San Francisco Film Festival, seeking ways to contribute locally. Upon moving to Venice, I immediately began looking for ways to get involved, which is how I eventually found the VNC. I began helping however I could, whether by designing flyers for the election or managing social media posts. This work has allowed me to connect with Venice residents from all backgrounds and deepened my belief in the importance of accessible, inclusive civic engagement.

5. Key Issues Facing Venice

From your perspective, what are the three most critical issues currently facing the Venice community?

Overall, the three most critical issues I see are:

1. Community disconnection and lack of accessible civic participation
2. Support for neighbors experiencing homelessness or mental/physical health crises
3. Climate vulnerability, particularly rising sea levels

Venice is a vibrant, evolving community, but one of the greatest risks to its future is disconnection. As economic, environmental, and social pressures shape our neighborhood, we must ensure that Venice remains a place where residents feel connected, informed, and responsible for one another.

I am particularly concerned about the preservation of Venice's unique cultural identity. Venice has a passionate spirit of creativity, diversity, inclusivity, and neighbor-to-neighbor care. As the neighborhood changes, we risk losing the very qualities that make Venice "Venice." Preserving this identity requires active engagement, representation across generations, and accessible pathways for residents to engage with the community as a whole.

Another major issue is that many people do not know how to help when they see a neighbor in need, whether that person is unhoused, experiencing a mental or physical health crisis, or simply struggling. Too often, people have been conditioned to look away. I want Venice to be a community where everyone feels empowered to act with compassion, respect, and awareness of

available resources.

Finally, Venice faces significant environmental vulnerability. Rising sea levels and climate impacts pose long-term risks to our homes, infrastructure, and coastal environment. Preparing for these changes requires clear communication, community education, and collective planning.

I have several ideas for how I can help support improvements in these key challenge areas.

1. Create a large scale calendar of upcoming Venice events and VNC committee meetings to use at Community Outreach Tabling events to help provide an easier and more concrete stepping stone for Venice stakeholders to get involved quickly
2. Develop a standardized visual template library (flyers, IG posts, newsletters, emails) to ensure consistent branding across committees and events, informed by my prior Outreach work.
3. Create a centralized “Venice Resource Navigator” hub on the VNC website with step-by-step guides for reporting concerns, helping neighbors in crisis, accessing services, and learning about climate resilience initiatives.

I hope that these efforts as Communications chair can help support the long term vision to resolve the critical issues facing the Venice community.