



Venice Neighborhood Council

P. O. Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



LAND USE & PLANNING COMMITTEE (LUPC)

Application (2025-2026 Term)

Deadline: 5 pm, Thursday, January 15

Instructions:

Stakeholders (those who live, work or own real property within the VNC boundaries *) interested in joining the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) are requested to complete the following application and: (1) Email it to the Chair of LUPC (chair-lupc@venicenc.org), VNC Secretary (Secretary@VeniceNC.org), and Rules & Elections Committee (Rules@VeniceNC.org) prior to 5 pm on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

As per the VNC Bylaws, the Land Use and Planning Committee shall review, take public input, report on and make recommendations of actions to the VNC Board on land use and planning issues affecting the community. To learn about the work of LUPC, please review the LUPC web page: <https://www.venicenc.org/committees/viewCommittee/land-use-&-planning-committee>

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 LUPC member at the January 20, 2026 Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting (check www.VeniceNC.org for location or Zoom info). 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

Natasha

Afshar

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address (no PO boxes): _____

Venice

CA

90291

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I hereby certify that I wish to serve on the Land Use and Planning Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and that I am a Stakeholder within the boundaries of the VNC area. (Use the Fill & Sign tool in your PDF viewer to add an electronic signature, or print/sign/scan.)

Natasha Afshar

1/15/26

Stakeholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

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):

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee681e8e0ac8e9b.pdf>



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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 on the Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) and what inspires your interest in land use, coastal policy, and community planning in Venice?

Response:

I have been a resident in Venice for almost 6 years and my husband has lived here for 12 years. We take great pride in this community and want to see it improve and develop for the benefit of all. Having worked in the public sector of design and architecture, I have always been interested in the urban development of our own neighborhood. I am interested in serving on this committee to learn and understand how our local policies are made and to listen to my neighbors - acting as a liaison and steward.

2. Prior Service

Have you previously served on the LUPC, another Venice Neighborhood Council committee, or any other planning or land-use related body? If so, please list the committee(s), role(s), and dates of service.

Response:

No I have not served on LUPC or any other related bodies.

3. Related Experience

Please describe your professional qualifications, training, or other related experience relevant to land use, planning, architecture, development, coastal issues, or public policy.

Response:

I received my masters in Interior Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona and have been working as an interior designer and construction project manager for the past 7 years.

As an employee of UCLA Health, I understood the implications of working for a government organization. I designed and managed the development of our healthcare clinics through all stages from schematic design to construction administration. During this time I became familiar with LADBS, permitting, change of use, and zoning. Additionally, designing and constructing in healthcare has



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4. Time Commitment & Responsibilities

Serving on the LUPC requires attending meetings (typically two or more times per month), reviewing project materials, meeting with applicants, and drafting Staff Reports. Please confirm your understanding of these responsibilities and describe your availability to commit the necessary time.

Response:

I understand this opportunity will require time for monthly meetings as well as time for reading materials, public comments and drafting recommendations.

I am on a voluntary sabbatical so my current work load is light and I am actively looking for opportunities of community engagement.

5. Community Involvement

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

Response:

My previous employment did not allow much time for volunteering unfortunately, but I have always been a very actively engaged member of this neighborhood. My husband and I love to attend the Venice Fest, First Fridays, Abbot Kinney Fest, CicLavia, and Art Walks. As well as cultural events in Oakwood Park, just down the street from us.

During the pandemic, I was volunteering as a home chef for an organization called Home-y Made Meals. This service provides homemade meals for the unhoused all throughout Los Angeles. This opportunity allowed me to combine my

6. Key Issues Facing Venice

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

Response:

1. Residential - I believe the most pressing issue is the lack of diverse and affordable housing. I would like to understand how we can support more intentional development, while honoring the unique culture of Venice. This will in turn address the related issue of our unhoused neighbors, and end the cycle of homelessness due to high cost of living. My hope is that Venice will continue to be a place for everyone - families, elders, couples, students.

2. Commercial - The Venice community is full of vibrant small businesses and



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7. Familiarity with Plan Documents/Regulations

Please describe your experience with or understanding of the following documents. If you are not currently familiar with any or all of the documents, please indicate whether you are willing to become familiar with them:

- Certified Venice Land Use Plan (LUP)

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee61e98a687c485.pdf>

- Venice Community Plan (VCP)

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee61e98ac595bd3.pdf>

- Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (VCZSP)

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee61e98a39612d4.pdf>

- California Coastal Act

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee68e4271abbe89.pdf>

Response:

I have read through these documents and understand the general principles in which the LUP exists to uphold the California Coastal Act. What stood out to me most was the data in which the LUP is rooted in. It mainly provides Census information from 1990 and projections thereafter. I'm curious how this data has developed since and how this may have impacted our housing shortages. I look forward to becoming more familiar with these documents, if given this opportunity.