



Venice Neighborhood Council

P. O. Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



APPLICATION FOR PRESIDENT

Deadline: Thursday February 12, 2026

Instructions:

Stakeholders interested in applying for President of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) are requested to complete the following application and: (1) Email it to the VNC Secretary (Secretary@VeniceNC.org), and Rules & Elections Committee (Rules@VeniceNC.org) prior to midnight on February 12, 2026.

Your application will be forwarded to the VNC Board for review. The position will be decided by board vote at the Venice Neighborhood Council February 17, 2026 board meeting, held at Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Applicants are encouraged to attend to introduce themselves and speak before the board (representatives may not speak for you). Proof of stakeholder status must be presented prior to the VNC Board meeting. Please see the valid credentials accepted at the bottom of this page.

First Name: Gary Last Name: Pearl Phone: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City: Venice State: C Zip: 90291

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

Stakeholder Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 2/11/2026

Valid Credentials – choose one of the following:

- CA Driver's License, CA Residency Card, Passport, imprinted check, recent utility bill, or property tax bill, with an address within the VNC boundaries
- School ID Card or Report Card, for a school within the VNC boundaries
- Business license, business check, or pay stub, from a business within the VNC boundaries

See VNC boundaries in VNC Bylaws at: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee681e8e0ac8e9b.pdf>

1. Motivation

I stepped in as Presiding Officer after the prior President's resignation to ensure continuity, compliance, and stability during a critical period.

That experience clarified the responsibility of this role. The Venice Neighborhood Council is the most direct civic voice for approximately 31,000 stakeholders. Its effectiveness matters.

My motivation is functional, not positional. I believe the Council benefits from steady, rules-based leadership that protects process, supports committees, and allows members to do their best work without disruption.

Serving this community is both a responsibility and an honor. My goal is to ensure the Council operates credibly, efficiently, and respectfully on behalf of Venice.

2. Prior Service

Yes.

- Vice President, Venice Neighborhood Council (current)
- Presiding Officer / Acting President following the resignation of the prior President
- Active participant in Administrative Committee coordination
- Ongoing committee oversight and inter-committee collaboration

Consistently, I have reinforced procedural clarity, supported committee autonomy, and ensured compliance with bylaws and Brown Act requirements.

3. Related Experience

My professional background includes senior leadership in complex, high-accountability environments requiring governance, negotiation, compliance, and conflict management.

Relevant experience includes:

Chairing and moderating meetings with diverse viewpoints

- Managing governance processes and procedural compliance
- Serving as liaison between our Board and Committees and public agencies
- Building consensus and coordination effectively and in a collaborative way

Restoring operational focus under pressure

These skills have directly informed my work stabilizing meetings and strengthening committee function at the VNC.

4. Time Commitment & Responsibilities

I fully understand the responsibilities of the President, including:

- Chairing Board and AdCom meetings
- Setting the AdCom agenda
- Appointing committee chairs (subject to ratification)
- Serving as liaison to City agencies and other Neighborhood Councils
- Overseeing CIS and official correspondence

I am available to serve the remainder of the term with a disciplined approach focused on:

- Delegation to empowered committee chairs
- Efficient, structured meetings
- Adherence to VNC bylaws and DONE guidance and City of LA bylaws
- Positive and effective engagement with City stakeholders

Leadership is about clarity and structure so others can succeed. That is a personal motto.

5. Community Involvement

My community involvement in Venice has focused on civic engagement, land use stewardship, and strengthening institutional process,.

Through my service on the VNC and its committees, I have worked to:

- Improve meeting structure and transparency
- Encourage broader stakeholder participation
- Strengthen Venice's credibility with City agencies

- Protect neighborhood character while supporting responsible growth and a focus on parks and public places as well as the historic unique nature of Venice

Effective service requires structure, inclusion, and measurable outcomes.

6. Key Issues Facing Venice

1. Long-Term Stewardship of Venice's Character
Venice has local, national, and international significance. We must balance growth and modernization with preservation of community identity and long-term stakeholder interests.
2. Public Space and Quality of Life
Shared spaces — Oceanfront Walk, Washington Boulevard, parks, and public facilities — require balanced stewardship focused on preservation, safety, accessibility, and cultural vitality.
3. Strong, Credible Engagement with the City
Venice's influence depends on professionalism and consistency. Productive relationships with City departments and elected officials ensure our concerns are addressed effectively.