

VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Mikul Wing - Questions

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

Venice's culture is why I am here. I have spent my career in music and photography, and the last four years building a place on Horizon Avenue where artists, founders, and neighbors work alongside one another. What drew me is the creative character of this community; what concerns me is how quickly that character erodes when the people who make it can no longer afford to stay. I want to serve because Venice's arts and culture deserve someone on the Board who comes at these decisions from that side, and who will show up and do the work.

1a. Have you previously served on the VNC Board or any other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where and when?

No. I have not previously served on the VNC Board or on any other Neighborhood Council board. This would be my first Neighborhood Council service.

1b. Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?

No. I have not yet served on a VNC committee. I have followed the Council's work as a local business owner and am prepared to commit the time that regular committee participation requires.

1c. Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.

I am COO and Co-Founder of The KINN, a membership work club, café, and event venue at 150 Horizon Avenue, where I run operations, budgets, staffing, building maintenance, vendor and permitting relationships, and public events: practical experience with parking, noise, trash, safety, and city compliance. I am also a founding and current member of Autograf, a touring music and art project, and I previously owned a music photography studio, so I know the creative economy from the inside.

1d. How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC area?

Four years. I have worked in Venice and operated a business within the VNC boundaries, at 150 Horizon Avenue, for the past four years.

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

I was a member of the Venice Chamber of Commerce. Through The KINN, I host ongoing free and low-cost community programming in Venice: weekly morning gatherings for local founders and entrepreneurs, workshops, panels, and community events. Much of my involvement has taken the form of creating a place where Venice residents, creatives, and small-business owners meet one another and help each other build. That is the work I would like to extend through the Council.

3. Please list the three most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community.

Public safety. Residents, workers, and visitors need to feel safe on our streets and in our businesses, with prevention and response that are consistent rather than reactive.

Public arts and culture. Venice's identity rests on its artists, murals, music, and street culture. That culture needs active support and protection, not just nostalgia.

Small business survival. Independent businesses are closing under rising costs, permitting friction, and lost foot traffic. They are what keep Venice from becoming generic, and their survival deserves to be treated as a community issue.

4. What do you see as the primary roles of the Venice Neighborhood Council?

The VNC is the formal channel between Venice stakeholders and City Hall. Its primary roles are to represent stakeholder views to the City and its departments, to weigh in on land use, budget, and policy decisions through Board positions and Community Impact Statements, and to secure the City resources Venice needs. Equally important, it is a public forum where residents, businesses, artists, and renters are heard on the record. Its mission is to improve quality of life in Venice by building community, and every one of those roles should serve that.

5. What is your vision for Venice?

Be, Build, Belong is the ethos I built my business around, and it describes the Venice I want. Be: a place where people can be themselves, with Venice's creative, independent character preserved rather than sanded down. Build: a place where people can still build things, businesses, art, organizations, without being priced or permitted out. Belong: a place where longtime residents, new arrivals, artists, and small-business owners all recognize themselves as part of one community. A Venice that is safe, creative, economically alive, and unmistakably itself.

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6. If not selected, are you willing to participate in a VNC committee? Which committee(s) interest you? Why?

Yes. I would serve on a committee whether or not I am selected for the Board. Arts interests me most. I have spent my career in music and photography, and Venice's creative culture is its greatest asset, deserving active stewardship rather than nostalgia. Ocean Front Walk interests me because it is where public safety, street culture, and small-business survival all meet, and it needs people who actually operate in the neighborhood. I would also gladly serve on Public Health and Safety or Outreach.