

VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Qualifying Stakeholder Address (*Dirección*):

<u>Print Name/ Nombre el letra de Molde :</u> Justin Brezhnev		
<u>Street address / Dirección</u>	<u>City / Ciudad</u>	<u>State / Estado Zip/ Código Postal</u>

Mailing Address (if different):

<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Street address / Dirección</u>	<u>City / Ciudad</u>	<u>State / Estado Zip/ Código Postal</u>

Contact Numbers:

<u>Phone (Day) / Teléfono (día)</u>	<u>Phone (Evening) / Teléfono (tardé)</u>	<u>N/A</u> Fax Number
<u>Email / Correo Electrónico (very important)</u>		

I hereby certify, that I wish to serve as Community Officer on the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers and I live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature/*Firma* Justin Byland Date 10-12-2020

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Applicant Name: Justin Brezhnev

1. Please explain why you wish to serve on the VNC Board of Officers.

I wish to serve on the VNC Board of Officers again because I would like to contribute to the efforts done by the following committees: *Outreach & Event Planning, Arts, & the Youth Internship Program Subcommittee*. I believe that my professional and volunteer experiences with youth education through which I have served 30,000+ students have put me in a unique position to lend support to the VNC.

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

I served on the VNC Board from December 2017 through June 2019. During my term, I helped lead the redesign of the VNC logo, coordinated local fests at Oakwood Recreation Center, organized the first-ever Cannabis Town Hall, and reignited community support for the *Education* and *Arts* committees.

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

I was a member of the following committees throughout my term as a VNC Board Member: *Outreach, Arts, Cannabis, Education, & Adcom*.

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

I am the Executive Director of a 501(c)(3) called Hacker Fund (www.hacker.fund) and we operate the largest network of S.T.E.M. education mentors in the U.S. I want to use my expertise to (1) help Venice youth acquire internships and (2) empower all Venice stakeholders with the educational resources they need to thrive in a post-COVID world. My work with Hacker Fund served Venice youth has received recognition from Councilman Mike Bonin and Mayor Garcetti. I also worked with councilmembers in Brentwood, Beverly Hills, and West Hollywood as Field Organizer with Nextdoor.

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

I have been a stakeholder in Venice since July 2014.

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

Hacker Fund received a grant from the Abbot Kinney Festival Association in order to produce Venice Hack Day, an educational event that brought computer science education resources to 100 local high school students with the help of technical volunteers from local technology companies, such as Google, Snap, etc. We worked directly with Venice High School to administer this program.

I also operate a company known as Startup Sports (www.startupsports.io) which provides local Venice companies with year-round sports leagues and tournaments, including dodgeball, basketball, and volleyball. We currently serve 100+ companies in Los Angeles.

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

The three most pressing issues that I feel we as a Venice Community are facing include: homelessness, engagement with small businesses, and education for K-12 students in a post-COVID world.

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

The role of the VNC is to be the connective tissue between neighborhood community members and the staff of the City of Los Angeles that fosters a better quality of life in Venice. The VNC should promote proactive participation by stakeholders through more event programming, provide a safe forum for discussion of grievances within meetings, enact new collaboration efforts with local organizations that solve problems facing the Venice Community, and allocate resources for the scaling of the aforementioned developments.

5. What is your Vision for Venice?

I still believe in a stronger, better connected, and more creative Venice. While the landscape and culture of Venice has changed, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, our city's commitment to diversity continues to get stronger! I would like to return to my work as a VNC Board Member and reignite civic engagement among the next generation of entrepreneurs and creatives so that we all realign with the spirit of Venice.

6. Are you willing to participate in a VNC committee? Which committees interest you and why?

I would like to serve on the *VNC Outreach and Event Planning Committee* because of my extensive experience in organizing community events and engaging local volunteers who add additional capacity-building support to what the VNC is able to build. I would also like to serve on the *Youth Internship Program Subcommittee*. I would be able to utilize my volunteer network and resources from Hacker Fund to provide a sounding board for the Venice Family of Schools and parents who want to enhance student performance and increase quality of career and technical education.