

VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Qualifying Stakeholder Address (*Dirección*):

<u>Print Name/Nombre en letra de Molde:</u> Nayely Martinez		
_____	_____	_____
Street address / Dirección	City / Ciudad	State / Estado Zip/ Código Postal

Mailing Address (if different):

_____	_____	_____
Street address / Dirección	City / Ciudad	State / Estado Zip/ Código Postal

Contact Numbers:

_____	_____	_____
Phone (Day) / Teléfono (día)	Phone (Evening) / Teléfono (tardé)	Fax Number

Email / Correo Electrónico (very important)		

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* Nayely Martinez Date 9/22/2020

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

I would like to serve on the VNC Board to push for and support ongoing efforts to address the housing affordability and homelessness crisis in the area, as well as to contribute to the discussions and the path forward on the burgeoning tech industry in Venice. Lastly, I would like to ensure that working class communities and communities of color in the area have a voice in VNC.

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

No, this will be my first time serving on the VNC Board.

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

No.

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

The bulk of my previous experience comes from college. In college, I served as Student Body Vice President at Carleton College. The responsibilities there included presiding as Chair of the Budget Committee overseeing the allocation of our \$600,000 annual budget pool. During this time, I also presided as Chair of the Governance Committee, tasked with upholding the governing body's bylaws and constitutions, as well as the approval of all new and current student organizations on campus. As such, I am well acquainted with Robert's Rules, as well as governing body practices and financial budgeting models.

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

April 2020

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

I was an active attendee of the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council (NHNENC) from Fall 2019 until I moved to Venice in April 2020. During that time, I joined NHNENC's Budget & Finance Committee and the Land Use Committee.

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

#1: Housing. It's clear to anyone who lives or visits Venice that housing and issues of affordability is deeply affecting Venice's community. Organizations like VCH and their recent affordable housing projects are making valiant efforts to combat the crisis, but there's still a lot of work cut out for VNC and the residents of Venice to continue expanding support. As someone who comes from a low-income background but has become privileged enough to secure a stable career, I am keenly aware of the fragility of economic safety nets, and how one medical bill or lay-off can send an entire family careening into a financial abyss.

#2: Role of tech in community development. I have worked in various capacities as a software engineer in New York City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, the Bay Area, and Los Angeles. My current role has me working as remote developer for an Oakland-based company. Through the last five years, I have seen how quickly the introduction of tech companies impacts local communities across a myriad of areas - from housing affordability, the formation of highly dense “micro-urban” areas in previously residential communities, to the changes in city’s corporate tax breaks. With companies like Rivian and Google making their home in Venice, I want to ensure Venice is able to still hold a space for these companies, yes, but more importantly, I want to make sure we hold them accountable to the contributions they in turn should provide to the local communities. Silicon Beach is expected to make further and further inroads as startups in the area mature and new companies enter the area, but we need to figure out a way to *sustainably* co-exist with a growing tech industry. Neighborhoods like Redwood City and Mountain View, CA are perfect examples of how radically transformed a city can become unless early measures are put in place to guide the economic, land, and budget developments that the tech industry introduces to any area.

#3: Oakwood & the Preservation of Communities in Venice. Oakwood, the small subsection of Venice to the east of Abbott Kinney, is known locally as the last affordable beachside town in all of California, where working class residents live side-by-side to their more affluent neighbors. These past few years has seen increased displacement of long-term residents in Oakwood, in particular the African-American community, most notably in the fight over First Baptist Church and the condo development plans for it. The vibrancy of Oakwood has been a fixture of Venice culture for nearly a century, and we cannot hope to preserve the artistic and cultural vibrancy of Venice without ensuring the long-lasting presence of under-represented minorities of communities of color in the area. Similarly, we cannot hope to fully address the preservation of local communities, in particular African American and Latinx, without addressing issues #1 and #2 above.

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

To support existing communities and residents of Venice, and to continuously strive to expand the socioeconomic and racial diversity of the neighborhood.

5) What is your Vision for Venice?

I envision a neighborhood where affordable housing is available to residents of Venice regardless of socioeconomic status, where communities of color are able to preserve their strong cultural and artistic presence within the community, and where a healthy tech hub lives alongside - but does not *overshadow* - the everyday routines and lives of Venice residents.

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

Yes! I would love to join the Budget & Finance Committee, as well as the Land Use Committee. If still active, I would also like to join the ad hoc Homeless Committee.