



# AUSTIN BROWN

## Venice Neighborhood Council



**Answer all these questions. Please limit your answers to 100 words or less each.**

- 1) Please explain why you wish to serve as the VNC Board.
  - a) Have you served before on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where and when?
  - b) Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?
  - c) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.
  - d) How long have you been a Stakeholder in the VNC area?
- 2) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.
- 3) Please list the three most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community.
- 4) What do you see as the primary role(s) of the Venice Neighborhood Council?
- 5) What is your vision for Venice?
- 6) All VNC Board members are required to serve on a Committee. Which committee is of interest to you, and why?

Hello! Throwing my hat into the ring for the open VNC seat.

1. I've lived in Venice for over 10 years, and feel like it's time to get more involved. I've never served on a NC board, but I try to watch most of the meetings online these days. I have no direct experience, but I've been a manager for multiple teams and deal with client / vendor stakeholders and managing relationships. 2. Attended VNC meetings. Worked with my neighbors to apply for speed humps for our street which everyone speeds down. 3. Housing, Homelessness, and Transportation 4. the VNC should be there to push our city council member to make Venice the place we all want to live in. Without guidance from the VNC, they'll simply do things without our important input as stakeholders 5. A more equitable place for people to live. We've had a long tradition of being an artists enclave, but all of the artists are being pushed out as housing costs continue to rise. 6. Since I live next to OFW, I'd love to be on the OFW committee.

# MARY KLEIN

Dear Neighborhood Council,

My name is Mary Klein and I am a 6 yr resident of the Canals area of Venice and A 25 year resident of Venice throughout my life in CA.

Here is my application for the Safety Seat in Venice Neighborhood Council.

- 1)
  - a) I have never served on VNC Board.
  - b) I have never served on VNC committee.
  - c) I have a caregiver background. I am a CNA and Medical Assistant.
- 2) I have no previous experience in neighborhood or community involvement other than doing press interviews with various news outlets with the purpose of raising funds for victims of crime through the Go Fund Me app.
- 3) The three most pressing issues I feel are facing the Venice community are:
  - a) Maintaining the Safety of residents and visitors.
  - b) Care and outreach for our unhoused people.
  - c) Increasing the presence of Police and Security Details locally.
- 4) I see my primary role in the neighborhood council as being a representative that listens with an open mind to the public's overreaching concerns and then brings those valid concerns to City Councils attention.
- 5) My vision for Venice is a community of residents who care not only for their own back yards but also for their neighbors well being. I see Venice as a community with a huge heart that is longing to be expressed in action.
- 6) I am interested in Community Safety Committee or assisting in Homeless Outreach.



## Venice Neighborhood Council



**Answer all these questions; please limit your answers to 100 words or less each.**

Questions:

- 1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the VNC Board of Officers.
  - a) Have you served before on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where, and when?
  - b) Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?
  - c) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.
  - d) How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC

1) Reasons for wanting to serve on VNC Board.

- a) I served as a LUPC member from 2012 to 2023.  
It was a pleasure to serve the community and further learn about requirements and participate accordingly.
- b) I have visited committees. I have been with DFC since 2012 presently Changed to School and Park Committee, also a member of Ocean Front Committee. Member of VCC as well.
- c) As an Architect and Urban Designer –I graduate from Harvard University, I have passion and interest to see that public spaces are enhanced to serve the culture to maintain qualities that always made Venice an interesting city for residence as well for visitors
- d) Previous to 1984, I visited Venice in the 70's  
Since 1984 I have lived - raised my daughter and Son and worked in Venice and provided architectural pro-bono services for local non-profit organization as needed such as Safe Place for Youth and local schools, Venice Family Clinic and Venice Housing.

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

LUPC 2012 - 2023.

Current

(DFC-2012) now Schools and Parks,

AIA Urban Design Committee

Association of Women in Architecture - Past President (LA).

Member of Ocean Front Walk Committee

Venice Chamber of Commerce.

Past member of WRAC.

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

Lack of affordable housing based on zoning changes, economic issues and changes in cultural diversity...etc. Also, lack of attention given to public space to support art and culture where people come together and promote social synergy

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

Fairness and protection of community to improve quality of life and to Find support from city to achieve goals.

- 5) What is your Vision for Venice?

To remain as a diverse and safe community which supports art, culture and improvement of housing needs to be addressed in a better urban design and zoning requirement. As well retain and improve public life and bring the community together.

- 6) All VNC Board members are required to serve on a committee? Which interest you and why?

Always a pleasure to participate with present committees that support the Art and Culture including Ocean Front Walk since the Residents Tourists admire the beach and nature. Always admire all our communities that support and review great architectural projects.

# GARY PEARL

Answer all these questions. Please limit your answers to 100 words or less each.

## 1) Please explain why you wish to serve as the VNC Board.

**a) Have you served before on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board?** I wish to serve on the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board to actively contribute to the betterment of our community. We have endured so much over the past four years and the board has made a great effort to protect and extend the uniqueness of Venice. With my passion for transformative projects and strategic execution, I aim to bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to address local issues. My goal is to enhance community engagement, ensure the efficient use of resources, and improve the quality of life and experiences for all Venice residents and visitors.

**If so, where and when?** I have not previously served on neighborhood boards. However, I have had extensive involvement in our community since moving to Venice 35 years ago. I built my home from scratch 20 years ago, and in my daily work handled extensive project management, which I believe will be beneficial in this role. I have been involved with the community and have supported most efforts for inclusion and solution across the various needs of our Venice community for the entirety of that time.

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

No, I have not served on a VNC Committee. Nevertheless, I have participated in various community initiatives and events, contributing to discussions and providing support where needed. I have requested to serve but have not been chosen. I have repeatedly been asked by VNC members and committee members for support of their efforts which I have done often so I guess it would qualify as behind the scenes support and service.

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

I hold degrees in Psychology and Economics from UCLA and have over 25 years of experience in film and television, technology and land use.

I am skilled in project management, strategic planning, and community outreach.

My experience in leading and executing large-scale projects has equipped me with the ability to effectively manage resources and engage with diverse stakeholders.

Additionally, my work in content transformation and technology has provided me with a unique perspective on addressing community challenges.

I have been awarded several DEI awards including NATPE Lifetime Achievement, and several IMAGEN and NAACP Awards and nominations and a Peabody Award which all speak to unique ways I hope I have added to improving society and the planet. LAFD CERT certified for emergency response,

I was awarded the EMA award for the first Green Set ever in Hollywood, certification to lead efforts for community response which obviously is a vital need currently in Venice.

Venice centric: After the fires and burnt out buildings in Venice, I chose to become CERT trained. LA Fire Department CERT (certification for community emergency response) and trained to help lead the neighborhood in case of a variety of emergency response). This training is to do the advance work for the fire department and police before they arrive to help Venice and our emergency personnel to be trained to respond before first responders arrive. Safety and Advance training.

**d) How long have you been a Stakeholder in the VNC area?**

I have been a Stakeholder in the VNC area for 38 years, during which I have been actively involved in local events and initiatives aimed at improving our community.

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

- environmental conservation projects, CERT (Community Emergency Response training, volunteered for local cleanup drives, food missions, and active in raising funds to counter

negative actors who have invaded and tried to change Venice for the worse.

- Participated in community town halls and public forums, city council initiatives and counter initiatives, to discuss and address local issues.
- Supported local businesses and engaged these businesses more into the community.

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

Homelessness: Developing sustainable solutions to support our homeless population and integrate them into the community.

Environmental Sustainability: Addressing environmental concerns by promoting green initiatives and ensuring our community remains clean and healthy.

Affordable living and affordable access to the Venice experience and beaches: A balanced and logical analytic approach to the housing issues relevant today. Ensuring that Venice remains accessible to all residents and stakeholders. Addressing the vexing issues facing Venice today.

### **3) What do you see as the primary role(s) of the Venice Neighborhood Council?**

The primary roles of the Venice Neighborhood Council are to:

- Serve as a liaison between the community and the city government, ensuring residents' voices are heard and their concerns addressed.
- Promote community engagement and participation in local governance.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of projects and policies that enhance the quality of life in Venice.
- Advocate for the fair distribution of resources and services to meet the needs of all community members.

### **5) What is your vision for Venice?**

I have lived in Venice for most of my post college life and traveled to various other locations that are also both incredible tourist destinations and local treasures. Venice is as unique as those locations. My vision is that we modernize with a plan. We have artists, a natural geography, and have attracted a new generation(s) of Venetians who bring their own special creativity. That is what we offer the world. We need to support and protect these changes and the elements of our past.

### **6) All VNC Board members are required to serve on a committee. Which committee is of interest to you, and why?**

I am interested in serving on the Land Use and Planning Committee, Environmental Committee because it aligns with my expertise and passion. I believe my skills in strategic planning and project execution can significantly contribute to the committee's efforts in addressing community challenges and achieving our goals.

# FRAN SOLOMON

(Page 1 of 2)

## VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL - APPLICATION RESPONSES (Fran Solomon)

- 1) I wish to serve on the VNC Board specifically to give back to my community in ways that help to ensure its ongoing commitment to inclusivity, affordability and viability.
  - a) No
  - b) Currently serving on the VNC OFW Committee. Appointed May, 2024.
  - c) Served as Council Deputy from 1993-2015 to West Hollywood founding Councilmember John Heilman. Performed over 2 decades of legislative advocacy and developed and implemented programming advocating for human rights and social justice issues. Raised several million dollars in support of these and other community programs. Established collaborations between the City, non-profits, community schools, the business community residents and local, state and national elected officials to promote, legislate and fund the progressive core values of the City.
  - d) Since 1976.
- 2) In 1984, helped to successfully organize the North Beach neighborhood in the U.S. Olympics Hands Across America effort.

In the 1980's, community participant in the Venice Town Council.

As a long term resident, participated in development discussions of both the Safran Affordable Housing Building on Navy and OFW and the Harlan Lee "Clown Condo" project on Main and Rose on behalf of the neighborhood.

Have served as a recurrent HOA Boardmember since the 1990's. Am currently on the HOA Board.

Have been a volunteer at the BAR CENTER (formerly the Israel Levin Senior Center) for over a decade.

Co-owner/Tour guide participant of Venice Beach Walking Tours with husband Jeffrey Solomon from 2008 - 2020.

Currently organizing a presentation with Marian Ensley of Mayor Bass's office of the Circle Group to members of the BAR Senior Center and residents of the adjacent Safran Affordable Housing building (both on OFW) to foster area community and raise awareness and prevention of potential upcoming summer safety and security issues. The presentation is scheduled for 1:00pm on Friday, June 28th at The Bar Center.



(FRAN SOLOMON APPLICATION)  
(Page 2 of 2)

- 3) Lack of Enforcement pertaining to dangerously fast and illegal motorized vehicles/ bikes/pedicabs, etc. on OFW and the bike path, endangering both riders and pedestrians.

Lack of Affordable Housing

Speed of changing area demographics with corresponding changes to the legacy and character of our community.

- 4) Play an active role in enhancing the quality of life for Venetians while simultaneously incorporating inclusivity and diverse elements of thought and consideration to those around the world who live here, visit here, do business here and have formed community here. It is, after all, "the people's beach".
- 5) That it successfully sustains itself while remaining true to its essence as a haven of west coast beauty and the off-beat ; that it protects itself - it's residents, business and visitors - as the world changes ; that it prides itself - on its successes and learns from its failures as a special west coast community.
- 6) I am currently an appointed member of the OFW Committee which feels like a good fit. I have lived, worked, played and volunteered steps from OFW on Venice's northern border for almost 50 years. I know the area businesses from Navy Street to Washington Blvd. OFW is currently experiencing a lot of changes; some enhancing - some problematic. As the 2nd most visited tourist attraction in California next to Disneyland, I'd like to remain part of the committee that helps to sort out the issues and have Venice Beach continue to thrive.