

Dear VNC, Neighborhood Purpose Grant Committee:

The Oakwood Venice Coalition was created in 2021 to develop, uphold and support social, educational, economic and environmental justice in the Oakwood Community of Venice, and to build a coalition of organizations to support the Organization's mission.

As the CEO of the Oakwood Preservation Coalition, I am excited to apply for the Neighborhood Purpose Grant to assist with the Azz-Is Jazz Concert as a Venice community non-profit sponsor for this arts-based cultural event. The Azz-Is Jazz Concert is a nostalgic event for people of a certain age, like myself, who remember the popular AZZ-IZ Jazz club of a similar name that served the Venice community in the 1970s. On another level it is an introduction to a music phenomenon that had its birth in southern Black culture and continues as a global popular musical artform. What a way to bridge the communication and age gap that we often experience in our Venice community by bringing people together in the universal communication form called music.

https://www.cinema.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/filmreel_2.jpg

I am looking forward to the Oakwood Preservation Coalition participating in this celebratory, educational, and culturally diverse event planned for the entire community. I think it is made for the kind of diverse, encompassing, and unifying events the Venice Neighborhood Council seeks to build community across all areas of Venice.

Please call me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Naomi Nightingale, PhD