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YOUR VENICE

ELECTION 2023

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VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL TO HOLD CANDIDATE FORUMS ON MARCH 22 AND 23

By Ivan Spiegel and Liz Wright

The upcoming VNC Board Elections will bring a new 21-member Board to Venice. What do you know about the fifty-three candidates that are running? How do you choose who to vote for?

A great place to start is by reading their candidate statements (included in this issue and at venicenc.org) – but how do you tell them apart? Who are these volunteers that are willing to devote a big chunk of their lives over the next two years to a job that pays nothing and sometimes seems like it pleases most of the people none of the time? Here's your chance to meet them and find out.

On Wednesday and Thursday, March 22 and 23, the VNC will host Candidate Forums from 6:30–9:30 pm. Each evening, a different

group of candidates will be invited to participate but all candidates will be requested to be present both evenings.

The prospective VNC Board Officers will be given a chance to let you, the voters, explain the differences in their approach to the offices they have chosen to run for.

Don't miss this opportunity to "meet the candidates".

Brought to you by:

Venice Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 550, Venice, CA 90294
E-mail: board@VeniceNC.org
Web: www.VeniceNC.org
LA City Clerk 213-978-0444
elections@venicenc.org

CANDIDATE FORUMS: March 22nd and 23rd

6:30pm - 9:00pm... Now on Zoom! <https://zoom.us/j/81662263429>
or call (888) 475-4499 and use ID: 816 6226 3429



People who live, work, own property, or have a verifiable ongoing interest in Venice, are stake-holders and can vote in the VNC Board Elections. This map shows the boundaries of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

VOTE for VNC Board!

Elect Your Candidates on Sunday, March 26th

Now is your opportunity to have a say in Venice! The terms of all twenty-one Venice Neighborhood Council Board members are expiring and every position is up for grabs. Over fifty of your friends and fellow Venetians are vying for positions on the VNC Board.

On Sunday, March 26, 2023, the Venice NC will hold its biennial elections at Oakwood Recreation Center with the Los Angeles City Clerk conducting the election with polls open from 10am to 6pm.

Whether you live, work, own property, or have a substantial and ongoing participation in Venice, you are a VNC "stakeholder" and eligible to vote on **March 26th**. No pre-registration is necessary, but election rules state: "Stakeholders must affirm their stakeholder status by completing a Stakeholder

Registration Form" which will be available at the Polling Place on the day of the election. Every voter must verify their eligibility before receiving a ballot – so **DON'T FORGET YOUR ID and evidence that shows you're a Venice stakeholder!**

Over the past several years, through the hard work and dedication of the VNC and its stakeholders, the VNC has become an important part of Los Angeles City government. The VNC's recommendations are closely watched, and more often than not, are followed by our City Councilman, the City Council and the Mayor.

Community involvement in the VNC has grown to an all time high, with hundreds of people routinely attending Town Hall meetings and **thousands casting votes in the past three elections.**

That's important, because the VNC's credibility (and its voice at City Hall) rests on our election turnout and stakeholder participation.

So it's imperative that Venetians vote on **March 26th**. Voting sends a strong message to the City Council that Venice is as engaged and involved as ever, and that we demand to be heard by City Hall.

For those who are voting by mail, Ballots must be postmarked by March 25th. Completed Ballots may also be submitted at the Polls.

Further voting information can be found on the venicenc.org/elections webpage.



What: Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers 2023 Elections

When: Sunday, March 26th, Polls open from 10:00am to 6:00pm (Please bring ID and evidence showing you're a stakeholder)

Where: Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Ave.

Questions: LA City Clerk, 213-978-0444 and at venicenc.org/elections

The VNC Board election is vital to our community. The City's continuing budget issues affect the services we receive, from public safety to trash collection. We're dealing with critical quality-of-life issues (and the Board's recommendations on these issues count with the city!):

- Improving the evolving commercial and residential character of Venice
- Homelessness issues
- Keeping a lid on crime
- Addressing increasing amounts of traffic

- and dealing with the challenges of parking, congestion and scooters
- Working to preserve Ocean Front Walk as one of Southern California's greatest tourist attractions



Candidates for: **PRESIDENT**



Brian Averill

It's clearly time for a fresh start in Venice, one that honors the incredible culture and history of our amazing neighborhood while moving us forward together as a thriving, united community. I've lived here

for 21 years. I'm a professional photographer and director. I've served on the VNC board and still sit on our Oceanfront Walk and Outreach committees. I'm also a founding member of the Venice Surfing Association and the Venice

Boardwalk Action Committee. The VBAC wrote and helped implement the proposal used by the city to house the boardwalk encampments in 2021. I have a proven track record of meeting high-profile challenges in our com-

munity and I've built great relationships across the entire spectrum of Venice life and within most city departments. I was on Councilmember Park's policy team during her campaign and I'm genuinely excited about working with her

and our new VNC board. I encourage my fellow candidates and any Venice stakeholders to reach out to me with any questions.



Daffodil Tyminski

For over 15 years, I have volunteered on the VNC (as a Community Officer, committee member, and VP) because I love Venice. I am a lawyer, and in addition to counseling businesses, I spent most

of my career working in or with law enforcement as a volunteer local prosecutor, a federal prosecutor, and as a LAPD volunteer. Years ago, I co-founded the Venice Art Crawl specifically to revitalize Ocean Front Walk, and in 2021,

I worked closely with the Sheriff's Department to clean up the Boardwalk. I've been a lawyer of last resort for some Venetians, and I volunteer in Venice to represent our renown dining and hospitality industry because small business

is vital to our community. Venice is the creative soul of Los Angeles. It deserves serious leaders. With our new Councilwoman, we can make Venice the best version of itself, but we have to do it together. As President, I will work to

restore civility and straightforward processes to our Board and Stakeholders. I would love your vote!

Candidates for: **VICE PRESIDENT**



Vicki Halliday

Helping and seeing Venice move forward is my goal, part of that goal is what a neighborhood council can provide. It's about hearing our collective, local voices. We are not pitted against each other on land use,

social or economic issues, and should be able to come up with solutions that will work for everyone. We won't always agree but we can still affect plans for the greater good. Moving Venice into the future requires shedding some past no-

tions and moving forward. Everyone elected to a neighborhood council brings something unique and that enables new ways to listen to the community and provide feedback to the City. I bring a long ca-

reer in advertising, tv production and writing with me. Let's put our collective knowledge and capabilities together to move Venice forward together. This is not about anyone trying to be the smartest person in the room. It is about all

of us trying to be smart together and make a difference in our surroundings. It's Venice Together.



Jim Robb

As a 30-year Venice resident, I've watched our community grow and change. The quiet calm of the boardwalk became a bustling, jam-packed visitor destination. Vibrant new business districts have grown along

Abbot Kinney and Rose Avenue. As we continue to evolve as a neighborhood, I also feel it's important to preserve our history, culture, and character. During the 4 years I've served on the VNC Board and also as chair of our Ocean-

front Walk committee, I've worked consistently to resolve the many issues facing Venice and build great relationships with many city departments. As OFW chair, my tenure has been one of open, egalitarian representation and trans-

parency. Anyone can list the problems we face, but real solutions are a joint, cooperative stakeholder effort. I genuinely love this neighborhood and I look forward to working together for our future on our new VNC board.

Candidate for: **SECRETARY**



Tima Bell

"My name is Tima Bell and I am running for Secretary in the VNC. As a principal of my firm, Relativity Architects, I take a keen interest in building communities. I've grown up in Venice, and now my kids are at-

tending the same schools I did. I've watched Venice change, grow and become special to even more people. I want to support our community by making sure the current residents, young and old, guide the new ones to just how spe-

cial this place is. As Secretary, I will be precise, accurate and meticulous in my duties, and careful with the management of the public records. Support the people who support Venice - Vote for Tima!"

Candidates for: **TREASURER**



Eric Hartnack

My name is Eric Hartnack, I'm a 21 year resident of Venice running for the role of Treasurer. Many of you may know me as Coeur D'Alene or Wildwood parent, as the owner of Topo Ranch on Abbot Kinney for

a decade, or as one of the founders of First Fridays. Like many of my neighbors, the lack of a voice within our district office necessitated my desire to get involved. I feel that government is at its best when it is focused on serving its residents. I

believe that transparency on how decisions are made and their financial implications are essential. I hold an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Business and have held finance and budgetary roles for nearly three decades. As treasur-

er, I will work closely with the committees and the other members of the VNC to ensure that the neighborhood council's budget and reporting reflect the priorities of our much loved community.



Candidates for: TREASURER (continued)



Helen Fallon
As an early Traci Park supporter & Venice resident & homeowner since 1974 I understand that maintaining a thriving community requires real commitment and leadership. For over 35 years I maintained the

financial records for multiple clients so I am highly qualified to carry out the Treasurer duties. I regularly attend VNC Board and Committee meetings and share information. I submitted stakeholder motions/petitions to the VNC Board

because community should be heard and our needs addressed. Last year my personal efforts resulted in LA finally adopting a bicycle chop shop ordinance. I will make sure you know how the tax dollars the VNC receives are spent and

if these funds are being used to bring lasting benefits and improvements to our Venice neighborhoods The VNC Bylaws should be changed so our unique neighborhoods each have their own representative on the Board. Having 13

at-large members and allowing voters to vote for only one is undemocratic & benefits special interest groups.



Jay Handal
I have been a board member for over 12 years and a business owner in this district for over 5 years. I believe I bring a voice of thee community to the elected officials and look forward to another 4 years.

Candidates for: Chair of Land Use and Planning Committee



Michael Jensen
I live in Venice because I love the enthusiasm we all have for our community. I am an attorney to small businesses in Los Angeles, who I advise on regulatory compliance, contracts, and other issues they face

in their day-to-day operations. Since 2016, I have volunteered on LUPC. In January 2022, the VNC appointed me Chair. Since then, I increased transparency and made LUPC a forum for broader planning initiatives. My three pri-

orities for LUPC next term are:
Creating a community-led development plan for the MTA Lot (the site of Bridge Housing) Ensuring the Venice Median Project is drastically revised and incorporates VNC's

and neighbor's requested changes
Soliciting more recommendations for the Community Plan and Local Coastal Program to ensure we meet long term planning goals

The VNC has an opportunity for meaningful collaboration with our newly-elected local representatives—Mayor Bass and Councilmember Park. I look forward to supporting their efforts and hope to have your vote!



Gabriel Smith
Born and raised in Venice, CA. Eagle Scout. MENSA. Former 911 first responder with McCormick Ambulance in Inglewood. Licensed Health and Life Sales agent specializing in Medicare. Winner of the

2022 BBB ethics award. I am running because my opponent has already voted to remove height restrictions along Lincoln Blvd. I wish to keep current height restrictions in tact. Advocate for abundant parking and fluent

transportation systems for efficient mobility. Fan of clean, clear sidewalks. Musician, avid golfer, and lifelong skateboarder.

Candidate for: Communications Officer

Nico Ruderman

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

Candidates for: Outreach Officer

Brian Finneran

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Sima Kostovetsky
I am the current VNC Outreach Officer and look forward to serving my community during the next term. I am 1st generation American, a proud immigrant who represents civility & multiculturalism in our

community. I will devote myself as an outreach officer to drive forward the needs of our community & work in collaboration with our City Council District 11 office. Those of you who know me, know my dedication, watchfulness & loy-

alty. Give me the chance to ensure a better Venice and Marina Peninsula for us all. I think being part of the VNC is very similar to the saying - "It Takes a Village." This is my village.

The Governing Body of the Venice Neighborhood Council shall be the Board of Officers. The Board of Officers shall establish policies and positions of the Venice Neighborhood Council at its meetings and review and recommend actions to governmental and other entities on issues affecting the Venice community.

The Board of Officers is comprised of twenty-one (21) voting Officers, as follows: seven Executive Officers, thirteen Community Officers and one Community Interest Officer.

Voters at Board elections may vote for one person for each executive officer position, and for one person for Community Officer or Community Interest Officer (Community Interest stakeholders may only vote for the Community Interest Officer).

The one person getting the most votes for each Executive Officer position and Community Interest Officer position shall be elected.

The thirteen top vote-getters for Community Officer shall be elected. Office descriptions can found in the VNC Bylaws. Go to VeniceNC.org



Candidates for: **At-Large Community Officer**



Lauren Burgess
Hello, I'm Lauren Burgess. I live in Venice with my dog, Ted and work as a business consultant. In my free time, I host book clubs and organize local events for our queer community. I love Venice and am pas-

sionate about maintaining its creative community. I also believe there is a lot of opportunity to engage more collaboratively, kindly, and effectively with our council, residents, and businesses which is why I'm running for Neighbor-

hood Council. I have spent the past decade building and managing social enterprises and charitable organizations that have made long-lasting positive impacts in the lives of those they've

served and their communities. In addition, I have served on multiple government-appointed councils. I understand how to lead positive change, manage people and budgets, and collaborate effectively and compassionately with

stakeholders. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve Venice in this capacity with your vote.



Lisa Redmond
I wake up everyday knowing I'm lucky to have lived in Venice for decades. For that reason, dedicated people who are willing to fight for the needs of Venice are a necessity. I am deeply concerned with

the rapidly diminishing diversity and growing gentrification in Venice, and want to work with others to sustain and maintain our unique jewel of a community. I believe Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to represent

all in the community, and not just the needs of the Chamber of Commerce. I am a renter, like 65% of the Venice population and will represent those needs, a view not often heard. If elected, I will work to lift up the voice of our youth and

ensure we can grow in a progressive way to be welcoming for the next generation. I am committed to preserving the fiber of this eclectic community which includes diversity, tolerance and accountability. New leadership in Venice

is necessary to continue to celebrate Venice's individuality and make important changes for our community.



Zack Best
Hey there, my name is Zack Best, business manager and resident of Venice. I am running for Community Officer on our Venice Neighborhood Council. My priorities are keeping Venice safe and

supporting the growth of business in our neighborhood, all while maintaining its unique essence. As a restaurant manager on the boardwalk, I see every day where we are succeeding, but also where there is room for improvement.

Please join me in allowing Venice to reach its potential. Thank you for your vote.



Eric Alan Donaldson
My name is Eric Alan Donaldson and I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I have lived and/or worked in Venice since the early 1990s, and have both rented and owned a home

in Venice. I raised my children in Venice (now teenagers), and serve on the school board at their school in Venice. I am also a Venice business owner, and I go to church in Venice, where I volunteer in the community regularly. I

have a unique understanding and connection to this town, and communicate regularly with stakeholders in all walks of life. I am running for the Venice Neighborhood Council because I care deeply about this incredible

seaside town, and I believe the political system of the past has failed our neighborhood. It's time to leverage our strength as a community and reestablish our voice in the City of Los Angeles, in a way that only Venice can do, so that

achievable goals can bring sustainable change. I humbly ask for your vote.



Erica Moore
Greetings! My purpose is to be of service to others and take actions that help our community solve important issues. I'm a highly energetic single mom & renter living in 5 diverse Venice areas for

4+ decades as well as a Venice small business owner of, "Bonne Bouffe Catering" 38+ years. My company employs locals, feeds the elderly via Meals on Wheels and distributes free organic groceries to our Venice neighborhood.

Currently, I serve on the VNC Resilience Committee and have regularly participated at VNC monthly meetings for years. I'm actively involved in stopping the "road diet" from extending to the beach + passionate about respon-

sible building, preserving green space and the eclectic vibe of Venice. I'm "Old School" with an innovative twist! You can count on me to bring my persistence, vibrance & enthusiasm to the VNC Board. I'll listen to you, work hard,

research and take issues you care about seriously. I believe the collective interest of the neighborhood comes first.

Evan Corrigan

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Tanisha Saunders I am running to be a board member of the Venice Neighborhood Council because I want to be more active in the community where I live and work. I currently work as a Resident Manager, for an af-

fordable housing nonprofit in Venice. In this role, I am the property manager for the first 100% affordable project to open in Venice in 20 years and I serve on our Advocacy Committee. I have completed fellowships in LA City Council,

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and I have worked in Venice since 2019. Every day I use my lived experience and education to contribute to the work of ending homelessness through direct service and affordable

housing advocacy. I am a recognized community advocate focused on building connections of resources and support, as well as empowerment. Vote for me, Tanisha Saunders, a Millennial, Activist and Advocate who has lived

experience with poverty, homelessness, foster care and is a champion for community empowerment.



Taylor Gallion
I am a Venice resident and have worked in the neighborhood at local businesses for years. I frequently stroll down the boardwalk, walk down Abbot Kinney, and know the area well. The people and culture

of Venice is amazing and I am looking to contribute my time and effort to listen to the people and help make improvements for a better shared experience. I am excited to meet and hear from everyone in the area. Looking forward to

working with the community!



Candidates for: At-Large Community Officer (continued)



Alley Mills Bean

I am a 30 year resident of Venice, and together with my belated husband Orson Bean (a 48 year resident), received the Spirit of Venice Award for our “passion for and service to the Venice community, reflecting

the spirit, creativity, and uniqueness of Venice”. It is that very spirit of Venice is creativity and uniqueness - it’s socio-economic diversity, vibrant, history of inclusiveness, and just plain old fashioned vibe of loving your neighbor - that

makes me want to serve again on the VNC Board to fight for our community. Especially in these very tough times for Venice, when we need to make complex and humane decisions about homelessness and wise, transparent de-

isions about our upcoming land-use Community Plan and LCP, I would love to be a voice for you and serve Venice again.



Aaron Dozzi

As VNC Community Officer, I plan to represent a new generation of Venice residents. I moved to Venice at the height of the pandemic, and I have seen the city transform over the past two years as

new businesses open and events in the community return and blossom. I represent the Venice resident who rents, works from home, and enjoys the natural beauty of our beaches. My priorities include engaging the young adults

in our community, exploring alternative transportation and public innovations that benefit new ways of working, and cementing the future of creativity and entrepreneurship in Venice that shaped our home into the world-renowned

cultural hub it is today.



Amara Hordt

I’m running as a next-generation Tabor Family member, one of the historic founding families in Venice Beach. Being actively involved in my community, I aspire to follow in the footsteps of my

two cousins Jataun Valentine and Navalette Baily. Being passionate about equality, BLM, and the vitality of Venice Beach, I will bring positive change to enhance our sense of community. As a Realtor with many years of Prop-

erty Management, have made me an advocate for renter’s rights and homeownership. Growing up in Oakwood and surrounded by the art community, I’ve seen many black families and artists pushed out of Venice due to gentrification

and unaffordable rents. I deeply understand our community issues, from homelessness, to creating affordable spaces for the arts, as well as protecting our environment. I’m committed to working with other community leaders

and elected officials to ensure Venice is conducive, safe, and prosperous for all. Please vote for me, Amara Hordt as your next VNC member.

Hugo Moreno

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

Patrick A. Mckinley

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

Meredith Gruszka

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Benjamin Ballentine

I’m a third generation Venetian with an immense love for our neighborhood. Being both a Venice native and a Venice business owner, I have a vision for Venice that honors the past while setting a course for a

future that my children will be as proud to represent as I am.



Benjamin Shahrabani

I have lived in Venice since 2003 and raised my family here. We love this colorful, historic city and want to see it flourish. During the most recent citywide elections we co-hosted a fund-

raiser for Traci Park and are elated that Venice and CD11 as a whole made the right choice. Consider me a common sense, pro-family, and pro-law-and-order VNC Community Officer candidate that will be accessible and advo-

cate for you, working with likeminded council members to give Venice the say it deserves in its own destiny at the city level of government and higher.



Bryan Cook

For over 20 years, I’ve lived and worked in Venice and would be honored to have your support for the VNC. I will take a proactive approach to solve issues. Homelessness is a problem and prevention should

be the priority. Building housing is the second step. We can make progress by supporting mental health services along with law enforcement. I support business owners to grow and add to our community. They should not be wor-

ried about crime and need to focus on running their business. I support my neighbors, to build a community where residents, tourists and businesses feel safe to walk, dine, bike, skateboard, surf or whatever it may be. I am

committed to guaranteeing the life you expect in Venice. I’m married to my husband Ron and have 2 dogs Charlie and Jasper. I love to surf, skateboard, mountain bike, ski, and cook great food. I have traveled the world but love

to explore every corner of Venice and the City of L.A. Visit my campaign site, bryanforvenice.com

Candidates for: At-Large Community Officer (continued)



Clark Brown
 Since 1969 I have lived and owned property in Venice. I am a retired lawyer. Since July 2021 I have been a member of the VNC Board. Homelessness is a desperate problem facing Venice. It

has two aspects: First, we must not permit homeless people to occupy public places for their exclusive use. Second, we must find, develop and build places where the homeless can live and receive support. This includes find-

ing space in hotels, motels, and under used commercial buildings, and building safe camping and tiny home sites. The First depends on the Second. Since July 2021 I have focused on the Second. I have continually lobbied the City to:

Use vacant lots it owns at LAX for safe camping and tiny homes; Place Venice homeless in a hotel it has in Westchester; Apply the Inside Safe Initiative to Venice encampments. Recently, I helped move most of the encampment

off Flower Ave. I will continue these efforts. See my website clarkbrown4-venice.org.

Carlos Marin

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Christopher Lee
 Hello - my name is Christopher Lee and I am running to be an At-Large Community Officer for the Venice Neighborhood Council. I have lived in Venice for a modest 3 years, though in that time I have sought

out and connected with many of the organizations that sustain this vital community. In addition, I have founded Venice Community Cleanups, a 501c3 nonprofit that meets regularly to pick up litter from the streets and beaches.

I strive constantly to listen to, and be responsive to, the needs of the community and our many varied neighbors. I also invite accountability for my actions and hope to bring open communication, responsive listening, and ac-

countability to the VNC.



Chie Lunn
 I am determined to make a real difference in our community, and that's why I am running for office again. My unwavering commitment to improving the lives of our children and seniors is what drives me forward.

I strongly believe that Traci Park is the ideal candidate to represent our interests in City Hall. With her by our side, we have a stronger voice and can push for the positive changes that we so desperately need.

As your representative, I will always be attentive to the concerns of our community. I will make sure that your voices are heard and your needs are met. My track record speaks for itself, and I will continue to work tirelessly to deliver

on the promises I make. I urge you to put your trust in me once again and together, let's make Venice a better place for everyone.



CJ Cole
 CJ COLE...THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR VENICE * Venice property owner, resident, & community activist since 1968 * Advocate for the rights of property owners, renters, & businesses * Committed to reducing

homelessness & increasing safety * Passionate about preserving the unique qualities of Venice * Proponent for moderate growth while keeping the small-town vibe * Against the proposed Venice Median Project.

I WANT TO SEE: * A Board devoted to serving our community * All Community Officers participating on a committee * All committees having regular scheduled, open meetings * A spirit of cooperation!

Dedicated to being informed on all VNC issues, I attended all Board regular/special meetings over the past four years + most Administrative Committee & LUPC meetings.

I am running for my third

term as a VNC Community Officer; prior, I was elected VNC Treasurer. I also serve as Treasurer of the Venice Canals Association & belong to the Venice Chamber of Commerce. I am a retired real estate broker.



Deborah Keaton
 I moved to Venice 30+ years ago, I was young, single and fearless. Abbot Kinney was a couple of shops and restaurants. The buildings were boarded up or they were artists studios. Since that

time, I've witnessed many changes good and bad. Major changes in my life too. I'm married with a 13 year old daughter. I am not so young, not single, but just as fearless.

We lived 50 feet from a

huge camp. My daughter witnessed shootings, fires, addicts jumping our fence, drugs deals, screaming in the night from woman being beaten or raped. It was a post-apocalyptic scene. No one helped. One night the de facto camp leader

said (on camera) that Jesus told him to kill my husband, That was it. I had enough. So I formed the Venice Electric Group and we got busy.

We finally got Bonin to offer services, support and they cleaned out the

camp. We made sure it stayed that way.

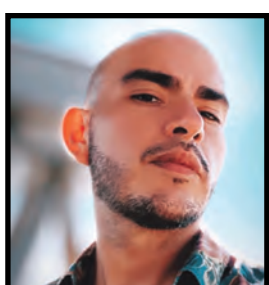
I have experienced what I can accomplish if I set my mind to it. I am ready to take on a role with the VNC.

Thanks, Deborah



Dillon Chapman
 As a resident here for over a decade I have made it my mission to build community around the sport of soccer in Venice. I am running for the position of Community Officer At-Large to continue my mission to help

grow and better protect places for young people to pursue healthy activities. I am particularly passionate about improving the quality and safety of our local parks for both children and adults in our community.



Sergio Pérez
 My name is Sergio Pérez. I was raised in Venice and manage my family's food business, the iconic Great Western Steak and Hoagie Co. on Lincoln Blvd, a venerable Venice institution. For many years I have

organized holiday toy and food drives and partnered with local institutions like the Fire Department and LAPD to make them successful. I am on the board of Venice Pride along with years of service. My family's business always steps

up to fundraise for our local schools and youth, and to help community members in need. With my experience managing one of the most beloved businesses in Venice and longstanding community engagement, I will work to

protect Venice's diversity and contribute to effective and inclusive solutions for our community's important issues.



Candidates for: **At-Large Community Officer (continued)**



Steve Bradbury
A Better Marina Del Rey. MDR (the Peninsula, Silver Strand & Oxford Triangle) comprise 15-20% of Venice but have almost no voice on the current VNC: only one member is an MDR resident. That means

our community is extremely underrepresented. Who is listening on our behalf? It's time for MDR to have a voice. We face many opportunities and challenges in our wonderfully distinctive neighborhoods including public safety, practical

homeless solutions, infrastructure needs, climate resilience & preparedness, improved city services, transportation & parking, economic development, LA city vs LA county, and overall quality-of-life. Who is looking at these issues

thru an MDR lens? What is the potential impact on our future? I am a 16+ year Marina resident seeking to make a difference as a thoughtful pragmatist with an inquisitive, probing mind. My commitment is to represent our community.

Please visit steve4vnc.com. Take the stakeholder survey. Your vote says it's time for a change. Thank you.



Soledad Ursua
VNC Board Member and former Chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee. I joined the Board in May 2020. During my terms on the Board I have worked closely with LAPD to advance public safety

for residents, businesses, and tourists alike. I am deeply concerned with rising crime and our City's inability to care for our most vulnerable populations, and the worsening environmental quality of our coastline. I believe that we

have the responsibility to maintain a clean and safe Venice Beach, in order to provide equitable access for everyone. Venice is internationally recognized and it would be my honor to continue to serve our community. I humbly ask

for your vote to return me as a VNC Board member. Thank you.



Robert Thibodeau
Hello! My name is Robert Thibodeau, I have lived in Venice for 34 years. I have a child in LAUSD and I have a business on Lincoln Blvd. I have served three terms as a community officer for the

VNC, and am currently the co-chair of the parking and Transportation Committee. My interests are my family, art and design, and surfing. I am worried about the eroding quality of life in Los Angeles and particularly in Venice. If elected, I will

represent the residents of Venice to support policies for a safer, cleaner, less bureaucratic city.

Ivette Rodriguez

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Graham Sandelski
Hi. My name's Graham and I'm hoping to represent you on Venice's Neighborhood Council as a Community Officer. I've been fortunate enough to call Venice home now for almost four years and I'd

like to give back and be of service to this incredibly special place. Having worked in both architecture and landscape architecture specializing in urban environments in LA for over seven years, I can offer a unique blend

of expertise, passion, and compassion to the issues facing our neighborhood. By listening to and working with all of our neighbors, we can lift Venice up to its full potential and continue to create a community that is welcoming, inclusive,

and equitable for all. Many thanks! Graham



Yolanda Gonzalez
As past elected Vice President to two Neighborhood councils spearheaded this movement from Venice, I am running again because COVID brought a big change to our community of this great City.

New mandated laws to city departments effecting our communities legally, economically, socially. We must protect public forum, discussion because we still have a voice. Mandated flood insurance imposed by FEMA effecting eco-

nomically our community without proper discussion during covid. We need to bring back programs aided for low middle class families. Encourage the new board to participate in committees to prevent City Council from overriding

community input. I strongly believe in property rights and the efficacy of VNC to uphold such. Good businesses brings good salaries, employees property ownership for community growth. Long time resident I am asking for your vote

of confidence.



Julie Bean
I have lived in Venice for the past 20 yrs. My husband and I have two children that attend local LAUSD schools (Venice + Coeur D'Alene). After listening to the most recent VNC meeting, I

feel like it's more imperative than ever, to bring more decency, respect and transparency into our neighborhood council. I want to make sure that projects being proposed are really shared with the community, and not

shoved through because someone on the board has an interest in it. I love Venice, my neighbors, the community and meeting the tourists that keep it pumping. I am looking forward to working with the committees that

beautify and restore what we already have!



James Dawson
Hi. I'm James Dawson, and I am running for a Community Officer seat on the Venice Neighborhood Council. Just like you, I love Venice. I moved around several

times in my childhood and early adult life but feel so blessed to call Venice my home. We have so much to be proud of – our beautiful coastline, amazing culture, iconic landmarks, and so many great people. But we face a lot of chal-

lenges, and I want to do the work and advocate for a better future for the Venice community. For the last few years, I've worked closely with local small business leaders helping them to compete

with large corporations. I know my skills will translate to being a perfect activist for the Venice community. I'm a pragmatic problem solver who will roll up my sleeves to work for the

good of our entire community. I would be honored to earn your vote on March 26th and I will do everything I can to be a good steward for Venice.



Candidates for: **At-Large Community Officer (continued)**



Jason Sugars
HELLO TO ALL OF VENICE, CA

I'm running for a second term on the Venice Neighborhood Council for a few reasons. First and foremost, I am motivated by

love and respect for my neighbors and neighborhood.

I want to honor the generations of Venice family that lived here before me - and I hope to help create a safe and stable place for

the generations that will be here long after I have gone.

Here's hoping that I can be part of a more positive and productive future in our beloved community.

One Venice for All Venetians. Let's GO!



Joseph Garcia
I'm open to communicating with everyone on all levels of our neighborhood.

I volunteer with the houseless community and have witnessed lots of growth in the current programs. I also see where they can be

improved and it will be my honor to further help those in need. I have a special interest in the Arts and see where the vibrance of Venice will continue.

Venice is for all to enjoy, thrive, evolve, unite!



Jill Crosby
I have lived in Venice for 30 years. I have raised my family here. I have incredible friends who run 'Mom and Pop' businesses and restaurants in Venice who've worked to build the community into a world-re-

nowned destination. As a homeowner, I've watched Venice grow and thrive, only to see it overrun by encampments, drugs, and crime. I have tried working directly with the unhoused, Mike Bonin's office, and non-profits to find reason-

able, common-ground solutions, but no one engaged other than to further the City's "housing first" or "forever homes" policy. Being 29 years sober, I volunteer to help addicts beat addiction, which gives me unique insight into the

homeless problems in Venice. I don't believe in the "forever homes" model. I believe in compassion and assistance for those who need it along with enforcement of "quality of life" codes for the wellbeing of ALL. I want to be part of a

government that will listen to and work with residents. I would be grateful for your vote.



James Murez
For this upcoming term, I am running to be a community officer. I was the VNC President for the last 2 years, and my other past roles have included serving for 12 years on the Land Use and Planning

Committee, 5 years as Chair of the Parking and Transportation Committee, and 3 years as Communications Officer. My wife Melanie and I moved to Venice in 1988, and sent our children, Zak and Andi, to LAUSD schools,

including Venice High. Zak went on to attend Yale and then received a PhD in Computer Science, and Andi is a two time Olympic swimmer, soon to complete her medical degree. I've managed the Venice Farmers' Market

since 1989. I also planted roughly 2000 trees in Venice in the 1990's and created the Centennial Park. But I think there is still a lot of work to do here, and so I hope you choose to vote for me as Community Officer, a common sense

voice for a better quality-of-life in Venice. To learn more about me, please visit www.MurezForVenice.com

Candidates for: **Community Interest/Community Officer**



Noreen Ahmed
I envision a future without the level of vitriol and harm that is destroying lives in Venice and countless other communities. If healing can come to a place as dynamic and richly cultured as Venice,

then it can take form elsewhere. Ultimately, serving on a rigid VNC cohort may be something I regret. If it can reform (1) to truly be a voice for people who feel unheard via a more inclusive format and (2) to create harmony within Venice

via on-the-ground events, then I will feel honored to be here. I am a first-generation Pakistani who serves as a case manager for recently unhoused families in Sawtelle. I have been a Peace Corps and AmeriCorps Volunteer. I know

that the safety of an entire community is contingent on true protection of those most susceptible to harm. It is my hope that we can align on how we show up as better community members for them and each other. Thank you for your

consideration. For my extended statement, please visit tinyurl.com/VNCNoreen.



Bruno Hernandez
I currently serve as the Executive Director of the STP Foundation, a charitable non-profit organization. For the last ten years the STP Foundation curates the Venice Graffiti/Art Walls program by

means of the City of Los Angeles and in collaboration with Rec and Parks. I represent a portion of the much-needed diversity for this board, and organize cultural events like a Dia De Los Muertos event and the Thanksgiving Turkey

giveaway for the last couple of years in Oakwood. to ensure Venice is conducive, safe, and prosperous for all. Please vote for me as your next VNC member.

As your Community Inter-

est Officer, I will bring a strong work ethic, diverse network of support, and a "serve first" mentality to this opportunity. With over 25 years of management experience in both corporate and private business, building and leading teams

to accomplish measurable goals has always been my strength. I pledge to continue to build on the 11 plus years of programs that I have helped to develop and contribute to the culture of the community of Venice.

Melissa Montesi

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED