



venice
neighborhood
council

YOUR
VENICE

ELECTION 2021

www.venicenc.org

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Venice Neighborhood Council to Hold Candidate Forums on May 12th, 13th and 19th

By Ivan Spiegel and Liz Wright

The upcoming VNC Board Elections (read the second article on this page) will bring a whole new twenty-one member Board to Venice. You've been inspired to vote in the elections -but what do you know about the seventy-four candidates that are running for the Venice Neighborhood Council Board? 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, May 12th and 13th, and Wednesday May 19th, the VNC will host Virtual Candidate Forums from 6:00 - 9:30 pm.

Because there are

so many candidates, it will take three nights to present all of them. Each evening, a different group of candidates will be invited to participate in what will be both fun and informative.

The prospective VNC officers will be given an opportunity to let the voters know the benefits they hope to bring

to the Board if elected, as well as the differences in their approach to the offices they have chosen to run for.

The VNC Election team has devised a format to make the evenings interactive and fun.

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



Questions: email: elections@VeniceNC.org

THREE - 2021 BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATES FORUMS:

All Candidate Forums can be accessed online at zoom.us or by telephone 877 853 5257 (Toll Free).

[Join with Meeting ID number below when prompted.](#)

VNC CANDIDATES FORUM - COMMUNITY OFFICERS

• **Wednesday, May 12 at 6:00pm**

Join Meeting ID: 831 5571 8965

VNC CANDIDATES FORUM II - COMMUNITY OFFICERS

• **Thursday, May 13 at 6:00pm**

Join Meeting ID: 840 0371 3499

VNC CANDIDATES FORUM - EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

• **Wednesday, May 19 at 6:00pm**

Join Meeting ID: 886 5652 7176

VOTE for VNC Board!

Elect Your Candidates by Mail From May 10 - June 8

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. Almost seventy-five of your friends and fellow Venetians are vying for positions on the VNC Board. From Monday, May 10 to Tuesday, June 8 2021, Venice Stakeholders will have an opportunity to make their selections.

If you will be at least

16 years old and you live, work, own property, or have a substantial and ongoing participation in Venice, you are a VNC "stakeholder" and eligible to vote.

One major change this year is that voting will be entirely Vote-By-Mail. You must apply for a ballot by June 1.

When you first get to the application portal you will probably need to create an account so please decide on a User ID and Password before starting. In addition, the

VNC election rules state that all voters must affirm their stakeholder status by providing documentation and every voter must verify their eligibility before receiving a ballot – so **DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT** evidence that shows you're a Venice stakeholder when you apply for a ballot. After receiving your application, the City Clerk will affirm your stakeholder status and you will receive a ballot beginning May 10. It must be returned by Tuesday,

June 8 either by mail or deposited in the drop box at the Venice Abbot Kinney library.

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 City Departments. Community involvement in the VNC has grown to an all time

high, with hundreds of people routinely attending Town Hall meetings and over 2700 Venetians voting in previous elections, so it's imperative that Venetians vote. Voting sends a strong message to the LA City Council that Venice is as engaged and involved as ever, and that we insist that City Hall hear us.

For more information, including links to the application portal and more about documentation, visit our Elections webpage: www.venicenc.org



The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) along with LA's 98 other Neighborhood Councils, form the grassroots level of the City's government. While Venice NC board members serve their community without pay, they are public officials elected by the stakeholders of their community. This is your chance to vote for the Candidates who will help shape decisions on land use, housing, public safety, transportation, the environment, arts, and everything else that affects Venice. These Representatives will advise the City Council, Mayor's Office, and all other City agencies on matters affecting our community.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO VOTE!

This year's election will be **Vote-By-Mail Only** due to the pandemic. It is being conducted by the Los Angeles City Clerk.

WHO CAN VOTE?

VNC Stakeholders who are 16 years or older on the day of the election (June 8, 2021) are eligible to vote in this year's elections.

Each Stakeholder who lives, works, or owns real property within the boundaries of the Venice Neighborhood Council shall be entitled to cast votes as follows:

- One (1) Vote for President
- One (1) Vote for Vice President
- One (1) Vote for Secretary
- One (1) Vote for Treasurer
- One (1) Vote for Communications Officer
- One (1) Vote for Community Outreach Officer
- One (1) Vote for Land Use and Planning Committee Chair
- One (1) vote for only one (1) Community Officer. This may *either* be a Community Interest Community Officer *OR* an At-Large Community Officer.

Each Community Interest Voting Member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for a Community Interest Community Officer candidate.

HOW CAN I VOTE?

Your first step is to **APPLY** to receive a ballot.

How to apply to receive a ballot:

- 1. Go to the City Clerk website:**
<https://clerk.lacity.org/clerk-services/elections/nc-elections#voter>
- 2. Complete a Vote-By-Mail application online**
(If you have never voted before, you may need to create an account with Username and Password.)
- 3. Or Download a paper application**
(available in 11 languages) and return by mail, fax, or email a photo/scan of your application.
- 4. Voting information for the Unhoused can also be found on this site.**

After the application is received, the Los Angeles City Clerk will verify your stakeholder eligibility and mail you the appropriate ballot beginning on Monday, May 10th. You may begin voting as soon as you receive your ballot, but it must be either mailed (postmarked by June 8th) or placed in the Ballot Dropbox (by 8pm on June 8th.)

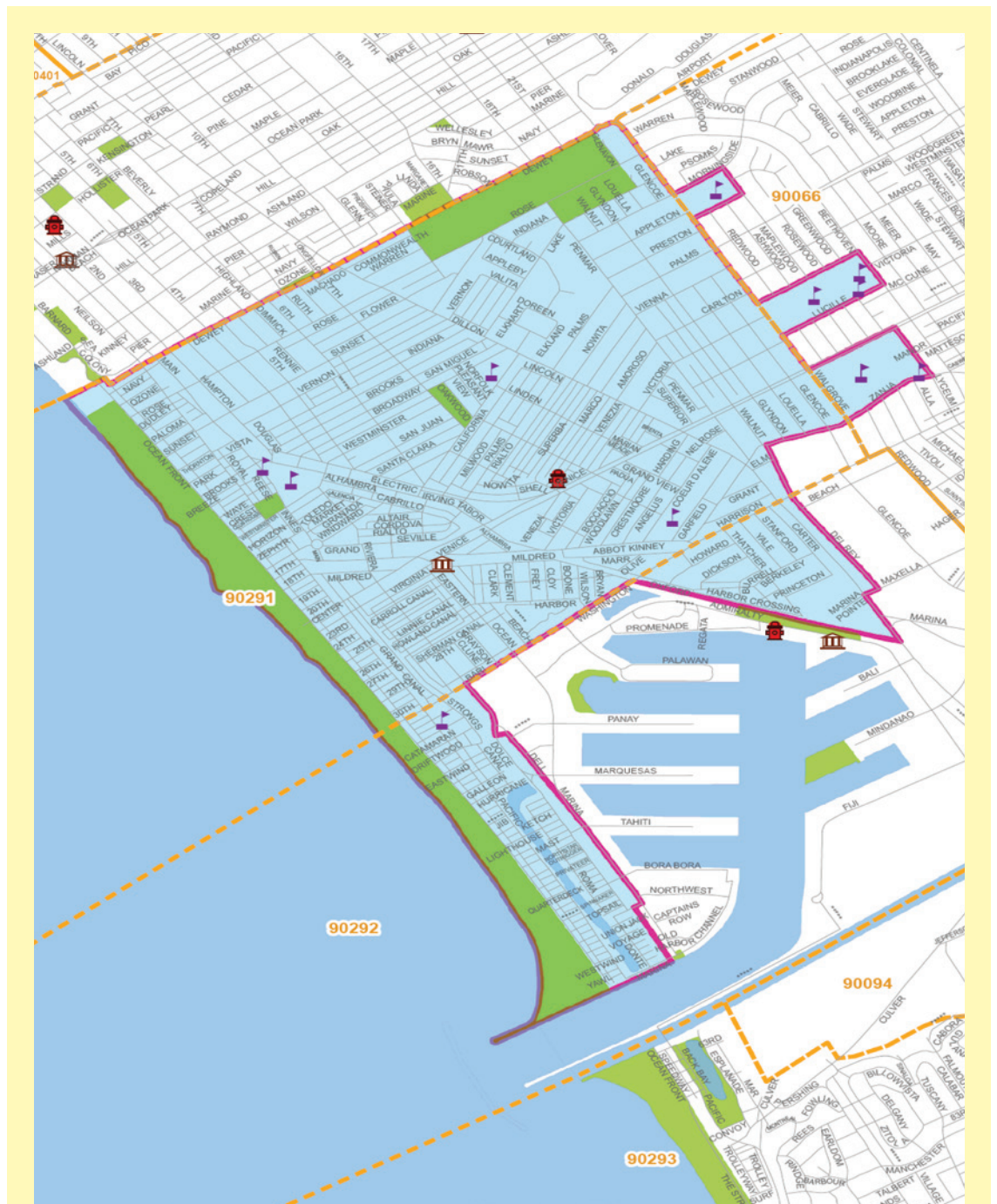
-Last day to apply for a Vote-By-Mail Ballot – Tuesday, June 1st

-Dropbox Open at– Venice Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library at 501 E. Venice Blvd: June 4th through June 8th at 5:00 PM

-Mailed Ballots Must Be Postmarked by – Tuesday, June 8th

For questions regarding the application process, please contact the Los Angeles City Clerk at: (213) 978-0444.

Additional information is also available on the Venice Neighborhood Council website: Venicenc.org



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.

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The VNC Board election is vital to our community. The City's continuing budget problems affect the services we receive, from public safety and trash collection to dealing with the pandemic. 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 and re-awakening from the pandemic
- 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
- Homelessness issues • Keeping a lid on crime



Candidates for: **PRESIDENT**



■ Brian Averill

I'm a current board member and I've lived in Venice for 20 years. I genuinely love this neighborhood, but by any measure, we are in crisis mode. Violent crime is soaring. The number of unhoused

people on our streets has risen to well over 2,000. Fear and frustration continue to tear this great community apart. It's clearly time for a new beginning on the VNC. We need to treat each other with far

more respect and civility. We need to repair our relationships with almost every department in this city. We need to unify as a council and set an example for the people we serve. We need to make actual progress

on the very serious issues facing this community. I'm proud to have great relationships with people from across the entire spectrum of Venice and in almost every city department. I've

fought like hell for my neighbors for years and I have a proven track record. I'd be honored to serve as your president and I'd put my heart and soul into uniting this neighborhood.
brianforvenice.com



■ Ben Decker

My nonprofit work, including the field of anti-human trafficking, combined with my work as a meditation teacher, counselor, group facilitator, and grassroots organizer brings together a strong background of

the team-building, problem-solving, and mediation skills necessary for serving as President of the VNC. Once elected, I commit to running respectful meetings, listening to our neighbors, empowering commit-

tees, and demonstrating intentional mindfulness in leadership by holding space for the excellence, ideas, and skills of those on the council. I commit to representing the collective voice of Venice in our communi-

cations with the City, cultivating respectful and beneficial relationships with the City and other neighboring Neighborhood Councils, practicing patience, always open-mindedly exploring all sides of every

situation and treating this position like a full time job. My vision for the VNC is a collaborative, solution-oriented environment for bettering our neighborhood.



■ James Murez

In these times of increasing homelessness and rampant crime, we need an advocate for Venice who is capable, qualified, and has a track record of offering workable solutions that make sense! For two de-

CADES I have served in various capacities of the VNC, including as community officer and member of our Land Use & Planning Committee for 12 years. Currently I'm Communications chair, co-chair the Dog Park

Committee and chair the Parking & Transportation Committee. As a proud father and husband, both my adult children graduated from Venice High School as scholar-athletes who went on to attend Yale &

Stanford. As an environmentalist, I helped plant over 1400 trees in Venice. I've managed the Venice Farmers' Market every Friday for over 30 years. Effective leadership requires a proven resume of prior success

and the ability to listen and learn. I have the time, energy and "institutional memory" to put in the work needed to lead our neighborhood council. More at www.MurezForVenice.com



■ Jay Schapira

Venice belongs to us all and we can all see what's happening. Culture here is established in diversity, compassion, creativity and its values. The look and feel of Venice is not by accident. That preservation

is critical to its future. Yet, we all see the deterioration of our neighborhood recently and I can't sit idly by and watch it happen another day. Things need to change. You have a voice that will be heard. We'll address

the pervasive homelessness and rising crime rates. We'll mitigate the gentrification and development that diminishes its own traditional culture of what makes this place special. There are compassionate so-

lutions that's fair to all stake holders of our neighborhood. I can help navigate to optimal policies that will benefit us all. I'm native here and spent my career lobbying governments to fight and enact pro

environmental policy decisions. My commitment now is to restore what makes Venice special. Let's get back to where we were. I can guide our way there.

Candidates for: **VICE PRESIDENT**



■ Justin Hellier

My name is Justin Hellier and I am a Venice local with a passion for the Venice neighborhood, Los Angeles, and Southern California. Born and raised in Orange County, the busy bohemian beach town

of Venice seemed like a dream place to wake up every day. After living a block away from the Venice Pier and a short walk from the famous boardwalk these past two year it is time for me too give back. Running

for Vice President is where I know I can make the biggest impact within this community and give back as much as Venice has given me.



■ Alex Neiman

As a 31 year resident and native to Venice I have seen our community evolve like many of you have. I have seen historic, coastal bungalows turn into modern homes, I have seen shops come and go on

Abbot Kinney, I have seen neighbors leave and friends move in. Our community is unique in that it is home to people of all different walks of life. We are a microcosm mirroring the vibrance of all of Los Angeles. I

have sat on the VNC for over 3 years and have been dismayed by the hateful discourse, frustrated as both a councilmember and a stakeholder by the City's lack of engagement with our specific needs, but en-

couraged by the people I have connected with and the colleagues I have worked alongside. I am a proud Venetian that is humbled by our community's evolution and hopeful for where we can go. As your Vice

President I will continue to connect, to listen and to guide the transformation of our neighborhood into a more equitable, caring and action oriented community.



■ Daffodil Tyminski

I live in Venice with my husband and our dog, and over the past 13 years, I have been a VNC community officer and LUPC member. I am running for Vice President to help solve the problems our com-

munity faces so we can spend more of our collective energy on bringing out the best parts of the Venice we all know and love. Despite massive public spending, the homeless population has more than doubled.

Meanwhile, our sidewalks are in disrepair, our crime is up, and our property values are down. As a former federal prosecutor, I understand that all of these issues are related. As VP, I intend to work with

our VNC committees and stakeholders to hold the City accountable for its actions, to support our local businesses, and to make our neighborhoods safer.

Candidates for: SECRETARY



■ Melissa "24/7" Diner

10+ year resident of Venice. Born and raised in Denver, CO. Take it to the limit! I am running for Secretary to further modernize our organization and ensure motions are received, sent, and

tracked in the most efficient way possible. I have served as the VNC's Secretary over the past five years and was previously a Community Officer, the Ocean Front Walk Committee Chair, and a OFW

committee member. My goal is to create win-win situations that account for different viewpoints. Our decisions have profound effects on stakeholders, local business, and visitors to our great coastal

community. I will listen to our community and make decisions in the best interests of Venetians at large. I truly believe that hard work has reward and if we work together, we can accomplish anything.

You can trust that I will not stop until the VNC is operating as the well-oiled machine that I know it can be with the right leadership in place.



■ Erica Moore

Hi Stakeholders! The collective interest of Venice comes first. That's how I will represent you! You can count on me to listen to you, work hard, do the research, and take your concerns seriously. I am open and

not afraid to have hard conversations, being respectful I can agree to disagree. My votes will be thoughtful. My purpose is being of service to others. Taking initiative and responsibility is who I am: an East Ven-

ice renting resident and single mom who has run my catering business here for 37 years, supporting myself since age 16. I help where I can: employing a diversity of local residents, mentoring budding

chefs/food vendors, donating countless meals to schools, sports programs, churches, shelters & homeless people. I am comfortable both supporting and leading. Attention to detail plus organization, and

my enthusiasm and integrity will define my role as secretary. With abundant energy and focus, I support our community in thriving, and I promise you "Moore" for Venice!



■ Ansley Weller

Fellow Venetians: We the people, stand at a crossroads. We can go down the same road we have already been down, or enter into the unknown. We have many tribes here, and 2021 is the

year we must unite. Divided we fall but united we stand, for we are better together. We are one neighborhood, with one heartbeat. We share the pulse of this earth, the rhythm of our ocean, and the currents

of our coastal air. Let's choose to connect to our humanity, embrace our diversity, face every fear, rise and rebuild. Electoral Politics doesn't just matter, it is essential for creating the future for our

youth with integrity. I treat my neighborhood like family members. You are deserving of strong, solution oriented, compassionate leadership. I am here to serve, protect, listen and advocate for you.

I invite you to choose the Political Renaissance with Ben Decker for President and Ansley Weller for Secretary & The Love Thy Neighborhood Initiative. Ansleyforsecretary.com [@ansleyforsecretary](https://twitter.com/ansleyforsecretary)

Candidates for: TREASURER



■ Andrea Boccaletti

I have been a resident of the Venice Community for 13 years and love it dearly. I have seen it go through many changes but nothing like the change it has been experiencing in the last 3 years. We

need to pull this community back together, clean it up, make it safe once again and have the L.A. City Council respect our collective voices. And we need laws to be enforced once again. Being a Venice resident

has always meant being a good citizen of the community and caring about and protecting our beautiful ocean and beach. If elected I will do whatever is within my power to do so about bringing that

back, working with and all of you in the community and with others on the council. I will also work to balance our budget. There's no place like Venice!!

■ Scot Kramarich

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



■ Robin Rudisill

My family and I have lived in Venice for 17 years, and for most of that time I've been involved with the VNC-- I've been a Board Member and I also served on the Neighborhood, Safety/ Emergency Pre-

paredness, Land Use & Planning and Ocean Front Walk Committees. I'm running for Treasurer because I'm a former CFO and CPA, and I've also been Treasurer of Jr. Achievement Hawaii and Soroptimist Interna-

tional Founder Region. I can definitely balance a budget! But more importantly, this is a crucial time in Venice's history, and I want to give of my time right now to support and be part of creating the very best

future for Venice. In the words of Peter Douglas, one of the founders of the Coastal Act, "The Coast is never saved, it's always being saved. Our work, your work, the labor of love that it is, is never finished.

It's a job that will always be ongoing." I look forward to working with a new Board that effectively uses its voice in advising the City, in our ongoing labor of love for Venice!

Candidates for: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



■ Helen Fallon

I'm Helen Fallon. I believe we need a balance between helping the homeless & helping residents & homeowners keep & maintain a clean healthy community. Right now that's not happening. I've lived in

Venice over 45 years & raised my children here. I serve on the VNC Public Safety Committee & regularly attend Board & Committee meetings. I wrote 3 Stakeholder Petitions ensuring the VNC address Community con-

cerns, such as opposing re-zoning the Venice Median from open space to commercial. This election is a referendum on who will speak for Venice. Will it be homeless Corp. developers building at \$1,500/sq.

ft., wanting to remove R-1 zoning, or Socialist Democrats working with Bonin who push his agenda placing homeless desires over working families? I'll work to stop special interests from controlling the VNC. A

vote for HELEN FALLON is a vote against special interests & FOR creating BALANCE between helping homeless & helping residents & homeowners keep & maintain a clean healthy community.



■ Chris Gattanella

Hello, Venice! I'm your friendly neighborhood writer, and I'm running for Communications Officer. I've written mostly for television during my career, and also for the web and small publications. My jobs have al-

ways required the ability to clearly communicate, and I've gained organizational skills working as a television producer as well. Going back a bit, I have a Bachelor's Degree from the Grady School of Journalism at

UGA (home of the Peabody Awards). Having lived in the area for over twenty years, I understand the community, its challenges, and its needs. Currently, I reside in the Venice canals with my girlfriend,

Sarah. I'd love to put my communications skills to work for you and the city of Venice over the next couple of years. Thanks in advance for your vote!



Candidates for: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (Continued)



Vicki Halliday

I currently serve on the VNC and sit on both the Homeless Committee and the Westminster Dog Park Committee. The work is often challenging, but I love Venice and it is a way for me to give back to

a wonderful community. With a background in film production, advertising and branding, I believe I can contribute to the VNC as a communications officer, who understands needed messaging as well as

the technology to provide more user friendly council and committee meetings. The VNC should be easily accessible to all whether by Zoom or in person. Our voices are all important, and I hope you will elect

me to make sure yours is always heard.

Candidates for: COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICER



Sima Kostovetsky

I am your neighbor. I've seen you at The Cow, or walking your dog, or jogging the beach. I am honored to have called Marina Peninsula/Venice my home for the last almost 20 years. My kids are growing up here. Our

parents are aging here. I am entrenched in our community & will focus my efforts as a steward of our neighborhood, treating Venice with its rich & unique history, its people, & our beach with the utmost respect.

Safety! Preserving our coastline/ocean! Smart development! Just some of the issues most dear to me. I'm 1st generation American, a proud immigrant who stands for civility & multiculturalism

in our community. As the current Outreach Chair my record speaks for itself, having worked tirelessly on behalf our community to drive forward the needs of our stakeholders & by working with other Neighborhood

Councils on common goals to make Venice a force within Los Angeles politics! Those who know me, know my dedication, watchfulness & loyalty. Sima Kostovetsky For OUR Venice!



Samantha Moskow

I am not a politician, but rather a hard working, plain speaking, self motivated, and highly focused individual. Born & raised in Maui, Hawaii; I started a career in child care & development in Chicago and now make

my home in Los Angeles. Throughout my career I have been involved with advancing charitable organizations; most recently "Anxiety Buddies" a charity for injured children receiving care in the Emergency Room at

hospitals. I am determined to identify community defined achievable goals and see them through to completion. I am a good citizen who is honest in dealing with others, a capacity for empathy, and an

attitude of civic duty to bring peace and prosperity to our community.



Caroline Murcia

Sorry I am unable to run for this election this year! Good luck to the candidates and i will continue to help Venice with random acts of kindness! Mahalo

Candidates for: LAND USE and PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR



Alix Gucovsky

I have served as the Chair of the Land Use and Planning Committee for the last two years. Land use on both a local and state level is what I am most passionate about. We need sustainable, thought out, equi-

table growth in Venice that respects the unique historical and cultural ethos of Venice. Open space and environmental concerns must be priorities as the community evolves. Maintaining and preserving exist-

ing affordable housing stock is another key issue that must also be addressed. When I ran at the last election, I spoke to the importance of fighting against top down upzoning legislation currently in favor in

Sacramento, and the need for better thought out solutions to the affordable housing crisis. I have consistently addressed the above issues. Thank you to everyone in the community who has supported

me and engaged at meetings. It would be an honor and privilege to serve you again.



Michael Jensen

Since 2016, I have served as a LUPC member over two separate terms. Over the last five years, I am grateful for the experience in engaging with applicants and stakeholders, while learning a great deal

about the technicalities of land use policy in Venice. Relying on that experience, I am prepared to lead LUPC through its next term. I currently serve as in-house counsel to a cannabis company located

in DTLA. My career is not related to development or land use issues in Venice, but I am nonetheless passionate about the impact these issues have on our lives. My promise to stakeholders is this: I sup-

port a public forum for discussion of issues, projects, and views from all sides. Cases will be vetted by staff, written staff reports with supporting documents will be posted prior to meetings, public testimony

will be received, and the committee will rely on the merits of a case to render its recommendation to the VNC. With this promise, I am asking for your vote and support. Thank you!

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 OFFICERS**



Tracy Aldridge

As a 25 year Venice girl, this is the first time I've ever really worried about Venice in this way. I support the law and feel it should be carried out that it is illegal to camp at the beach and our sidewalks. I want to have

a check on predatory capitalist as well as these new low level criminals. Systems in place to help the homeless. I believe we deserve to feel safe. I support black and Latin Venetians. Especially if you or your family has

been gentrified out. I'm a Small business owner. If you are black or brown running for this position and local with the same feelings I will drop out and support you.



Alley Mills Bean

I am a 30 year resident of Venice, and along with my recently deceased husband actor Orson Bean, a 52 year Venetian, am a lover of all things Venice. We both received the Spirit of Venice Award

"reflecting the spirit, creativity and uniqueness of Venice" and have over the years contributed our time and whatever we could give to help keep the spirit of Venice alive. The times have recently

drastically altered Venice and the values of our beloved community are in flux. Many of us are feeling abandoned and unheard by the City of LA. I want to fight for you and to unite the wonderfully

diverse neighborhoods of Venice into one strong, powerful Venice voice. We need to find solid solutions together that will create the best possible quality of life for everyone living here.



Tima Bell

My name is Tima Bell, and I am a lifelong Venice native and resident. Having lived and worked in Venice for over four decades, and being a partner in a successful architecture firm, I know

I have a unique perspective on my hometown. I understand the fear of gentrification, as well as the importance of taking care of those less entitled. Because of my profession, I uniquely grasp

the visceral reality of the melting pot of activists, anarchists, nimbys, and young tech that make up only a portion of our diverse community. I am not afraid of change to our locale - especially where

we can come together to create improvements, and I sincerely believe that we can find common ground on difficult subjects. The community I have loved since childhood is one that is stub-

born in its identity, but not adverse to improvement when faced with caring and thoughtful solutions. I want to represent Venice in its chaotic beauty and am running for the VNC At Large Community Rep.



Lauren Bernard

I am Lauren Bernard, a Los Angeles born local who has spent much of my life in Venice Beach, including having lived here over the past decade. I have always loved this neighborhood and I would like to be of service to it now.

I have lived, worked, and

volunteered in Venice and while there are many wonderful features and characteristics of this area, there is also great need for representation, communication and action around the current state of the neighborhood. I would like to be a direct member of involve-

ment helping to address and alleviate top concerns in daily Venice life, as well as future facing considerations to continually improve our neighborhood.

I have worked with several small businesses in the area, as well as the larger companies that do

business here. And having been born and raised within a 20 minute radius, I also inherently understand and respect the unique and complex culture as well as history of Venice Beach. There is a lot of room for improvement around neighborhood hy-

giene, safety, and quality of life for all in Venice and I wish to act as a representative and agent of change to drive these improvements. Thank you, neighbors. Stay well, stay safe.



Cari Bjelajac

I'm a lifelong Angeleno and 15-year Venetian. My husband grew up here. We raised our family here. When COVID-19 hit, the city stopped cleaning our alleys and curbsides so we started neighbor-

hood cleanups. Soon, I was working nonstop with other community members to seek solutions. We met with city and county agencies and proposed a plan at an all-agency meeting in Jan. 2021. It

was met with enthusiasm and promises for next steps. They haven't happened. We're still working. It's time to build trust between Venice's many disparate groups, streamline communica-

tion with regular updates and calls to action, and create a coalition with other councils in CD 11 so we can share solutions. It's time to compel our elected and appointed representatives to do

their jobs and propel our community out of the humanitarian crisis we're in. This will require both emergency action and a long term strategy. I'm ready to help make that happen.



Mike Bravo

5th generation Venetian. Accomplished Indigenous educator at the forefront of Venice's most critical and successful civil rights actions. I am outspoken and hold all to task regarding values

that preserve and encourage true diversity to thrive. Solutions need comprehensive participation and collaboration. We will never accomplish that with a consistently homogenous VNC board mak-

ing top-down decisions or enabling leaders who reinforce those inequities. I work to ensure that all voices are included in the collaboration process and reflected in the solutions for our commu-

nity. The surge in violence and the rising population of unhoused citizens is a concern for everyone but we can't incarcerate ourselves out of these issues. Intelligent, comprehensive, and bottom-

up solutions involving all economic, residency, and racial backgrounds of Venice are needed to tackle the root issues of these concerns. <http://bravo4venice.com>



Gabriel Nathaniel Bridges

Hey, my name is bridgesomethings I would like to see from Venice is getting rid of gangs to make it safer for kids and tourist and people just trying to live their life and make it

a manditory 10,000 dollar fine for littering and purposely destroy plants and hurting animals. anyone who hurts anyone should be investagated and beat up straight up

and hurting animals and life around Venice should serve a prison sentence. bees are very important to life we need them so they can keep producing oxygen, food, and

new plants. we can make the oxygen more pure around Venice if we plant more flowers and plants.

regarding design and management of the projects.). -City provision of sanitation facilities, trash bins, pickup for encampments -Get communities outside Venice to do same. Work on specifics



Clark Brown

Since 1969 I have lived and owned property in Venice. I am a just retired lawyer. I want to be a VNC At-Large Community Officer to help resolve our homeless problem. My website clarkbrown4venice.com.

org has my ideas in detail. The many homeless living on our streets, sidewalks, lawns and alleys are severe hazards to all. They are not going away. VNC and community groups should support: -Permanent hous-

ing (Lincoln apartments). Rehab Housing (Emerson place). Transition Housing (Ramada Inn). Project Roomkey (motel vouchers). -Improved design and management standards for all homeless projects

(increased policing; resident background checks; mandatory cooperation with social service providers; priority for people already in Venice, banning camping near projects; cooperation with neighborhood groups

regarding design and management of the projects.). -City provision of sanitation facilities, trash bins, pickup for encampments -Get communities outside Venice to do same. Work on specifics



Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)



Antonio GianCarlo Canale

My name is Antonio GianCarlo Canale and I am running for an At Large seat on the Venice Neighborhood Council. I have lived in Venice all my life and have seen it go through many

changes. The decrease in affordable housing has left many Venetians in a tough spot while out of neighborhood developers continue to line their pockets. The recent increase of unhoused

people has led to a disproportionate increase in crime and property destruction. The safer more affordable Venice I grew up in is no more. I am most interested in Land Use and Planning to

help address homelessness and reduce crime. Please vote for me.



Amelia Carder

I am an environmental law attorney at a state agency, who is passionate about bettering the community and improving the quality of life here. I have a lot of experience working in government and in com-

munity outreach. I worked for my local congressman while I was in high school, for the LA County Parks Department in my teens, and for the LA County Board of Supervisors while in college. Those opportu-

nities gave me extensive experience in working with local communities and representing the interests of the constituents. While I was in law school in New Orleans, I created a charity to collect feminine hygiene

products for the homeless, upon realizing that it was an unaddressed need in the community. As an attorney, I am great at advocating for people and would love to use my advocacy skills to help the

people here in Venice. As a member of the Venice Neighborhood Council, I would do my best to listen to the stakeholders and constituents and represent their views to the City.



Elizabeth Clay

A resident of Venice since 2014, a local business owner, and founder of Venice Expressed, a non-profit supporting arts and community connectedness, I am dedicated to the betterment of this community. I

support the ideology that being part of a community involves advocating for cooperative engagement and actively participating in conversation to enact positive change. A multifaceted approach is needed to the escalat-

ing homeless crisis, as our blanket approach to such a complex issue is not working. As a community, we acknowledge that there is a crisis but are divided in our approach to healing this problem. Venice is at a

crossroads and I want to be part of the solution. The decisions we make as a community over the next few years will decide whether we move forward with a unified viewpoint and cooperative efforts or become

a community fraught with issues brought on by an ever-widening wealth divide. I endorse managed growth and a sustainable Venice where all can live, work, and play.



CJ Cole

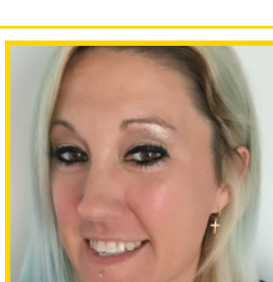
As a Venice property owner, resident, and community activist since 1968, I will advocate for the rights of property owners, renters, and businesses to curb crime and clean up our neighborhoods. I am passionate about the

preservation of the unique qualities that make up the Venice community. I support moderate growth while keeping the small-town vibe. Local issues stemming from the oversaturation of our unhoused population in Venice are

my primary concerns. I am against the massive proposed Reese Davidson Community (Venice Median Project). As a proponent of rational, cost-effective solutions for addressing homelessness, I feel we need to rein

in the Venice "homeless industrial complex" and move additional housing/services to less expensive parts of Los Angeles. I am a current VNC Community Officer and past VNC Treasurer. I am also the Treasurer of the Venice Canals

Association and belong to the Venice Chamber of Commerce. I am an Associate Real Estate Broker with The Agency in Venice.



Abby Deen

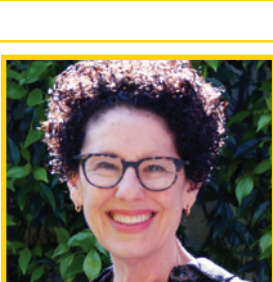
Abby Deen is for our Neighborhood. I live and work in Venice near and on the Boardwalk. For well over 10 years, I have been very involved with the Venice community. I am usually on foot, my board or bike and always

talk and listen to people in the community, both locals and visitors. I see how we can improve conditions and still be the Venice we all love. I listen to what neighbors need and want for Venice. I want to help improve the

current conditions in Venice. I'm about improving and following through to exceed the expectations for our Venice community. We Venetians need to feel safe and deserve a cleaner environment. I believe that I would

be a great asset to the Venice Neighborhood Council. I want to put the Neighborhood first. I see our Neighborhoods every day and see the things that are getting overlooked and need im-

provement for all of us. I will work for a better Venice for all. Please vote for Abby Deen.



Laurie Deer

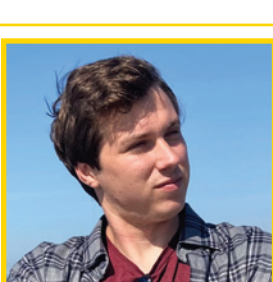
I am an advocate for Venice and its residents. As a 17-year Venice homeowner and a lifelong native of Los Angeles raising a family here, I am committed to fulfilling Venice's promise as

a bright and vibrant community where families are safe, public resources are available to all, and our precious resources including and especially the beach are protected and cared for so that all

can enjoy. Venice has a rich and unique history that is the reason we all live here, but our neighborhood is now being neglected and mistreated by the city. That needs to end. The city's policies

create unhoused asylums on our streets and I am determined to end that. I am fiercely devoted to: (i) A safe environment for all residents of Venice, (ii) Humane proven solutions for homeless-

ness with real outcomes for all residents, and (iii) Insuring Venice voices are heard by the city and county.



Jake Defeo

My name is Jake DeFeo and I've been a Venice local all my life. In addition to that, I'm a tradesman working to pay my way through college. I'm running primarily because I feel like Venice isn't

adequately represented in Los Angeles and our community's issues aren't taken seriously by the people elected to solve them. I'm mainly interested in retrofitting our current infrastructure in Ven-

ice to cater more to youth programs, while creating career pathway programs for our residents and mandating far stricter policies at the homeless shelters we currently have (families prioritized,

drug testing via hair, and mandatory job programs, if unemployed, to encourage upward mobility.) I think Venice needs to be a lot stricter on crimes committed by tourists and non-residents, as it's not

our neighbors that are committing them and it places an unfair burden on us to just "deal with it." If you want a genuine local, who wants to make sure Venice stays Venice, vote for me.



Andrew Ertell

I believe our #1 priority as a community has to be: CLEAR THE ENCAMPMENTS. The boardwalk has become Skid Row West. It is unhealthy and unsafe, serving neither our residents nor the people experiencing home-

lessness. While we clearly need to expand housing, mental health, and substance abuse services for people experiencing homelessness, we also need to make sure that Venice is a place where residents and tourists can

feel safe and secure - right now it is not. I'm running for an At-Large Community Officer seat on the Venice Neighborhood Council because I love this place we call home and I want to help shape a better future. If elected, I will advocate

for and support motions improving sanitation and security in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

■ **Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Michael Folkert**

30 years of property management and retail operations served from the Gingerbread Court, building at Brooks and the Boardwalk, Native American World store at

Clubhouse ct. and OFW. I participate at the Venice Task Force, am director of the Venice Beach Merchants Association, and serve as a member of Venice Stakeholders.

Own and operate another location on Main Street in Santa Monica and attend the BID meetings for that area as well. I am of Cherokee decent and attend in events of spiritual

significance related to Native American culture.



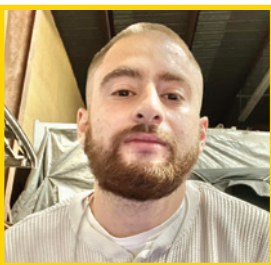
■ **Oliver Fries**

Venice is now the place I call home, after living here for 10 years I have grown to appreciate the connections and opportunities this community inspires. I am proud of my business which was born and continues to grow

within this community. I not only have a personal interest, but also a collective desire to help support Venice and its stakeholders to find creative solutions to our present-day dynamics. My life experience lends itself to the

various tasks the Venice Neighborhood council will require including urban planning and collaborating towards achieving a common goal to better Venice. Let's continue to see progression in our neighborhood while

maintaining the essence of what makes Venice so unique.



■ **Alex Furtado**

My name is Alex Furtado and I am 23 years old. I consider myself to be a youth expert in different systems in society. I was in the foster care system throughout my childhood and then transitioned to

college when the opportunity arose. A year after college I joined the ARMY reserves. I was incarcerated for 14 months and was released in January 2020. I am now in a very rewarding job as a social

worker and plan to return to college soon. My hope for this committee is to integrate and make a positive impact by holding a seat.



■ **Pat Gallogly**

I moved to Venice in 2008 and never looked back. I started my professional career at the Green Goddess. My son was born while we lived on Grand Blvd. I am proud to call Venice my home. This

year has presented new challenges for our community and I want to help give back to the place that has given me so much. In short: I want to help to keep Venice, Venice—while allowing it to evolve

and thrive in new and interesting ways, guided by the tight-knit, free-thinking community that we've all come to call our own.



■ **Gabe Goodwin**

The role of the VNC is to influence city government to do what's best for our community. I'm prepared to do that for Venice as a homeowner, a dad and a business owner.

I run a digital media production company, Blue

Duck Media, based in the Marina. My job is to engage people with social and digital media through relatable, succinct communication.

So, that's what I'll do to amplify our voices and influence LA decision-makers on these issues:

ers on these issues:

HOMELESS - MORE social worker intervention, LESS people living on public land

ENCAMPMENTS - MORE enforcement of city law, LESS demonization of homeless online

BOARDWALK - MORE space for outdoor dining, LESS space for loitering and camps

DOGS - MORE places to play off-leash, LESS dogs off-leash elsewhere

PARKING - MORE public parking east of Pacific,

LESS traffic at the beach
AIRBNB - MORE income opportunity for homeowners, LESS "rental homes"

RECYCLING - MORE cans along boardwalk, LESS litter thrown on street



■ **Devin Kennedy**

I have been fortunate to call Venice home since 2012. Since then, my unwavering love for people, paired with my gregarious and goofy personality (and my amazing dog Zephyr), has given me

permission me to participate in the full spectrum of what Venice has to offer; From playing music with our iconic boardwalk performers, to advising some of today's most prominent local business-

es. It is this real life education and love of community that has led be to believe that my passion, expertise and experience would best be put to use as an inspirational force for good on the Venice

City Council.



■ **Michael Krupp**

Hello Venice! Key Issues-HomelessCrisis: We should strive to increase social and mental health services while improving safety and enforcing city ordinances. I'd also push for other district neighbor-

hoods to step up and share responsibility. Policing: We need patrols alongside police accountability and officer training on Venice-specific issues. Development: I'd push for more affordable multi-family housing and

greater mandates for public space and art. About me: My background is in urban restaurants and real estate, providing me with a strong understanding that can benefit Venice's retail and residential citizens. I be-

lieve in civic engagement and the power of community organizations, where my work has focused on boosting local arts and early childhood education. My daughter describes me as "Weird and funny. He's

good at making pancakes." These days you can find me working from my porch, hiking the hills, and doing school runs. And making pancakes. Thanks for your consideration!



■ **Christopher Lee**

My name is Christopher Lee and I am running for a seat on the Venice Neighborhood Council. I am an actively involved member of the community, forming www.venicecommunitycleanups.org with infor-

mation from the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC), Venice Business Improvement District (BID), and Venice Chamber of Commerce. I am an active member of the VNC Outreach Committee and am

working with Los Angeles City District 11 on a "Help to Home" initiative to provide mentorship and services to the unhoused here in Venice Beach. I have a 3 stage plan for Venice Beach that is based on 4

principles: integrity, legacy, humanity, and equity. It is my belief that all constituents of the community deserve to be heard by the VNC and only once the Venice community is appropriately represented

can we best advise the City of Los Angeles on how we would like to grow. A vote for me is a vote for the future of Venice Beach that works for all.



■ **Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Chie Lunn**

I will fight to develop a transparent, proactive and accountable government that provides meaningful support and solutions for our neighborhoods. It is my mission to create real access

and provide opportunities for the voices of the law abiding citizens of Venice. With a collective voice, our community can be a place where we all want to live, work and raise our families. Our children

cannot thrive in an unsafe community. I am determined to prioritize school grounds and parks as a place where our children and seniors who are our most vulnerable citizens, can feel safe and secure

to thrive.
Here are my priorities:
Demand laws that are already on the books are enforced
Make Venice a safe city for families and business owners

Celebrate the diversity and artist community
Clean up the drugs and needles on the streets and beaches
Eliminate filthy runoff from the streets into the ocean



■ **Monique Maion**

I have experience in connecting people in need with community resources and I can help get real help for our un-housed citizens in our neighborhood and help bring a sense of unity and

safety to the community again.



■ **Andrew Mika**

I want to heal Venice. This pandemic has hit Venice stakeholders particularly hard. By focusing on the discrepancies in local economics and restoring Venice's natural ecology, I hope to not only improve each Vene-

tian's day to day but make this city-by-the-sea a vibrant community we can all be proud of. Specifically, I hope to revive our local economy by driving traffic into "Mom And pop" establishments. And, through

improving safety conditions, make local treasures—beaches, parks, and boardwalks—more enjoyable...preserving Venice's natural beauty with a progressive environmental agenda. Through fresh eyes

and the vigor of someone with a history of enacting meaningful change, I would be honored to serve this community.



■ **Mehrnoosh Mojallali**

Since 1984, I have lived as homeowner, raised my daughter and son, and worked as an architect in Venice. I have provided services for local non-profit organizations as well as having local

clients for residential and commercial project. Also, I served as a LUPC member from 2012 to 2019. It was a pleasure to serve the community and further learn about changing requirements

and stay connected with members. Based on my professional experience, as an urban designer-Harvard University graduate, I have a passion to enhance public spaces to support art and cul-

ture, where people come together and promote social synergy
Look forward to becoming one VNC Community Officers and will do my best to respect our community.

■ **Matius Moreno Bunge**

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



■ **Ansar "Stan" Muhammad**

To Learn More About My Work Please Visit: www.helperfoundation.org Instagram Page: [helperfoundation_](https://www.instagram.com/helperfoundation_)



■ **Mark Nedlin**

Find solutions. Identify common ground, implement it and build out from there. Venice is a beautiful community. There are many challenges, but common ground exists. I will do my best to help Venice find it and build it.

Living in the heart of Venice Beach for the last 4 years gave me a front row seat to the beauty, possibility, and recently, the challenges facing Venice. For 15 more years, I shared time between Venice and overseas work.

These 20 years in Venice give me a long view of this wonderful community. My 25 years in international finance give me deep experience working with people of different views, goals and values. I turned the challenges

of the different into the success of the common many times. My Masters Degrees from Columbia Business School and Columbia University and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Virginia add great framework for

understanding challenges and finding solutions. I ask for the privilege to contribute to Venice's future. Mark Nedlin



■ **Sergio Perez**

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'm on the board of Venice Pride though 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 OFFICERS** (Continued)



■ Lisa Redmond

I've lived in Venice for decades. And even with all its difficulties and divisive issues, I feel very fortunate to live here. My primary goal as a VNC Board Member is to be a bridge builder, to bring

the community together to move Venice forward. A near impossible task for sure, yet I've spent the last year developing relationships with multiple Venice residents from all viewpoints. I believe a lot of our

divided community issues are based on not knowing all the facts and simply not listening to each other. It's hard to progress as a community when more time is spent arguing than actual action. I have com-

passion for all viewpoints. I hope to be a vehicle for positive transformation and acceptance for all, including the diminishing diversity of Venice, and a facilitator for a collective community engagement

that represents all the voices of our beautiful neighborhood. My future for Venice is unity, and it's imperative that the next VNC Board works together.



■ James Robb

I am a 33-year Venice resident, current member of the VNC, and chairman of the Oceanfront Walk committee. I will continue to do my best to protect the neighborhood from shameless gentrification. I love Venice and its

boardwalk. Greedy developers and their big box properties in our small community have caused substantial damage by pushing out many beloved residents and small businesses. The shops and people who have

made Venice unique are disappearing. Developers are buying a 110 year old neighborhood church and trying to turn it into a billionaire's megamansion. This egotistical outlook combined with greed has also led prop-

erty owners, developers and corporate monsters to continue to break zoning laws, take parking away from residents, prohibit beach access, and dump thousands of electric scooters all over our public areas. We are

facing big fights ahead to preserve our history, culture, and character. I will continue working hard to resolve the issues facing our neighborhood!



■ Nico Ruderman

As an Oakwood home and business owner, father to a first grader, and 15 year resident, I have a deep affection for Venice. With its diversity of culture, creativity of residents, and the beach, Venice is a unique place. Its current

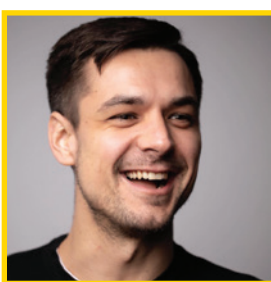
devastation saddens me, which is why I'm running for a VNC seat.

While this is my first step into politics, I'm versed in enacting local change. Recently, I founded the Oakwood Patrol organizing local security, raised 4-way

stop signs, and helped neighbors obtain COVID vaccinations. If elected, I will represent all stakeholders to ensure the safety of our area. I'll seek solutions to neighborhood concerns regarding the rise in crime and homelessness

and its subsequent issues: rampant public drug use, fires, proliferation of encampments and vehicular dwelling in residential areas/near schools, re-housing of homeless from prime beachfront/park property and a lack

of mental health facilities. Together, let's make Venice a safe place to live, work, and visit.



■ Michael Saarela

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." -Theodore Roosevelt

To me that means using the gifts Life has given to be in service of my community in Venice. I spent

the past decade living in different cities across the US, and moved to Los Angeles at the beginning of lockdown where I plan on staying for good. In that time I have met and worked with people from

all walks of life, across thousands of miles and different states, and it has taught me this: greatness can be achieved through humanity and kindness. I aim to make Venice an even better place to live

than it already is through collaborating with as many community members as possible. We may not agree on every agenda item, we may not vote the same way on every issue, but if we do

what we can, with what we have, where we are work together and view our community and all its inhabitants through the lenses of kindness and humanity, we will see greatness realized.



■ 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. Sadly, like many of you, my family has been victimized - a home invasion and multiple incidents of

trespass and theft. These worsening daily events are not accidental, but a result of overly permissive attitudes, willful neglect, and increasingly bizarre and poor decision making at the hands of Mike Bonin and other city

"leaders." Venice doesn't have to return to the old days when the city went by the moniker "Slum of the Sea." However, to prevent further decline Venetians need to have their voices be heard and represented. Consider me

a common sense, pro-family, and pro-law-and-order VNC Community Officer candidate that will be accessible and advocate 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. Let's restore the promise of Venice together! BenjaminForVNC.com



■ Viktor Simco

Venice has been my home for close to a decade and I hold diversity within our community as one of the highest priorities. My father and grandfathers were in the military while my mother & sisters

were single moms at a young age, so I've been partnering with Venice Community Housing to help homeless veterans + single parents get back on their feet. I've also been volunteering with

Venice Family Clinic, Venice Community Fridge, and other charitable organizations for years. I obtained a degree in Real Estate Development at UCLA and currently work at a local real estate

investment firm, so I know what it takes to formulate cost-effective solutions for low-income/affordable housing while keeping our streets safe & clean with Venice property owners in high regard.



■ Mark Standing

I and my family have lived in Venice for 20 years. Like many people I am shocked at the level of political mismanagement and the tragic results we see on the streets of Venice every day.

I retired this year and want to contribute to the local community. My career in Business and Technology involved problem resolution, team formation, troubleshooting failed projects and process im-

provement for major companies. Let us focus on ending widespread street camping first and on longer term solutions later. First things first. Let us distribute homeless solutions across the county and not

make Venice the epicenter. Let us spend the taxpayer's money wisely by leveraging less expensive real estate to maximize the impact...then insist on results. Mike Bonin is a failed and polarizing influence.

He should resign. Please check out my website at www.venice2gether.com.

■ Martin Storrow

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

■ Eric Stratmoen

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



■ **Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Jason Sugars**

As a Venice resident since birth and 4th of 6 generations living in the area, I am both a native son and a proud father. The history and the future of Venice are incredibly, increasingly and inextricably

embedded in my heart.

Since 1967, I've lived in almost every corner of this neighborhood. I have a deep-rooted and heart-felt connection to this gritty little city by the sea and that same feeling of connection

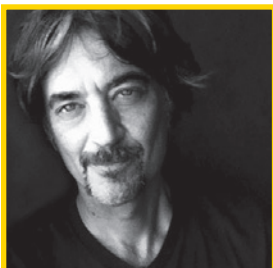
extends to the many and myriad people that live here.

My friends and family, my head and heart - my past, present and all plans for the future are forever linked and in sync with my beloved neighborhood.

Today, from Broadway to the Boardwalk, from AK Boulevard to the Breakwater and beyond, we hear the urgent voices of neighbors, nimbys, advocates and adversaries as the many changes and

shifts in Venice affect and impact each of us in very different ways.

I intend to stand up, to speak up, to listen to and to fight for Venice, as I always have and shall forever. Thank you all! -Jason



■ **Robert Thibodeau**

I am a moderate. I stand for families, education, small businesses, and the arts. I believe in a progressive Venice. If elected I will do my best to represent the interests of all Venetians.



■ **Ryan Trout**

My name is Ryan Trout and I want to bring the compassionate leadership this neighborhood deserves. Venice is uniquely poised to become the premier destination for businesses, tourists and residents.

Through innovative leadership we can build these mere 3 sq miles into a place where everyone has a shot. We can make this place the best it can be for the 41,000 who already live here and the many more who dream

of one day calling Venice home.



■ **Rukaiyah Tryon**

I am running for Venice Neighborhood Council because, as a resident of Venice, I want to be an active member of my community. The people of Venice were welcoming and supportive of me

and my family when we were homeless, so I want to pay it forward to those in need. I want to help the Venice community resolve the issue of homelessness by helping our unhoused neighbors find

permanent housing and provide them with support and needed services. I have been a Venice resident for over 10 years and raised two children in this community. I believe that it is my duty to give

back and help those who I can, and help turn Venice back into the place I remember as a little girl. If you share my vision for a better, brighter Venice, vote for me!



■ **Grant Turck**

Venice has been my home since 2015. I believe in the original mission of Venice put forth by Abbot Kinney; that Venice was created as both a live/work community for Los Angeles, and as a diverse people's para-

dise welcoming many incomes, races, etc. to enjoy the magical spot by the Pacific. I've supported this vision of Venice through innovative activities and working with our local government.

I co-organized the first

Venice sign holiday lightings and have fought for the local LGBTQ+ community by starting Venice Pride, where I also created the Venice Pride Flag Lifeguard Tower - a groundbreaking, first of its kind beacon to the

world on our shore celebrating our inclusiveness.

Today, I see Abbot Kinney's mission and Venice itself being attacked by outside exploitative development causing this community to lose its founding principles. As

your At-Large Community Officer I will ensure change is guided to be both creative and consider the place Venice has historically represented.



■ **Soledad Ursua**

VNC Board Member and Chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee. I joined the Board last May, and it has been an amazing learning experience of how a community can work together. Although I grew up on the

East Side, my family and I would visit the Beach on the weekends and fight over which imaginary house we would live in one day. I am honored to now call this community my home, but I am deeply concerned with

rising crime, 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 or-

der to provide equitable access for everyone.

While we may not agree on everything, I respect the views of others and can work with anyone. I think that is my best attribute.



■ **Geo Verna**

My name is Geo Verna, and I am a candidate for the position of At-Large Community Officer. I have lived in Venice for 10 years, and I am the block captain for our street. In the short time living here, I have witnessed numer-

ous changes to our neighborhood. Many of those changes have been wonderful, and others have been very questionable. Venice residents deserve the same protections and considerations that other City of Los Angeles resi-

dents enjoy. The Venice Neighborhood Council's focus should be on listening to Venice residents' needs and concerns and then working as a team to find solutions for those problems. I am eager to have the chance to be

involved with not only the Neighborhood Council in general but the whole of the community and the efforts that the Neighborhood Council undertakes.



■ **Steven Williams**

I grew up here in Venice and have always felt lucky to be from such a unique place. Venice has such an interesting history of art, culture, recreation and diversity. This unique legacy of diversity and arts by the

sea is now threatened by market forces. I work as a conservation biologist and CA native plant landscaper, and have a habit of seeing organisms both thriving in diverse communities, and going extinct by habitat disrupt-

tion. I see the culture of Venice in a similar light. Although different groups of humans are competing for space here, there is shared common ground. We need to acknowledge these shared goals, and find a way to share our

valuable cultural resources with all. We can have a safe place to live AND an interesting place to live.

■ **Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Hillary Zashin**

As a Venice property owner, future Venice business owner, and parent, I want to ensure that Venice is a safe, family-friendly, business forward community. I am an attorney and former City Prosecutor

with twenty plus years of experience. I am outcome-oriented and uniquely qualified to help navigate the highly politicized issue of homelessness. I support unifying solutions to Venice's growing population of

unhoused citizens and I do not support the Venice Median Project, which will only exacerbate Venice's current challenges. Through effective leadership, the VNC can seek consensus to increase property value,

create opportunities for new business, and allocate necessary resources to expand scarce social services. Lastly, I want to focus on improving Muscle Beach, the Skate Park, the basketball courts, the

Beach itself, and my beloved Paddle Tennis courts. I seek to advocate for more effective solutions that empower Venice citizens to help build a secure and welcoming Venice community.



■ **Carlos Zubieta**

I would be honored to serve on the Venice Neighborhood Council and have the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all Venetians. I have been in Venice since 1994; I built my home here and operate

my own business, CZA Architects. Most of the work I do is right here in Venice. In 2018, I joined the Venice Land Use Planning Committee; I continue to serve and have gained valuable insight and experience

which has prepared me to serve Venice as a "Community Officer." My vision for Venice is a vibrant, sustainable and fully integrated community where all residents are given an opportunity to participate

in the decision-making process and feel a sense of pride and ownership. I support tangible efforts, although difficult, to implement compassionate solutions, by providing access to permanent and temporary supportive housing with wrap around services such as rehab programs and health services while also ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of our entire Venice community.

■ **Candidates for: COMMUNITY INTEREST / COMMUNITY OFFICER**

■ **Dylan Eli**

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



■ **Bruno Hernandez**

I currently serve as the Executive Director of the STP Foundation, a charitable non-profit organization. The STP Foundation is the curator of the Venice Art Walls program by means of the City of

Los Angeles. Born and raised in the greater Los Angeles area, I am very familiar with the specific challenges that our community faces. As your Community Interest Officer, I will bring a strong work ethic, diverse net-

work 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 nine plus years of programs that I have helped to develop and contribute to the culture of the community of Venice.

