



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627



Questions:

Please limit your answers to the 5 questions below to 200 words or less each.

1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the Neighborhood Committee:

I'm interested in the Neighborhood committee for essentially two reasons. 1) I've owned my house in Venice since 1987. In 27 years I've seen the community struggle, progress, adapt, modify, change, organize, develop, appreciate and excel. I think I possess a real knowledge of what Venice has been, what it has become and I have a vision of what it could be in the future. I'd like to share that knowledge and help promote that vision. 2) I think that specifically the "Residents Row" area has undergone tremendous change in the last few years and while there are many success stories I often feel that needs of this specific community often go unmet.

2) Please describe your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement:

I've been a member of the "Presidents Row Neighborhood Association" (PRNA) since it's inception. It's not an extremely active organization but I've supported the organization as has been appropriate. My real involvement in the community stems from the fact that I have a 4 year old son who loves playing in the neighborhood. In this neighborhood it seems that children are the instigators of neighborly activity as everyone knows the names of all the children, albeit rarely the names of the parents.



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3) In your opinion what are the three most pressing issues facing the Venice Community?

I don't think Venice has ever had three pressing issues that out rank other issues. In 27 years here I think the issues have remained relatively consistent. Essentially, how can the community change and adapt in a dynamic Los Angeles while still retaining the charm, history, personality and character that have made it a desirable area for residents and visitors. As relates specifically to the Presidents Row area, we're now a neighborhood dominated by the needs of children and families. Those include schools, safety and infrastructure, which are the subjects that many neighbor to neighbor conversations are often about.

4) The Neighborhood Committee is tasked with promoting awareness of available City resources and services by acting as a conduit between the Board and Venice neighborhoods, assisting in community outreach and bringing neighborhood issues to the attention of the Board.

What are your suggestions for effectively fulfilling this obligation?

This question really addresses communication. How do you collect, process and disseminate relevant information. In the pre-internet era we delivered fliers. Perhaps not the most efficient but people met and began engaging each other. Now a neighbor has proposed a Presidents Row Facebook page. The major gathering points for families in this neighborhood, Coeur D'Alene Elementary School, St. Mark's Church and Young Minds Learning Academy all maintain databases which they might share for specific applications, especially if they see a benefit to themselves. All of these are potential ways of promoting communication. My neighbors believe that City resources are not making their way to our area. The assumption is not that the VNC or a Board is at fault, rather that resources at the LA City Council level, are scarce. I'd like to participate so that I can better understand how resources are allocated and where responsibilities lie. If all potential remedies exist only with Arturo Pina at the Councilman's office, I'd like to know that. If there are other avenues to attain results I'd like to know that too.



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5) Do you have a vision for Venice? If so, please describe:

My vision of Venice is a community that embraces the change and diversity, both economic and human, of a vibrant and dynamic City of Los Angeles while maintaining the charm, character, quiriness and richness, both economic and human, that have made it attractive for both residents and visitors. Specifically as relates to Presidents Row, this area is now all about families and children. Evolving families led to changes at Coeur D'Alene Elementary, which in turn has led to further evolution in a now primarily family neighborhood. At this time the needs of a family and child focused community need to be promoted.

6) Please list all committees, groups, organizations schools churches, agencies, with which you have regular communication.

I have been a member of the PRNA since it's founding. I know a number of teachers at Coeur D'alene Elementary, I know the Directors at Young Minds Learning Academy but most importantly, my son puts me in contact with the parents of other children as well as those who walk their dogs and those who stroll for exercise and everyone who traverses the local streets.

Thank You for Volunteering to Help Our Community!