

James Murez, Responses to LUPC application Questions:

1.a I feel like I have a lot of information to share and this is one area that I think my knowledge and experience can be most useful to the community.

1.b Yes, I have server on LUPC before. I also served on Councilwoman Galanter CPAC committee for 12 years.

2. I created the Venice Farmers Market 22 years ago and continue to be the manager of it. In 1994 I applied for a grant from the State and was awarded funds that allowed me to recruit 4000 volunteers to help plant 1400 trees in Venice. This landscaping project also included creating the design for Venice Blvd and planting all the trees fro Lincoln to Pacific. For ten years I server as a board member of BLMP and helped over see the restoration of the East bank of the Grand Canal. For eight years I served on the Board of the Venice Artwalk.

3. Getting organized where stakeholders are informed about the developments in their neighborhoods. Lacking vision of the big picture and how all the little details add up to a mess. How the City budget and their lack of funding is presenting greater challenges while giving us fewer opportunities to correct their short comings.

a. The VSP is a good starting point but the Land Use Plan has been certified and therefore has more value as, I see it. The VSP has several oversights and needs to be revised. In general I do not think exceptions to the plan should be granted unless the conditions of a project make more sense for the community by tweaking the plan.

b. Not only have I read the VSP, I helped write it and participated the past revision workshops that the City help.

c. Yes, I have read the LUP and helped write it as well. I also helped to revise the Venice ICO which was the document that both the VSP and LUP were based on back in the 1980's.

5. I see my role to help flush out the project details. Once all the details are know the community can then pass judgment on the project. The biggest problem I see with developers is their lack of understanding of our local codes so although they present their project in one light, I often see details they have omitted due to lack of understanding of our local requirements.

1. Change is hard to define until it has a negative impact on one or more individuals. At that point, change must be evaluated. But a lot of this issue is based on the lack of monitoring. Monitoring conditions requires a system that reminds the community to do periodic compliance review. Although this sort of work does not have to be done on every letter details, several conditions that exist in Venice need much closer watch over. For example someone who creates a new window in their private house most like will not need follow up after the work is complete but on the other hand, a restaurant that is offering a valet parking service as a conditions of their permit should be monitored on no less than a six months review cycle until established and then perhaps cut the reviews back to once a year.

2. Grandfather parking stalls on an individuals property owners rights by law. They are no different that telling someone that they must rewire their house because the City changed the electrical code. If someone has a property that lacks parking and the property existed in 1976 when the parking requirement became a condition of Los Angeles City code, it is not up to me to tell them they do not have the rights to continue to use their property as it has been used in the past.

6. My vision for Venice is a place where I can be creative and grounded while being given the opportunity to enjoy my remaining years with my family and friends.