

**VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF OFFICERS ELECTION!**



**2012
NEIGHBORHOOD
ELECTIONS**

CANDIDATE FORUM
Thursday, October 25 6:30pm
Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd
enter from Westminster
See www.VeniceNC.org/Elections for more information


IT'S YOUR VENICE - GET INVOLVED!
ELECTIONS@EMPOWERLA.ORG 818.293.8683 WWW.VENICENC.ORG

Venice Neighborhood Council to Hold Candidates Forum on October 25th

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. We hope you've been inspired to vote in the elections - but what do you know about the almost sixty 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 on our website at www.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 in person and find out.

On Thursday, October 25th, the VNC will host a Candidates Forum in the Westminster Elementary School auditorium beginning at 6:30 pm. All of the candidates have been invited to participate in what we expect to be a fun and informative evening. 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 Committee has devised a format that is sure to

More VNC News...

- Curbside Voting will be available for the Election
- Volunteers needed for the polls, please contact elections@venicenc.org
- Venice Holiday Toy Drive, December 12th, 10am to 2pm, at Oakwood Rec Center VNC_ToyDrive@VeniceNC.org
- The Council thanks Councilman Bill Rosendahl for his service to Venice. VeniceNC.org/Rosendahl

NOTE: All efforts have been made to print candidates' statements as submitted.

Brought to you by:
Venice Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 550, Venice, CA 90294
E-mail: board@VeniceNC.org
Web: www.VeniceNC.org

What: 2012 VNC Board Elections Candidates Forum

When: October 25th starting at 6:30pm

Where: Westminster Elementary School Auditorium
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter from Westminster)

Questions: Email to info@VeniceNC.org

make the event interactive and fun. There will be an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the candidates before and following the program.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the candidates! We hope to see you there!

VOTE for VNC Board! Elect Your Candidates on October 28th

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. There are fifty-five of your friends and fellow Venetians all vying for positions on the VNC Board, the largest group of candidates ever to run for the Council.

On Sunday, October 28, 2012, from 10am-4pm, the Venice NC will hold its biennial elections at Westminster Elementary School with the City of Los Angeles' EmpowerLA (formerly DONE) conducting the election.

Whether you live, work, own property, or have a verifiable interest in Venice, you are a VNC 'stakeholder' and eligible to vote on October 28th. No pre-registration is necessary, but EmpowerLA

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!**

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

over 1200 Venetians voting in our last election in 2010. That's important, because the VNC's credibility (and its voice in City Hall) rests on our election turnout and stakeholder participation.

So it's imperative that Venetians vote on October 28th. 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.

Note: Please consider walking or biking to the polls! And remember that turnout could be high and lines may form - so plan accordingly! Everyone in line at 4pm will get to vote. We hope to see you on Sunday October 28th! Please go to www.VeniceNC.org/Elections for more information, including ID requirements.



People who live, work, own property, or have a verifiable factual basis in Venice are stakeholders and can vote in the VNC Board Elections. This map shows the borders of Venice - for a detailed view visit: www.VeniceNC.org/Elections

The VNC Board election is vital to our community. The City's continuing budget crisis affects 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 and congestion
- Working to preserve Ocean Front Walk as one of Southern California's greatest tourist attractions



What: Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers Elections

When: October 28th from 10am to 4pm

Where: Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Questions: EmpowerLA, (818) 293-8683 and at <http://empowerla.org/vnc/Venice-NC-Elections/>

■ Candidates for: **PRESIDENT**



Richard Duncan

I have loved Venice from the first day I moved here. I have made lifelong friends and truly consider this my home. As president I intend to bring rational, thoughtful, and moderate solutions to

the issues we face today and in the future. As a single parent, I understand the needs of our children. As an artist, I understand the need for diversity to help cultivate and grow our rich culture. As a resi-

dent, I understand the issues we all face daily. I have no political aspirations, and am running to help us solve the complex problems we are facing as we toward the future. To bring balance to our community.

To reach everyone and bring true representation at every level. To tear down the divisive political landscape and work together with everyone to keep Venice great and make our community an outstand-

ing example of what we can do together.



Linda Lucks

I have lived, worked and owned property in Venice since 1970 since moving here with my young children. I want to protect the things I love about Venice. It's not just the sun and sand, it's the commu-

nity, where everyone has a voice and uses it. I bring rational, pragmatic, proven leadership to the mosh pit of Venice politics. Where others scream for blood, I look for compassionate solutions. I believe in the

value of being a team player, in building alliances and strong relationships in order to protect our neighborhoods and advocate for Venice. I ask you to re-elect me as president of the VNC to promote a spirit

of cooperation, civility and inclusion, and actively respond to all stakeholders' concerns, so that our collective voice is strong and respected in Venice and at City Hall.

■ Candidate for: **VICE PRESIDENT**



Marc Salzberg

Venice – the most vibrant, fun and forward-looking community in LA! The beach, art galleries, restaurants, murals, spirit and diversity make us one of the top destinations in America. And, we get to live here!

It's been incredibly fulfilling to address Venice's challenges as a VNC Board member. First as Outreach Officer, then as Vice-President, I've worked with you to improve Venice while growing our Neighbor-

hood Council's reputation and credibility. LA's shrunken city budget and the popularity of our community continually test us to find creative, consensus-based solutions to our concerns. That's

what makes representing you on the VNC so rewarding! Together, we've taken on the big issues of homelessness, public safety, development, and more – but we're not done. I want to continue to

be part of our efforts to make Venice a better place to live and work. I ask for your vote as VNC Vice-President.

■ Candidate for: **SECRETARY**



Kristopher Valentine

I have served on the VNC since 2009 and been a member of the Administrative, Neighborhood, and co-chair of the Environmental Committee; where we initiated beneficial projects like the Green Film

Series and the "Bin Your Butts" campaign to get cigarette butts off our streets and beaches. As Secretary my focus has been making our agendas and minutes more transparent, accessible, and stakeholder friendly.

Venetians have an energy and spirit that is unsurpassed. When a dilemma arises, we are never short of opinions or solutions. To solve the big issues facing our community we must come together. With a

unified voice we can influence and build relationships with all levels of government, local businesses, fellow NCs, and the police to ensure we get our fair share of services and improve the quality of life in Ven-

ice for all stakeholders.

■ Candidate for: **TREASURER**



Hugh Harrison

STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

■ Candidates for: **CHAIR OF LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**



Sue Kaplan

Neighborhood councils make government smaller. The building permit process is one of the most intractable and I plan to make it easier by educating and guiding residents. Everyone should have a

say in the development of their block, street and neighborhood. Leading the Walk Streets Association, I nurture my neighborhood through challenges and just day to day, cultivating neighborliness

even during conflict. I've assisted residents before the Planning Commission where projects would be detrimental to our neighborhood. I successfully introduced a VNC motion to consider mass and

scale. I'll bring fairness to all deliberations and be guided by all applicable land use documents. I pledge to pay attention to the needs of all of Venice including east of Lincoln and the Oxford Triangle.

It's about the neighborhoods; it's about the neighbors; it is about fairness to all; it is about transparency.



Jake Kaufman

I ran for and won the Chair of the Land Use and Planning Committee 2 years ago because I love Venice; it's my home. I want to maintain our unique community and ensure that all projects fit the

character and vision of Venice. During my term, I learned about many of your concerns and future visions, and also how to navigate and be effective within our very complicated City and State Planning Sys-

tems. Now I am even more empowered to change our concerns from frustrated words into targeted actions. We will create parking and mobility solutions. We will maintain the character, density and

diversity of Venice while following the Specific Plan. We will demand more attention towards beautification, maintenance and safety from L.A. City. My #1 goal is to listen to you first. With your vote, we will

keep Venice eclectic, artistic, and most importantly, OUR vibrant and lovely neighborhood!

Candidates for: **CHAIR OF LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (cont.)**



Matthew Schildkret

Venice is magic, but really dirty and in need of repair. Venice can be the European dream Abbot Kinney once envisioned. Let's create a Venice that reflects this magical lifestyle that we have here. Our side-

walks, allies, streets, trash bins, billboards, roads, and trees can all be a mirror of our amazing community and lifestyle. I have a Masters in Urban Planning from University of Michigan, centered around com-

munity engagement and redevelopment. In 2009, I was recruited by the Obama White House to work at the Council on Environmental Quality advising the President on new techniques for communities to live more

sustainably. Empower me to lead the way and bring more trees, cleaner sidewalks, and paved allies to Venice. I would be honored to use my ability to be resourceful, my education, my experience, and love for Ven-

ice all to improve the way Venice looks and feels.

Candidates for: **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**



Jed Pauker

Eight years after learning of the "Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council" (<http://venicenc.org/NewSite/BoardHome.html>), six years after being appointed to the Land Use and Planning Committee, two and

half years after you elected me as Community Officer (<http://veniceworks.net/voteforJed/>), I am more optimistic than ever about our community's bridge to City Hall.

Serving as Chair of the Fences and Hedges Ad

Hoc Committee; surveying neighbors for recommendations to the Food Truck Task Force; working with the Outreach Committee since 2007 and the Communications Officer since 2010 - I've been blessed with

diverse experiences to inform my service to the Venice we share.

As your Communications Officer, I plan to continue applying my professional skills to developing the VNC domain and website, addressing

our common concerns and fostering positive initiatives to protect our community's uniquely independent spirit.

Abbot Kinney's Venice can thrive when we listen and work together. I ask for your vote on October 28.



Helen Stotler

Hello, Venetians! I communicate for a living (and for fun) and am inspired to run for Communications Officer because I want to help my fellow residents to become involved in moving

our community forward as the vital and inviting place it always has been.

Like all of us, I love the creative culture, history and beauty of Venice. I worked hard to make my dream of living here

come true and am now a homeowner who is active with the VAC (which, of course, promotes both the arts and business in our community).

I am excited to work with the other members

of the VNC to represent our constituents and I will do my best to help make things better for everyone. I look forward to communicating with all of you soon. You can reach me at facebook.

com/HelenforVNC.

Let's work together to make Venice the best it can be!

Candidates for: **OUTREACH OFFICER**



Mariana Aguilar

As Outreach Officer, I would have many responsibilities-but none would be more important to me than keeping you, my neighbors, apprised of items being considered by the City

and VNC that could affect our lives here in Venice. I have been a Community Officer for the last two years and chair The Great Venice Toy Drive, a local toy drive that last year ensured

250+ Venice kids had a toy for the holidays. My time as a Community Officer has taught me that sharing information is key to involving people in neighborhood issues and VNC activi-

ties. I have consistently provided my neighbors with accurate up-to-date information on topics that concern them through web posts, email, telephone calls, and, at times, walking

the neighborhood and knocking on doors. If elected Outreach Officer, I would continue this work and strive to build a network that inspires more Venetians to become involved.



Beth Allyn

Hi, I am Beth Allyn and I am running for Outreach Officer for the VNC to be involved in creating more public-private efforts to improve the cleanliness and safety of all of Venice for all of

Venice. I have lived here 27 years, I have many years of management experience in customer service and a sincere desire to do the best job possible. I believe that we need to think outside the box

to address what I believe are some of our most pressing issues: street, bike path and sidewalk lighting; the cleanliness and safety of our playgrounds and parks, especially OFW and Penmar and

most especially their restrooms; and parking for both cars and bikes. If elected I will work with my other VNC members to keep all of us involved in making Venice a cleaner, safer place for all. Thank

you all for considering my candidacy, I hope I have the opportunity to be of serve to my beloved Venice.



Peter Cambor

Like everyone else here expressing interest in serving on the Venice Neighborhood Council, I love this place. I believe that government - small or large - is a means for communi-

cation and hearing ALL voices. What makes Venice unique is this sense of community and an understanding that we are all in this together.

Everyone should be heard... The renters, the

owners, the people who have lived here before Venice WAS Venice. I want a safe community, a diverse community - and I understand what we need to do - as a collective - to move forward.

I cannot wait to serve my home.



Matt Kline

I've served on the Venice Neighborhood Council for the past year as Chair of the Outreach Committee and Co-Chair of the Visitor Impact Committee. I produced the April town hall, "The Emergence of

Silicon Beach," which presented a forum for residents and local tech companies to engage with one another. I led the committee that voted "NO!" to the City's attempt to install an out-of-place obser-

vation wheel on Venice Beach. I've worked with the city to improve safety at dangerous intersections and to install more bike lanes and bike racks. I enjoy engaging with businesses and individuals who

are similarly passionate about Venice and eager to see improvement. I'm proud to be a voice for you and look forward to your support.



Gogi Overhoff

I have lived in Venice for seven years, love talking to my neighbors, seeing their gardens, walking to restaurants, coffee houses and shopping. I am an accountant and CPA by day and work from home. I

have been very active in the accounting community (giving presentations on fighting fraud at local and national conferences and sitting on the boards of professional organizations).

I am running because

I want to make sure that we remain a famous, vibrant and unique COMMUNITY. I want to make sure that everyone's views are heard and understood by the board and also that information from the board gets

to everyone. I want to be a contact point for both sides and to increase communication.

Thank you for reading this. I am proud to be able to live in Venice and hope you will give me your support.

Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS



Sylvia Aroth

Venice has been a Bohemian community for most of the past century, and I would like to help keep it that way. I discovered Venice in the late 60s while attending UCLA, and fell

in love. I love its cultural, economic and ethnic diversity. There is no beach community like it. But, Venice has been changing, gentrifying, at an alarming rate. Change is inevitable, but I think

balance is the key to making the community work for all of us. It's great to have so many delicious restaurants, gorgeous shops, and fabulous architecture, but I think we can take care of the

less fortunate residents of Venice, and address their housing and job needs, at the same time. I hope to bring that spirit to the Venice Neighborhood Council.



Jill Bender

I'm a Southern California native who after many years in San Francisco is proud to call Venice home. I love everything about Venice and plan on living in this

amazing city for many years to come. I've been a community activist my entire life. I believe that social change happens not from government or politics, but from neigh-

bors coming together as a community. I am passionately committed to doing my part for Venice, giving back, and inspiring others to take action. I will do what it takes to

keep this city beautiful and safe. I believe that an effective Community Officer should listen to her constituents, be able to work well with others, and help effectuate

change in the neighborhood by building consensus and advocating on behalf of the people of Venice. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as on the VNC.



Scott A Burroughs

My name is Scott Burroughs, and I am the candidate for whom you should cast your vote. I am a lawyer that represents creative types and those looking to right

a wrong. I own a small law firm, and I rest my head and live my life in Venice. This experience as a lawyer, business owner, and Venetian will be of great assistance

when considering the questions that the community expects the council to deftly address. Here, the question is always one of progress versus vintage. While I

am a big fan of Abbot's Mistake and its history, I also believe that change can be an amazing thing. To that end, I see a Venice that replaces not the old with the new, but

the broken with the fresh, respecting our traditions while also taking needed steps forward. So, let's get it going - please vote for me in this election.



Rita Cooney

Venice is my community, the place I've lived for 30 years which I have no intention of leaving; and have a strong investment in this "village." Who I am in community is a participant, a volunteer of

service in many venues including the Vera Davis Family Center, and I had my MFT practice here. I'm out and about in the area daily, not a stay-at-home, since I retired to more fully answer the call

of citizenship of Venice and get more involved in my neighborhood. My vision is to contribute to maintaining the integrity of Venice as a naturally beautiful and culturally historic place

in the Los Angeles basin. My skills as a retired family clinician include having decades of relating to people and moving things along toward a good outcome. I have a life-long interest in jour-

nalism so I have an ability to understand and communicate issues as they arise in a factual as well as an emotional way.



Melissa Diner

United We Stand Compromise, trust and hard work through action are the keys to success and results in personal, business & political relations. I am running for Com-

munity Officer to try to create win win situations, think about the positions of all others and compromise so we can make decisions and move on. You can trust that I will make decisions for

the best interest of the community at large while taking into consideration the obstacles of the law above us. I aim to represent that hard work has reward, no one benefits from

hand outs without first showing progress and if we aim to work together despite our differences we can accomplish anything. I hope I can count on your vote for Community Officer on the Venice

Neighborhood Council. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Hablo Español www.facebook.com/247Diner



Roland Eavey

I love all of Venice :-)



Thomas Elliot

As a 15 year resident, and owner of the Venice Ale House, I am grateful to have been asked by many of my friends, neighbors and customers to run for a seat on the VNC.

The number one concern I hear about every day from local patrons at our restaurant by the beach, is for the homelessness, hopelessness, hunger, vagrancy, filth, and illicit drug-use on the

boardwalk. The situation is intolerable. It is a societal blight, a health hazard, a danger to the community and a destruction to the local economy. The homeless population of Venice is in dire need

of care, and they are not getting it living in squalor on the beach. I am extraordinarily passionate about serving local, organic, sustainable food to Venetians and tourists. I am equally

passionate about seeing that we come together as a community to solve the homeless problem.



Erin Frankenheimer

I live and own property in Venice. I moved back to Los Angeles from New Orleans 2 years ago and the only suitable place to live in all of LA was

Venice for me. I grew up in Los Angeles and went to high school in Santa Monica. I love where I live, my neighbors, the small businesses and community that exists in

Venice in a way that is truly unique to our city. I would love to be actively involved in my community in order to make it an even better place.



Gigi Gaston

I have lived in Venice since 1992 and love this city. I take great pride in watching her grow. I come from a lineage of politicians, one was Mayor of Boston and Govern-

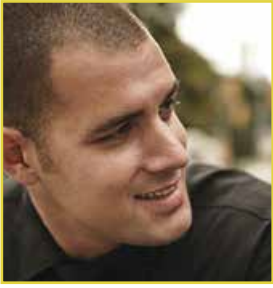
nor of Massachusetts. They stressed 'by the people for the people'. I feel that is why the VCN is so important, to be the voice of the people, especially with the glob-

al companies that are coming to Venice now. I believe in the individual and how we must protect each and every one, yet still grow fast enough to lead the way in innova-

tion without forgetting all our neighbors. I would love to help keep Venice's uniqueness and help her grow into the future and have all neighborhood thrive. I am your

voice and will listen!

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



Sevan Gerard

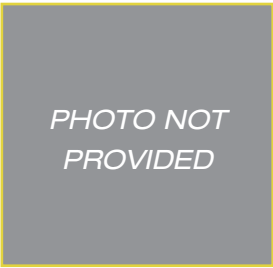
Venice beach is unquestionably one of the most inspiring and avant-guard communities around. It is well know for its current tradition of progressive artistic innovations, social change and rapid eco-

nommic development. As such, we hold not only a responsibility toward all Venetians but also, as a frequently visited representative of Los Angeles. Despite these accolades, Venice does bear some real challenges, no-

tably with homelessness, public safety and space. I grew up both here and in Europe to artist parents, then pursued a scientific education and finally chose a career in the service of others. As a Firefighter-Para-

medic protecting our community, I believe I have a unique perspective and knowledge of the inner mechanics of Venice as well as the framework of a healthy community. Being elected as com-

munity officer, I pledge to continue listening to the needs of our community and to become a voice representing them truly.



Adam Glick

I have served Venice and Venizens for years. I helped turn a drunk and drug user hideout into a lovely community asset (the grand canal east side walk path. I help deter and re-

port crimes, helped vet community improvement grants, and work hard to keep Venice a clean, safe, and friendly place, that is inclusive of all good citizens and tourists.



Yolanda Gonzalez

I am a graduate of the N.C movement. I have no political ambitions I am community orientated and love Venice. Our Venice issues are serious as our City Hall decisions. I want to bring back as an advi-

sory board, to appoint our own Commisioners, To police Dept, Land use and Planning, D.W.D Laison, I want to work eith the neighborhood committee to get D.O.T, on a plan for traffic to move efficiently in Venice. Se-

cure Venice Neighbor- hoods of Venice with better restrictions on our parking situation. I balance my check book, the city needs to do the same. Our public debate of issues as property owners, busi-

ness, and stakeholders have boiled which have evoked fear. We need to embrace this community to eliminate those fears and support a world class architectural icon which is Venice. Trees need cutting, alleys need

cleaning. I am a doer. I have gotten the job done in the past. I have no fear. My moto, do not trust me, testme. I have always gotten the job done. Vote for me. Any questions I will be there.



Lisa Green

As an artist on Venice boardwalk for over five years I have participated in number of awareness raising actions. I am living "my" truth, as member of our Venice community, in balance with nature. I walk among

many tribes in Venice. I believe in peace, equality and justice. We are all interconnected. Each day I witness and participate in many situations that unite us and bring about a more peaceful existence. I want to continue to be

part of the solution which includes finding empowering solutions to our challenges, finding paths to resolving our conflicts using non violent means, treating each other with respect, and love. Let's create a community

that thrives, is sustainable and harmonious.



Alex Hendren

I feel I have the academic and professional background to make a valuable contribution to Venice's Neighborhood Council. My background is highly varied from working construction to

being part of a startup company to helping out with my father's small business back in Boston. I am a second-generation American and embrace the immigrant narrative through ties to

my grandmother. Furthermore, I have a solid academic background in science and policy to bring larger context to seemingly small local decisions. I never shy away from a challenge,

confident that through hard work and determination I can accomplish anything. I know that my work ethic, drive and out-of-the-box thinking will make me a great community officer and

hopefully a member of the neighborhood council for years to come.



Justin Henry

Venice is a city driven by passion; passion for the arts, the ocean, freedom and the promise of a better future. As a Community Officer I will see we weigh all interests in our community's development.

I have lived and worked in Venice for much of the last eighteen years, after having moved here from New York to peruse an acting career. I now have a daughter, a career in digital media, and the desire to help guide

the future of Venice. We have seen incredible changes over just the last few years. The council has been fundamental in supporting those changes. We must keep a sharp eye on the development of our city to

see that we do not sacrifice the heart and soul of Venice for the sake of progress. We must remember this is our home and not just a destination.



Bronston Jones

"Los Angeles may put the L.A. in plastic, but Venice keeps it real. Real beauty. Real grit. Real quiet. Real loud. Real safe. Real scary... The reality is, it's really hard to explain to others who won't ever re-

ally understand, why the locals REALLY REALLY love it. Good or bad, or good AND bad, VENICE IS REAL." I'm a stand-up comedian, but I seriously love Venice. I live, work and play here. Venice

is a community, maybe too small town at times, but it is a part of Los Angeles, which means it shares in the best and worst aspects of being in a huge city. I want to participate in the VNC to hear

my neighbors' concerns and be part of our voice in Los Angeles. And if you've ever seen me host Venice Underground Comedy, you know I'm not afraid to use my voice.



Oren Katzeff

Hello, fellow Venice-ites (that's a word, right?)! It is with great passion and pride for our city that I ask for your vote for Community Officer. I've been a Venice native for 5 years and have absolutely fallen in love

with the city. My wife, Sarah, and I own a house and a business here (Schulzies - any bread pudding fans out there?), I work at a start up on Abbot Kinney, and together with our 2.5 year old daughter, Millie, this community

means everything to us. As Community Officer, I vow to work with you, the people of Venice, to effect change in a positive way. I want to help keep our streets safe, our businesses thriving, and to build on

the awesomeness that is Venice. Thank you!

Candidates for: **AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Cont.)**



Ira Koslow

I was elected six years ago to the first of three terms served on the Venice Neighborhood Council. My goals over the years have been:

To serve my specific constituency, the walk

streets Windward north to the Santa Monica border.

To make decisions that I feel are in the best interests of the whole Venice community.

To have the VNC be consistent in its proce-

dures so that stakeholders and applicants know what to expect and how to approach the Council.

In order to accomplish these, I have been on the Administrative Committee for my entire tenure

and Chair of the Rules and Elections Committee for the past five years. These are still my goals because they are open-ended and I can only say that I have been open and honest throughout.

I have voted my conscience on all issues and I will keep up the good fight to ensure our quality of life against the onslaught of aggressive commercialization..



Scot Kramarich

My name is Scot Kramarich and I would be honored to serve the people of Venice for a second term as an At-Large Community Officer. My first term on the Council has given me experience and aware-

ness, on a local and city level, of what is required to harmoniously represent the different interests within the community in a balanced way. I believe the success of the neighborhood council is reflected

by its connection to the community, its legitimacy and the community's participation.

I am dedicated to representing the community and fostering a collaborative spirit to our politics.

I am a home owner,

father, husband and software developer. I have lived in the Rose Avenue corridor of Venice for over a decade. I have cultivated deep roots and pride in our neighborhood. I ask that you give me an op-

portunity to serve you and our community.



Deborah LaShever

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

--- Mahatma Gandhi
"Wherever you stand be the soul of that place."

--- Rumi
"When injustice becomes the law, resis-

tance becomes duty" --- Thomas Jefferson.

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the old model obsolete." --- R.

Buckminster Fuller



Eduardo Manilla

I am Eduardo Manilla, an Architect and resident of Venice for the past 5 years.

For a number of years, I have been active in the Venice Garden Tour committee - in support of the Las Doradas

Children's Center - and I regularly produce and curate events for the Venice Art Crawl, among numerous other community-focused projects.

My strong desire as a Community Officer is to bring diversity to the VNC,

and to continue promoting the artistic, cultural and ethnic growth in this eclectic city.

Spanish Translation:

Soy Eduardo Manilla, Arquitecto y residente de Venice desde hace 5 años.

Actualmente participo en el comité del Venice Garden Tour en apoyo de Las Doradas Children Center y organizo eventos artísticos para Venice Art Crawl entre otros proyectos comunitarios.

Mi intención como Ofi-

cial Comunitario es brindar diversidad al VNC y seguir promoviendo el crecimiento artístico, cultural y étnico de esta ciudad ecléctica.



Joseph Murphy

Elected six years ago, my key goal has been to enhance the viability of the Neighborhood Council experiment by proposing and encouraging consistent use of the VNC Vision Goals (Standing Rule 20, adopted 2009) summarized below:

Consensus Building - provide procedures to facilitate more deliberation of long-term contentious Venice issues.

Housing Options - explore alternatives for providing more accessible housing opportunities for less wealthy

current and potential residents in order to prolong diversity in Venice.

Mobility - explore options for enhancing alternatives to the current predominant use of automobiles for accessing and moving around in Venice by residents

and non-residents.

I served on the Bylaws Committee, became a Community Officer & chaired the Rules and Elections Committee, and served on the Administrative Committee as VNC Secretary.

I recently formed the Discussion Forum Committee intending to generate appreciation of, and encourage broader use of, the VNC Vision Goals in the VNC decision-making process.



Abigail Myers

I've lived in Los Angeles for 12 years and have been part of the Venice community for 7. I was raised in a small artistic community in Southern California and am familiar with the importance of maintaining a

communities character. My family and I love Venice for the eclectic and creative haven it is. I'm running for a seat as a Community Officer to be part of the encouraging changes I see and help curb those that threat-

en our unique home.



Rachael Petersen

I live in, work in, and LOVE Venice! This gives me the opportunity to give back to a community that has given me so much. I am a Real Estate Agent at Pardee Properties and see the advantages and challenges facing

homeowners in Venice. An intelligent and measured approach to addressing neighborhood issues is core to maintaining the standards of our community. I plan to foster the principals that make Venice the place

we all love to call home.



Heather Preist

Over 15 years I've seen our community transform dramatically - in good ways and in bad - and the challenges we face are many and multi-faceted: How do we meet the forces of

transformation with sensitivity to our long-time residents? How do we maintain the unique character of our historic bungalows while addressing the increasing population and influx of new de-

velopment? How do we sustain the artists and the creative Venetians that have come to define our community - how do we move forward with concern for their survival in this extreme economic

climate? These issues require compassion and a long view focused on sustainability and quality of life. I actively supported the fight to preserve Lincoln Place, and I fought against the

"video" billboards that began popping up all over town. I love Venice, and I am passionately devoted to maintaining the charm of our amazing community!

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



Cynthia Rogers

Having served as your community officer over the past three years, I have had the good fortune to produce a VNC Town Hall, Co-Chair the Environmental Committee and currently chair

the Arts Committee. Moving forward, I would like to apply my experience to foster arts, green initiatives, and spirited community engagement through VNC's community grant program – spear-

heading outreach early on to get the best mix of applicants and carrying it through fruition. Couple ideas – edible gardens for our children's schools, secret Santa and turkey giveaways during the hol-

idays for those in need, to bolstering creative ideas in character with what has made Venice so unique and thriving – such ideas as to support Venice as a pedestrian walking/biking communi-

ty through holding a community wide contest to develop artful bike racks. Together, let's give back to our community with fun, vibrant and inspiring programs. Thank you for your consideration.



Austin Rovetti

"As a candidate for Community Officer, I pledge to collaborate with the residents of Venice to face the challenges of our community both today and in the future. I believe that through coopera-

tion and collaboration we can foster a dialogue that creates good ideas and builds relationships. These are the principles that I believe to be the cornerstone of a strong and flourishing community.

I have been residing in Venice for over two years and am proud to call this vibrant neighborhood my home. I graduated with a degree in Anthropology from the University of Oregon. During my studies I have

examined societal issues through the lens of culture, and have developed a unique perspective and appreciation for the differences among us, and in-turn, their ability to unite us as a multifaceted community.

I look forward to representing the VNC with strength, leadership, and integrity. Thank you for your vote!"



E Colleen Saro

I've been a resident in Venice for 14 years, and live with my husband in an apartment building that is on the Boardwalk. I believe in Venice and understand that Venice is changing, but believe

that it can keep up with the times, as well as remain the beautiful jewel that is "Venice". We must and can all learn to live with each other in this unique community. I do believe we were all

attracted to Venice for that very reason. I have served on the Venice Community BBQ Committee for the last two years, and have also served on the Neighborhood Committee repre-

senting part of the Boardwalk for the past year and a half. I look forward to serving Venice and helping Keep Venice, Venice. Peace, E. Colleen Saro



Thomas Sauer

I am concerned about matters affecting our great community, the number one tourist destination of VENICE! Having been part of the VNC neighbourhood committee representing the area near Rose and 3rd for

the past year, I've had the pleasure of meeting the current Board and have gained an understanding of the issues most important to the people living in the communities we represent. In addition, I bring a unique business and

technology perspective to the VNC, having been a licensed CPA in the States of OH (since 2000) and CA since 2011 (Venice resident since 2009), and plan to be a longtime resident of Venice for many years to

come. Please refer to my LinkedIn profile for further details: www.linkedin.com/in/trsauer75



Robert Schwan

I have lived, worked and raised my family in Venice for the last 35 years. I am always happy to return home from my travels and there is no place I would rather call home. My hope is for Ven-

ice to remain a unique and diverse neighborhood as well as have the potential for enrichment through growth and fresh creative influx. As a member of the VNC I would like to be a part of helping to shape

the future of Venice with a vision for sustaining our creative spirit and leading with thoughtful solutions for a balanced growth that insures participation by everyone in our community.



Joseph Shields

Since the early 1970's I have lived within the same four blocks of the Venice. We have raised our children here. This is our home. Over the last decades, I have watched and been part of the

growth and evolution of the Venice community – "transformed" from a place "where the debris meets the sea", into what is now being featured as LA's center of style & hip. For me, this is a community that places a high

value on personal freedom & individuality – As well as a sense of shared sense responsibilities to our neighbors in the community. The benefit is that as neighbors, we tend to look out for each other. This is why I want to

be part of the VNC – to contribute ideas about how to continue to make the Venice Community a vibrant and productive place to live.



Max Sloan

My name is Max Sloan and I was born and raised in West LA. I'm currently a graduate student at UCLA and have been living in Venice for the past six years. I am actively involved in our neighborhood and

can provide principled leadership as a Community Officer. Venice is rapidly evolving and it's essential to maintain our unique culture in the face of change. As a lifelong surfer, cultivating a healthy beach

is close to my heart. I've worked extensively with the local non-profit Heal the Bay on this mission and I'd continue to place emphasis on protecting our ecosystem. With strong business experience and liberal

ideals, I can contribute unique and youthful insight into the complex issues at hand. As a member of the VNC, I'd work tirelessly to promote the voice and will of our beautiful community.



Marisa Solomon

My name is Marisa Solomon, I live and work in Venice and I couldn't imagine living anywhere else in the world. Venice needs to be protected however she also needs to grow. I believe a good strong board can ad-

dress "her issues" fairly. We need to balance all community issues including land use. Our neighbors need to come together as community not "divide". I am fair-minded and know that I will be an asset to

the board. As Walt Disney stated: "I don't believe there's a challenge anywhere in the world that's more important to people everywhere than finding solutions to the problems of our cities. But where do we begin-

how do we start answering the great challenge? Well, we're convinced we must start answering to the public need"

PHOTO NOT PROVIDED

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

PHOTO NOT PROVIDED

Thaddeus Stauber

I am a Venice Beach homeowner and before that a VB renter with my wife first coming to VB in 1992. We are raising our 2 grade school aged children in VB because we believe it is a uniquely wonderful, di-

verse and dynamic community for them to grow up in. VB faces challenging times as we strive to retain the dream of it being a vibrant, artistically rich, safe, accessible and inclusive community. In my professional life, I am

a law partner leading my firm's international Arts & Cultural Institutions and litigation practices in LA. I previously served as General Counsel of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and have represented

the Housing Authority for the City of LA. I seek to bring my professional experience as someone who has worked with LA City & County officials to the VBNC to serve and advocate for my VB community.



Erin Sullivan-Ward

I have lived in Venice for over 10 years. I have been active in the community and when the Postal Annex was for sale, worked on a proposal to change the Annex into a park (it would

have been so cool but the city was broke at the time!). I've also walked the neighborhood to get support for parking issues. I love where I live and want to work to make it an even better.

Mary Anne Thomas

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Tommy Walker

Growing up in the city of Venice, having gone to Westminster Elem, Mark Twain Middle, and Venice High School, I have seen the community become very diversified, for the better as a long time member i feel that

it is nessary to become more involved in the growth and well being of the community, so that I might be able to be apart of the solution, I was once told that if you are not a part of the solution then you are part of the

problem. As a community member it is important that I show leadership by being a part of anything in the community that is positive, by show this leadership it is my hope that others in the community get involved

and become a part of the solution. Some of my achievements in the community, was the start of westside youth asso. which is a football program that service at risk youth, and others in the wood, Also the first C.A.

meeting in oakwood. There is many more goals that needed and to be accomplished in venice.



Evan White

Having lived in the Venice Beach Community for only 12 months, I think I will bring a new view to the Venice Neighborhood Council. I moved here for the amazing art and culture, as well to

be a part of the growing Silicon Beach movement. I live on Abbot Kinney, and work on Hampton at a mobile app company, called Viddy. As a member of the Venice Neighborhood Council I would

help to bring the new class of 'Silicon Beach' technology companies and employees into the conversation, and help to harbor the conversation between the passionate individuals in the area.

Venice is a unique and inspiring neighborhood that has so much to offer, I am excited to bring my voice & yours to the table.

■ Candidates for: **FACTUAL BASIS COMMUNITY OFFICER**

PHOTO NOT PROVIDED

Therese Dietlin

The Venice Boardwalk is a defining element in the Venice community. As a political activist there since April 2001, I have watched the Boardwalk deteriorate from a premier venue for First

Amendment protected activities with many tourists and other visitors to a swap meet/flea market with considerably reduced foot traffic. This transformation concerns many residents and mer-

chants on the east side of Ocean Front Walk as well. We have been working together to develop what we hope will be effective solutions to this situation. I served on the Ocean Front Task Force

chaired by Ivonne Guzman and have attended VNC general meetings for at least the last two years and am generally knowledgeable about the issues currently before the neighbor-

hood. Venice as a very special place and deserves to be protected in any way feasible.



J Lloyd Jacobs

i have worked in the Venice area for twenty years and have a strong commitment to the youth and families of the Venice community. As principal of venice High School, I enlisted the support of numerous community

agencies and organizations to create a much learning environment for younger people. As director of high school programs for LAUSD, I served high schools throughout the city, but I always kept Venice High

as a pirorty. As executive Director for Communities in Schools Los Angeles, I retained strong Venice connections in the schools and neighborhoods. I now have more time to give back to the community that gave me

so much professionally and personally I'd like to keep "Rowing" on Venice Neighborhood Council!

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 regular meetings and review and recommend actions to governmental and other entities on issues affecting the Venice commu-

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

Voters at Board elections may vote for one person for each executive officer position, one person for Community Officer and one person for Factual Basis Community Officer (Factual Basis stakeholders may

only vote for the Factual Basis Community Officer). The one person getting the most votes for each Executive Officer position and Factual Basis Community Officer position shall be elected. The thirteen top voter getters for Community Officer shall be elected. Job description can be found at: http://bit.ly/VNC_Board_Job_Descriptions