



## Jerry Peña

**1. Why do you wish to serve on the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees?:**

As a long-standing resident of Ohio City since my childhood I believe in the power of diversity and including multiple resident voices in any decisions that affect my community. I moved back to Cleveland, Ohio in 2015 from Florida and purposely back into Ohio City because of the amazing transformation that has taken place in Ohio City due to the work of the CDC. However, I have also seen the opportunity for residents of color to play a more active role in community and I believe that being on the Board of Trustees for Ohio City Inc will give me an opportunity to be a voice for those residents.

**2. Please describe your experience in the areas checked in Part 2. Include any special achievements and/or any experiences that you feel would enhance the organization. :**

I have been a Community Organizer and Civil Rights organizer for the last 12 years. Engaging communities around social issues and creating strategic opportunities for residents around the country. As a previous Executive Director of several organizations (Faith in Florida, FOCUS) fundraising was first and foremost in my work, I understand the value of having to resource the work that is needed in communities.

**3. Describe your involvement in Ohio City neighborhood organizations or Ohio City Incorporated sponsored committees, projects, or block clubs:**

Through my work at neighborhood Connections we engage with a lot of grantees in Ohio City on several different community improvement projects. We are also trying to grow our network within the westside and Ohio City is a focused neighborhood for us at Neighborhood Connections.

**4. Describe your involvement in non-Ohio City neighborhood organizations/activities. :**

I am currently the Community Network Manager for Neighborhood Connections, are work involves engaging communities all over the city, including Ohio City. Through small grants, Neighbor Nights and our work on Health (Infant Mortality/Lead Poisoning) we have a huge imprint on the city and Greater Cleveland.