



## 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATE

**NAME:** Joel Wimbiscus

**LENGTH OF OHIO CITY RESIDENCY:** 10 3/4 years

### EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACCOUNTING                       | <input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPER/BUILDER        | <input type="checkbox"/> HUMAN RESOURCES               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BILINGUAL             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LEGAL              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY ACTIVIST               | <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/LENDING          | <input type="checkbox"/> MARKETING                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> FUNDRAISING              | <input type="checkbox"/> OUTREACH                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRANT WRITING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REAL ESTATE        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC PRESERVATION    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRATEGIC PLANNING |

### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

#### Why do you wish to serve on the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees?

I'd like to continue to serve on the Ohio City Board of Directors because I believe that a well-guided and effective CDC can strengthen and unite people in our community. We have a neighborhood that is old, new, and unique; decisions made about the pace and people must be done with a thoughtful awareness of the various factors that impact this neighborhood's direction. Ohio City is a neighborhood with many moving parts; there is a dynamic mix of people, buildings and spaces. People here care, communicate, and get involved.

I deeply believe in listening and that no single voice or person completely understands the best solution to any neighborhood problem. There are no boilerplate solutions to the neighborhood decisions as I've learned through board work and as a project manager at LAND studio. People who live in the neighborhood are the ones who best understand the myriad nuances that form the puzzle pieces of a neighborhood's personality. In my work life, I focus on identifying those puzzle pieces so that the project's design is right for its neighborhood. I believe these professional skills have proven to be important and valuable to OCI during my tenure as a board member.

Finally, being part of this neighborhood is exciting and enhances my family's life. As the fifth of six kids to a single mom, I learned first-hand about the important of my West Park neighborhood and the value of living in a supportive community. Now, my five kids can walk or bike just about anywhere and learn from

the vibrancy of their community. They benefit from adults and friends in the neighborhood who are there for them. I want to contribute to sustaining the strengths of this urban community and fostering innovative approaches to our evolving challenges.

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

Law: My legal background (Juris Doctor, Ohio state bar) is useful as I work frequently with real estate legal issues.

Bilingual: Fluent in Spanish; I lived for 3.5 years in the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Guatemala.

Community Connections: My 10+ years at LAND studio, 7 years on the OCI board as well as being an active parent at Near West Intergenerational School has fostered connections with families, non-profits, businesses, schools, and community members.

Architecture/Design and Real Estate: Over the past decade, I have coordinated urban design plans for urban parks, trails, and public art in Cleveland including Perk Park, Public Square, Uptown Plaza, Red Line Greenway, Cleveland Foundation/Lake Link Trail and Wendy Park Bridge. I have served as the Chair of OCI's Real Estate and Land Use Committee for the past several years.

Education: I have taught 5 years at the high school level in Peru and 3 different US cities.

Grant Writing: I have written numerous successful grant applications at LAND studio. I lead the effort to secure a \$1.4 million Clean Ohio grant to purchase land on Irishtown Bend for a future park. I worked with the Metroparks team to secure a \$7.9 million USDOT TIGER grant to fund trails in/adjacent to Ohio City.

Strategic Planning: Steering committee member on several past OCI strategic plan processes.

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

My wife and I are part of the founding group of parents at Near West Intergenerational School. I served as the organizer of the Ohio City fundraiser Run and Crawl from 2008-2011. I was the OCI board secretary (2011-2013) and OCI board vice-president (2013-2015). I was a coach for Near West Rec Lego League (2013). I am a member of the Franklin-Clinton block club since 2006. My wife and I have been members of the Ohio City Babysitting Co-op since 2007. Our family is part of Near West Family Network. I work at LAND studio which is located in Ohio City.

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

With LAND studio, I regularly work with other CDC's, non-profits, block clubs, and City Hall. Neighborhoods: Tremont, University Circle, Collinwood, Buckeye, Glenville, and Downtown. A few of my projects include: design and construction of Perk Park; Rockefeller Park Strategic Plan; CWRU Strategic Plan; St. Luke's Campus.