



Priscila Rocha

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

I believe civic engagement matters, and I've committed myself to this belief in many ways: bettering Northeast Ohio through efforts as an attorney with Cleveland Metroparks, providing pro bono legal services for Operation Legal Help Ohio to low-income veterans, helping the Northeast Ohio VA Medical Center develop their plan to better reach post-9/11 veterans with Cleveland Bridge Builders, volunteering with the Red Line Greenway, Literary Lots, Neighborhood Housing Services, my Franklin/Clinton Block Club, Cogswell Hall, and fighting for equality with the Human Rights Campaign.

My passion to serve others compels me to continuously seek ways to make a difference. A Board of Trustees role with Ohio City Inc. is an excellent opportunity to engage even more meaningfully in my own community.

I've spent several years as an Ohio City resident. The neighborhood is remarkable in its strength of community and the solidarity amongst neighbors. It is a neighborhood with a rich history of diversity and fighting for social justice issues. I've seen the passion of this neighborhood on display while volunteering in many ways over the years. As a resident, I care about safety in our neighborhood, historic preservation, diversity, responsible and equitable development, affordable housing, community engagement, and supporting local businesses.

I love this community, and I passionately believe it's my civic responsibility to do more than simply volunteer. I hope to affect tangible, positive change in Ohio City and make indifference in the lives of other through service to Ohio City Inc.

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. :

There are several areas where I feel my background would be beneficial for Ohio City Inc., including my experience as Assistant Legal Counsel for the Cleveland Metroparks, from past efforts in strategic planning, to my recent, first-hand experiences renovating a century home in Ohio City, and my participation in the Franklin/Clinton Block Club.

With the Metroparks, I provide legal advice and counsel on various matters including the procurement of goods and services, financial and operations matters, ethics, regulatory and statutory compliance, risk management, human resource counsel and support. I have expertise in contract drafting, negotiations, and review with a specific focus on grants, marketing, SAAS, recreation, and human resource related agreements. I can assist Ohio City Inc. in any of these areas.

With respect to strategic planning, I help carry out Cleveland Metroparks' plans through my daily work. I also currently serve on Cogswell Hall's Governance Committee where I assist with governance matters and plans to continue to provide low-income housing and social services to economically disadvantaged and disabled residents of Cleveland's near west side. Recently, I began work with Cleveland Bridge Builders to develop a new engagement plan for the NE Ohio VA. Our aim is to enable the VA to grow its donor, and stakeholder base to connect more post-9/11 veterans to the VA's services.

Within the Ohio City community, my fiancé and I have renovated a century home on W. 38th Street and Clinton Ave. for the past two years. We have first-hand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities of historic home preservation, which I can use to benefit others seeking to restore homes in the neighborhood. Lastly, I am an active member of the Franklin/Clinton Block Club where I connect with neighbors and local business owners to stay informed of new developments, events, and volunteering opportunities in Ohio City.

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

Volunteer: Franklin/Clinton Block Club, Red Line Greenway, Literary Lots, Neighborhood Housing Services, Legal Aid Society, West Side Catholic Center, Near West Recreation recruiter (I recruited my fiancé to volunteer as head coach for basketball and track);

Attendee: Ohio City Inc. annual meetings, Station Hope, Ohio City Stages, Ohio City Street Festival, Harvest Moon Potluck, Creative Fusion.

4. Describe your involvement in non-Ohio City neighborhood

organizations/activities. : Currently, I serve on the Cogswell Hall Governance Committee and am a member of the Cleveland Leadership Center's 2018 Cleveland Bridge Builders Program. I work on the Board of the Cleveland Lakefront Collaborative and volunteer with Equitas Health where I provide pro bono legal assistance at the LGBT Community Center. Each day I work to further Cleveland Metroparks' mission of conservation, education, and recreation while helping develop and maintain communities where people want to live, work and play.