OHIO CITY INCORPORATED BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPLICATION

Chris Schmitt, Board President
Virginia Benjamin, Governance Committee Chair
Thomas S. McNair, Executive Director

March 31, 2023

OCI is currently seeking candidates to fill five Board of Trustee seats which are up for election on Tuesday May 23rd, 2023. Qualified candidates must submit their applications electronically or via mail on or before April 18th, 2023. Applications can be submitted to Tom McNair at tmcnair@ohiocity.org.

OHIO CITY INCORPORATED MISSION:
We lead the development of Ohio City by collaborating to address the needs of a diverse community of engaged people, driving new investments in and preserving the quality of a historic place, and promoting an inviting urban neighborhood for all.

ELIGIBILITY:
The Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees consists of 12 resident-elected seats and 5 to 10 appointed seats for community stakeholders. Resident-elected trustees must be residents of the Ohio City neighborhood and a member of Ohio City Incorporated on or before submitting your application.

If you are not a member, visit ohiocity.org/membership to submit a membership application. To confirm membership, contact Lisa Raber at lraber@ohiocity.org or (216) 781-, ext 100.

In order to be considered a candidate, a signed copy of the Ohio City Incorporated Board Expectations document must be submitted with this application. Applications are due no later than April 18, 2023 by 12:00 p.m.

Please contact our office by phone or in person or visit ohiocity.org/board to review the statement of expectations and commitments.

I understand that as a member of the Board of Trustees for Ohio City Incorporated, I will be held accountable to the expectations of this position on an annual basis.

☐ I agree to the expectations and will comply with the requirements.
☐ I cannot meet these expectations.

Austin Dickson
Signature

Austin Dickson
Print

04/17/2023
Date

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:
Please ensure the following items below are included with your application. Personal information including address, email, and phone number will not be shared. The rest of your application will be posted on the Ohio City Incorporated website and at relevant candidate events.

☑ Part 1: Candidate Information
☑ Application Signed & Dated
☑ Part 2: Experience & Professional Expertise
☑ Signed Ohio City Incorporated Board Expectations Document*
☑ Part 3: Personal Statement

*Available online at ohiocity.org/board
OHIO CITY INCORPORATED BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPLICATION

PART 1 : CANDIDATE INFORMATION
Please fill out the contact information below. Personal information including address, email, and phone number will not be shared.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Austin Dickson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>City:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio City Incorporated Membership:</td>
<td>✔ I am currently a Resident Member in-good-standing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✅ My Resident Membership form is attached to this application.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PART 2 : EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE
Please check the areas in which you have experience and/or professional expertise. Responses to Part 2 will be made available to Ohio City Incorporated membership prior to the election.

| ✓ Accounting | ☐ Developer/Builder | ✓ Human Resources |
| ☐ Bilingual | ☐ Education | ☐ Legal |
| ✓ Community Activist | ☐ Finance/Lending | ✓ Marketing |
| ✓ Community Connections | ☐ Fundraising | ✓ Outreach |
| ☐ Construction Contractor | ☐ Grant Writing | ☐ Real Estate |
| ☐ Design/Architecture | ☐ Historic Preservation | ✓ Strategic Planning |

PART 3 : PERSONAL STATEMENT
Please answer the following questions & attach with your application. Limit 1 page, single-spaced. Responses to Part 3 will be made available to Ohio City Incorporated membership prior to the election.

Attached in separate document.

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

2) In what ways do you feel your strengths, knowledge, skills, and experience will help Ohio City Incorporated further its mission?

3) Describe your involvement in Ohio City and/or non-Ohio City neighborhood organizations. Include Ohio City Incorporated sponsored committees, projects, or block clubs if applicable.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE
This application was completed to the best of my knowledge and in good faith:

Austin Dickson
Signature: ____________________________
Print: ____________________________ Date: 04/17/2023

FORMS CAN BE SUBMITTED VIA MAIL OR E-MAIL TO:

Ohio City Incorporated
ATTN. OCI Governance Committee
3308 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

Virginia Benjamin, Governance Committee: gigibenjamin@gmail.com
Tom McNair, Executive Director: tmcnair@ohiocity.org
2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS AND COMMITMENT

The following responsibilities are specific to Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) and are articulated for the purpose of complementing or clarifying certain expectations for the traditional governing responsibilities of Board of Trustees.

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read the statement and understand the expectations and commitment being asked of you as a member of the Board of Trustees.

1) Commit to the mission and goals of OCI, as stated in the bylaws, strategic plan or other initiatives agreed upon by the Board.

2) Attend meetings of the Board of Trustees: Up to TWELVE (12) meetings are scheduled each year. Board members are expected to attend all meetings of the Board during their term. Board members who must miss an occasional meeting are expected to inform the Board President. Chronic absence may lead to removal from the Board.

3) Serve on at least one committee and attend committee meetings. Meeting dates and times are established by the chairman of each committee.

4) Observe the parliamentary procedures and display courteous conduct in all Board and committee meetings.

5) Prepare for meetings by reviewing agenda materials in advance of meetings.

6) Contribute your expertise through participation in Board meetings and strategic development of the Board and OCI. As a Board of Trustee, it is your duty to be informed about matters pertaining to OCI and to vote on resolutions affecting the organization. Participation requires active engagement, which includes articulating and responding to alternative viewpoints through effective, respectful communication, and voting on record when resolutions are brought up for Board vote.

7) Attend and/or volunteer for OCI sponsored events. Board of Trustees are encouraged to attend as many events as possible, but must attend as a guest or volunteer for at least two major events coordinated by OCI each year. If your attendance as a guest at events requires the purchase of a ticket, the cost of which is either fully or partially tax deductible.

8) Make a personal financial contribution to OCI each year, which is then either dinated to the Ohio City Improvement Fund or to a separately funded Board-sponsored neighborhood project. A gift of at least $100.00 is suggested. In-kind gifts will not substitute for the minimum contribution. This amount is not inclusive of any membership dues that the Board may elect to require. The Board contribution and any dues are 100% tax deductible.
9) Commit to uphold and comply with fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, compliance, and to maintain accounts as provided under Ohio law.

10) Disclose any potential conflict of interest with OCI and possess the ability to make independent decisions, unencumbered by material conflict of interest.

11) Refrain from discussing or sharing confidential Board business with non-board members in accordance with our confidentiality policies.

12) Be willing to participate in periodic Board of Trustee self-evaluations and annual board evaluations, and be open to constructive feedback on performance as a board member.

13) Support in a positive manner all actions taken by the Board of Trustees even when in a minority position on such actions. Recognize that decisions of the Board can be made only by a majority vote at a Board meeting and respect the majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes through ethical and constructive channels.

14) Exercise authority as a Board of Trustee only when acting in a meeting with the full board or as delegated by the Board.

15) Refrain from intruding on administrative and personnel issues that are the responsibility of the Executive Director, except to monitor the results of the organization.

16) Represent OCI in a positive and supportive manner at all times.

17) Abide by this Statement of Expectations, the Confidentiality Agreement, the Conflict of Interest Agreement, and all other Board operating policies and procedures.

I understand that as a member of the Board of Trustees for Ohio City Incorporated, I will be held accountable to the expectations above on an annual basis.

☑️ I agree to the above statements and will comply with the requirements.

☐ I cannot meet these expectations.

______________________________  ______________________________  04/17/2023
Signature                      Print                              Date

Austin Dickson
1) Why do you wish to serve on the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees?

I wish to serve to help improve the Ohio City neighborhood and to be a part of improvement projects current and future that will benefit the area. I would like to help steer the growth of Ohio City in a positive direction and ensure that the neighborhood develops at a sustainable rate. This neighborhood is diverse, vibrant, and growing which makes me want to contribute to ensure that these traits remain true. I want to be a part of this great community.

2) In what ways do you feel your strengths, knowledge, skills, and experience will help Ohio City Incorporated further its mission?

I have experience in Project Management, business, volunteering (such as being a volunteer firefighter in college, Columbus Stonewall, Wood County Humane Society, and Crisis Text Line), and experience working with the underprivileged in my current role. I also have great experience in technology and research which would be valuable to the organization when discussing new improvement projects or other concerns that require further insight. I have experience running my own company and have gained great negotiation skills as well as other skills such as accounting, finance, legal work such as business filings, and other general business duties. I am also a quick learner and would adopt the skills that I currently possess to help in any capacity that I could to help further the mission of Ohio City Incorporated.

3) Describe your involvement in Ohio City and/or non-Ohio City neighborhood organizations. Include Ohio City Incorporated sponsored committees, projects, or block clubs if applicable.

I am involved in a few organizations that have an impact on many people. I currently work with the non-profit organization DigitalC which is working to provide internet access to the underserved communities throughout the city of Cleveland including Ohio City. I also help the organization with digital literacy training to residents in many parts of the city including CMHA owned housing. I am also a volunteer crisis counselor for Crisis Text Line providing support to people who are undergoing a current crisis. Another project I am involved in is a web hosting company that I am founding to provide websites for local townships and other local entities to increase engagement with their residents. I continue to find different areas to get involved to help better the community.