



OHIO CITY INCORPORATED BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPLICATION

Alex Frondorf, Board President
Virginia Benjamin, Governance Committee Chair
Jane Platten, Interim Executive Director

September 06, 2024

OCI is currently seeking candidates to fill five Board of Trustee seats which are up for election on Tuesday October 22nd, 2024. Qualified candidates must submit their applications electronically or via mail on or before September 14th, 2024. Applications can be submitted to Jane Platten@jplattenohtcity.org or Helen Smith, hksmith42@hotmail.com .

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 Brandon Collier at bcollier@ohiocity.org or 330-604-4706.**

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 September 14th 2024.***

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.

Chelsea M Knowles

Chelsea M Knowles

9/10/2024

Signature

Print

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 1: Candidate Information | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Signed & Dated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 2: Experience & Professional Expertise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signed Ohio City Incorporated Board Expectations Document* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.

Name:	Chelsea M Knowles				
Address:		City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:		Email:			
Ohio City Incorporated Membership:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am currently a Resident Member in-good-standing				
	<input type="checkbox"/> My Resident Membership form is attached to this application.				

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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> Developer/Builder	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Activist	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Lending	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marketing
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Connections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Contractor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> Design/Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.

- 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 it's 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:

Chelsea M Knowles

Chelsea M Knowles

9/10/2024

Signature

Print

Date

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

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

Helen Smith, Governance Committee : hksmith42@hotmail.com
 Jane Platten, Interim Executive Director : jplatten@ohiocity.org



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

Five years ago, I accepted a job at Cleveland Clinic which would mean a return for me to the Cleveland area. Being raised in NEO, I never lived in Cleveland but would occasionally come up for a sporting event or play. In beginning my search for where to live, I remembered having dinner in Ohio City once and began my apartment search there. I was absolutely blown away with the growth and development of the area. This was not the Ohio City I had visited in prior times. Fast forward to today, I am still constantly blown away by the growth and opportunity this area has to offer. This past weekend, I rode in VeloSano as I have for the past few years—I love riding through my neighborhood with colleagues and friends, it is always nice to “show-off” where I live.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a fierce Ohio City/Hingetown advocate. I can often be found getting my morning coffee at Rising Star, having a drink at Saucy’s, participating in a trivia night at one of our great bars, and shopping at our local businesses. I am proud to be a resident of this area. However, I do know that there is much room for improvement. I am keenly aware of our area’s issues and aim to be a solution provider vs. an online complainer. For example, as an avid walker, I believe our area should be accessible by foot both in safety and in the variety of businesses that operate here.

As an example of being active solution finder, when I learned how our city’s funding can be hurt by our US Census response rates, I signed up to be an enumerator in the area. I worked closely with property managers, landlords, and community organizers to help boost our response rates in our area. After I would work my full time job, I would canvass our neighborhood with the mission of no dollar left on the table.

Beyond my passion for this area, I firmly believe that my background and skills answered in the next question, make me a strong board candidate.

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

In addition to my passion and knowledge of the area, I believe that my professional experience would be beneficial to this role. For over ten years, I have been in the fundraising industry. From gifts small to large, foundation grant opportunities, and events—I have had the privilege of advancing organizations forward through engagement and philanthropy. In my current role for Cleveland Clinic, I am engaged and have access to many local business leaders who I would be happy to connect when appropriate. The power of connection can never be understated when trying to further greatness. Furthermore, I have done marketing/consulting jobs on the side throughout my entire career and would love to share my expertise.

Furthermore, I hold a master’s in public administration with a concentration in public policy. In my program, I was able to dive deep into local government and economic development studies and how and what makes a healthy neighborhood.

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.

- VeloSano Steering Committee Member (2020-Present)
- Wolfpack Mentor for Urban Community School (2024-Present)
- West 47th St. Community Garden Member (2020-2022)
- Destination Cleveland Social Media Helper (2020)