OHIO CITY
INCORPORATED
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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 ohloclty.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.

Signature 
Joel Wimbiscus 
Print Date 4/17/2023

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.

Name:  Joel Wimbiscus
Address:  
City:  
State:  
Zip:  
Phone:  
Email:  
Ohio City Incorporated Membership:  
☐ I am currently a Resident Member in-good-standing  
☐ 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.

☐ 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.

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:

Signature  Joel Wimbiscus  Print  Date  4/17/2023

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

Ohio City Incorporated  Virginia Benjamin, Governance Committee: gigibenjamin@gmail.com
ATTN. OCI Governance Committee  Tom McNair, Executive Director: tmcnair@ohiocity.org
3308 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

OHIO CITY INCORPORATED 1836
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.

Please return a signed copy of this form. This acknowledges 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. Trustees are expected to attend all meetings of the Board during their term. Trustees 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 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. 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. 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 donated to the Ohio City Improvement Fund or to a separately funded Board-sponsored neighborhood project. A gift of at least $100.00 is suggested. Gifts In-kind will not substitute for the minimum contribution.
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.

Signature: ___________________________ Print: Joel Wimbiscus Date: 4/17/2023
**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 Trustees 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 place and people must be done with a thoughtful awareness of the various factors that impact this neighborhood's direction. Ohio City is a historic 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 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 Trustee. 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 importance of my West Park neighborhood and the value of living in a supportive community. Now, my five young 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.

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

As demonstrated below, I have a unique combination of experience, education and skills that have helped make me a valuable contributor to the OCI Board.

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

**Community Connections:** My 17 years at LAND studio, 15 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:** I currently manage the design work and park development efforts for the future Irishtown Bend Park. Over the past decade, I have coordinated urban design plans for urban parks, trails, and public art in Cleveland including the Red Line Greenway, Lake Link Trail, Wendy Park Bridge, Perk Park, Burning River Skate Park, and Uptown Plaza. I have a Masters degree in Urban Planning & Design.

**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 to fund mural, trail and park projects in Ohio City and throughout Cleveland. I led the effort to secure a $1.4 million Clean Ohio grant to purchase 14 acres 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 and adjacent to Ohio City.

**Legal:** My legal background (Juris Doctor, Ohio bar) is useful as I work frequently with real estate legal issues. Strategic Planning: Steering committee member on several past OCI strategic plan processes.

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

My wife and I are part of the founding group of parents at Near West Intergenerational School. I have been the Chair of OCI’s Real Estate & Land Use committee since 2014. I was the OCI Board Secretary (2011-2013) and Vice-President (2013-2015). I served as the organizer of the Ohio City Run and Crawl from 2008-2011. I was a coach for the Near West Rec Lego League (2013) and Near West Rec Soccer (2022). My wife and I have been members of the Ohio City Babysitting Co-op since 2007, part of the Near West Family Network and actively involved in Eating Cooperative(ly). I work at LAND studio which is located in Ohio City. With LAND studio, I regularly work with other CDCs, non-profits, Cleveland Metroparks, block clubs, and City Hall. A few of my projects include: Land acquisition for and design of the future Irishtown Bend Park; Lake Link Trail, Red Line Greenway Trail, design and construction of Perk Park; Rockefeller Park Strategic Plan; CWRU Strategic Plan; Clark-Metro Neighborhood Plan.