



## 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@jplattenhioicity.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](https://ohiocity.org/membership) to submit a membership application. **To confirm membership, contact Brandon Collier at [bcollier@ohiocity.org](mailto: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](https://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

Joshua Monaco  
Print

September, 13, 2024  
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 type="checkbox"/> Part 1: Candidate Information               | <input type="checkbox"/> Application Signed & Dated                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part 2: Experience & Professional Expertise | <input type="checkbox"/> Signed Ohio City Incorporated Board Expectations Document* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part 3: Personal Statement                  |   |

\*Available online at [ohiocity.org/board](https://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.

<b>Name:</b>	Joshua Monaco				
<b>Address:</b>		<b>City:</b>			<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>			
<b>Ohio City Incorporated Membership:</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Activist	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Lending	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marketing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Connections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> Design/Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation	<input 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:

<i>Joshua Monaco</i>	Joshua Monaco	September, 13, 2024
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Print</b>	<b>Date</b>

### 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](mailto:hksmith42@hotmail.com)  
 Jane Platten, Interim Executive Director : [jplatten@ohiocity.org](mailto:jplatten@ohiocity.org)



## 1. WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE ON THE OHIO CITY INCORPORATED BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

I wish for everyone in this wonderful community to thrive. The mission of Ohio City Incorporated—promoting neighborhood development and improving living conditions—resonates with my personal values and goals as a neighbor and friend. It would be an honor to serve on The Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees because of my fervent intention to stimulate community growth and improvement in Ohio City, enlightening residents to love their neighborhood, and to welcome new faces and businesses.

I have been a resident for five years, living in both Hingetown and on West 47th Street. After residing in cities like Savannah and New York City, Ohio City has stolen my heart in a similar way that inspires me to be a trusted neighbor who contributes to the future of the neighborhood, knowing the true potential of this neighborhood by balancing historic preservation with innovation, community, and ultimately only wanting what's best for the future.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute my skills and energy to Ohio City Incorporated to ensure Ohio City continues to grow as a vibrant, inclusive, and safe community.

## 2. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FEEL YOUR STRENGTHS, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE WILL HELP OHIO CITY INCORPORATED FURTHER ITS MISSION?

Leadership, coaching, strategic thinking, empathy, and problem-solving are some of my signature strengths. Being a creative, I have a natural instinct to identify problems and propose solutions. My mind organically works in a way that makes me question every space and scenario with: *"How can this be improved?"* This proactive approach allows me to envision and implement changes that drive positive enhancements and success.

My experience as a creative director who's worked with national brands like Signet Jewelers and local organizations like The Cleveland Orchestra, has given me a wide perspective and range on not only how to make something better, but how to engage people and inform them of the improvements.

## 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 the creative force for the Cleveland Animals Bar Crawl, the largest bar crawl in Cleveland, with proceeds benefiting the *Cleveland Animal Protective League*. This is one of the most substantial fundraisers for the APL. I run this alongside a good friend, who handles the logistics, while my role involves designing the annual shirt, creation of all marketing materials, website design, and week-of-event tasks. While it may sound small, I see people around Cleveland wearing one of the shirts at least once a week, and it's humbling to know the excitement it brings to around 1000 participants each year.

As a volunteer for *Best Buddies International of Ohio*, I help establish partnerships with local businesses to contribute to their annual walk. This year, we collaborated with Jukebox to serve a special *"Best Buddies Punch,"* and with Cent's to serve two new pies, *"Besto"* and *"Buddy,"* all of which brought in proceeds and awareness for the event. These collaborations were met with immeasurable excitement and our plan is to grow them with many more local businesses next year.

At my previous job, I initiated company-wide volunteer days that alternated between local organizations, some of which included May Dugan Center and St. Augustine Hunger Center.

Most recently, I began mentoring a sixth grade student at *Urban Community School* as part of their Wolfpack program. While I am new at this, my fellow mentors and I are excited to guide and grow with our wonderful student over the next few years.