



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.

Whitney Anderson Whitney Anderson 9/14/24
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 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

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

Ohio City and Ohio City Inc are at a crucial juncture. After years of stagnation, the neighborhood is now one of the fastest-growing areas in the city. At the same time, OCI is undergoing significant staffing changes and developing a new vision. Having been part of the neighborhood since 2017, and living on the near west side for over 15 years, I feel I bridge the gap between the old and new Ohio City. I am confident that we can build a neighborhood that welcomes both newcomers and visitors while honoring our history and long-time residents.

While I deeply appreciate the character and amenities of the neighborhood, I've come to value its community aspect the most. Having lived in both downtown and Gordon Square and growing up in a city quite different from Cleveland, I recognize how unique this sense of community is. I've established a strong network here that I believe is irreplaceable. It would be an honor to work for the neighborhood. I believe my neighbors also value balance, transparency, and a strong sense of community—qualities I am eager to bring to the board.

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

I relocated to Cleveland from Tampa, FL in 2009 to pursue a Master's in Urban Planning at Cleveland State University. My background includes analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data within the urban context, as well as writing and conducting surveys. Following graduate school, I worked with RTA, primarily dissecting data related to safety and internal operations. I later transitioned to supporting small local businesses, especially during their growth phases. Currently, I own a creative business as an interior designer and artist, and I manage a collective studio where I strive to help other woman-owned small businesses gain visibility and grow.

When my husband and I moved to the neighborhood, we built our home independently, navigating the challenging design review and permitting process on our own. This experience gave me valuable insight into the builder's perspective and the importance of aligning new construction with the character of the existing neighborhood. Before submitting our plans to the city, we consulted with our block club for their feedback and approval. Now, as a member of the design review committee, I use this experience to better understand the process from both sides and assist fellow block club members with their projects and expectations.

I've consistently advocated for community issues, seeking practical solutions that ensure programs and changes to our physical environment achieve their intended goals. I believe that smart design and incorporating community feedback can enhance projects. I tend to avoid false dichotomies, recognizing that compromises are often necessary. My aim is to remain a pragmatic voice, working collaboratively with all stakeholders to foster a fair and welcoming 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. I am currently serving on the Historic Ohio City Design Review Advisory Committee, where we provide recommendations to the City of Cleveland's Landmarks Commission on local development projects. Additionally, I am actively involved in the RWJW block club, having attended most of its meetings since moving to the neighborhood. I occasionally participate in the Whitman Ave Wine Club.

I also own a small business, WAR Art + Interiors, and manage a collective studio at 78th St Studios called Antonym Collective. In this space, I sublease to other female entrepreneurs and host pop-up vendors at no charge, supporting their business growth.

I'm not interested in serving on this board just to enhance my resume.