

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:	Helen Knipe Smith				
Address:		City:	Cle	State:	OH
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:

See attached

	Helen Knipe Smith	8/10/2026
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

Virginia Benjamin, Governance Committee : gigibenjamin@gmail.com
Jane Platten, Executive Director : jplatten@ohiocity.org

- *Available online at ohiocity.org/board*

Personal Statement Helen Knipe Smith

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

I've lived in Ohio City since 1970, where I raised my children, both of whom live in Ohio City as adults. I've witnessed Ohio City evolve into a safe, vibrant neighborhood where people want to live and raise their families. Our neighborhood has a history of strong, grassroots organizations working for the betterment of everyone who lives here. Ohio City Inc. provides essential contributions to the quality of life of our community. I have been serving on the Board and wish to continue that service and as well as see the completion of several initiatives.

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

I served as Cleveland City Council representative from Ohio City for 18 years and then worked for Cuyahoga County as Director of the Treasurer's Housing Loan Program and a member of the Board of Revision. Prior to election to Council, I was public relations and fundraising director for non-profits. After leaving County government, I headed my own consulting firm, HKS Consultants, working primarily with neighborhood organizations, assisting staff with economic development projects. We also constructed new housing in the south of Lorain neighborhood. Knowledge of City and County government, along with practical knowledge of successful neighborhood projects and work in non-profits, gives me a unique background and experience to assist and advise OCI in furthering 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.

Along with other neighbors, we founded the Ohio City Block Club Association and several other community organizations. As the Council Representative, I served on numerous neighborhood Boards or Advisory Committees. Most recently, I have served on the Ohio City Board, chaired the Safety Committee, and been a member of the Bridge, Carroll, Jay Block Club. I serve on the Board of the Cleveland charter school, Promise Academy, and Head their Outreach and Community Involvement Committee, and am a member of the Legacy Leaders, Cleveland Leadership Center.