



OHIO CITY INCORPORATED BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPLICATION

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

August 12th, 2026

OCI is currently seeking candidates to fill four Board of Trustee seats which are up for election on Tuesday October 27th, 2026. Qualified candidates must submit their applications electronically or via mail on or before September 13th, 2026. Applications can be submitted to Jane Platten@jplattenohtcity.org or Virginia Benjamin, gigibenjamin@gmail.com .

OHIO CITY INCORPORATED MISSION:

OCI strives to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in our historic, urban and diverse neighborhood by advocating, collaborating, and convening forums for community promotion and problem solving, by creating space for gatherings, and by improving the community's beauty and safety

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 13th, 2026.***

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.

Kash Rogers

Kash Rogers

9/13/2026

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 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:	Kash Rogers				
Address:		City:	Cleveland	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:

Kash Rogers

Kash Rogers

9/13/2026

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



Kash Rogers
Ohio City Incorporated
Board of Trustees Application

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

I was born in Alliance, in Stark County, and spent my earliest years in Northeast Ohio before my family moved to California. Since then, I've had the chance to live, work and build in a few different places, most recently Miami. This year, I made the decision to come back to Northeast Ohio, bring my businesses and experience back with me, and establish my long-term home here.

When deciding where in the Cleveland area I wanted to live, I chose Ohio City.

I've grown attached to the neighborhood pretty quickly. I love the ambiance, architecture, walkability, local businesses, and the fact that it still feels like a real neighborhood while sitting in the middle of a city with a lot of room to grow.

I've spent much of my career putting my ideas, energy and creativity behind brands, businesses and people in larger markets. Being back home has made me want to leverage some of that experience for the place I'm actually from.

I'm also naturally someone who sees potential in things. I see an empty storefront and wonder what could go there. I see an overlooked green space and want to clean it up and make it a resource for the local community. I find a great small business and start thinking about how more people could discover it.

I want what's best for this area, and I want to be part of the work that goes into that. I believe Cleveland has an opportunity to establish a much stronger narrative around its future, and Ohio City can be at the heart of it. Serving on the board would give me a chance to contribute what I know, bring some new ideas and energy to the table, and learn from people who have been doing this work here much longer than I have.

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

I'm an entrepreneur and creative thinker by nature. I founded KONSORTIUM, an experiential marketing and strategy agency, and I've spent years working with major brands and business

leaders on strategy, experiences, partnerships, events, creative direction and how they connect with people.

I'm also the founder of SOIRÉ, a spirits company I've built from the ground up. Building my own company has given me a different kind of experience. I've had to raise money, find partners, pursue sponsorships, enter new markets, build relationships and figure out how to make people believe in something that didn't exist before.

I think a lot of that can be useful to Ohio City.

I can help with brand storytelling, strategy, photography, digital appeal and perception, sponsorships, events and partnerships. I'm particularly interested in business attraction and helping make Ohio City somewhere that great businesses want to establish themselves, while also finding creative ways to support and bring attention to the businesses already here.

I also care about how the neighborhood actually looks and feels day to day. I'd be just as happy spending a Saturday cleaning up an overlooked green space as I would be working on a larger strategy. I'd love to help raise money and find partners for youth initiatives and sports, photograph local businesses and events, or simply make a useful introduction when I know two people who should be talking.

I enjoy creative thinking, but I like making things happen even more. I think that combination of ideas, relationships and willingness to actually show up is probably where I can be most useful.

3. Describe your involvement in Ohio City and/or non-Ohio City neighborhood organizations.

My involvement in Ohio City is still new, but I've tried to start by actually showing up.

I recently photographed Cleveland Vibes / Cleve Or Leave's first Boardwalk Market at the flats and spent time interviewing some of the vendors and small business owners participating. I love visual documentation anyway, so it was a natural way for me to contribute while also getting to know the people behind some of the businesses in the neighborhood and hearing their stories directly.

Community involvement has also been part of some of the work I've done elsewhere. In Miami, SOIRÉ worked with the Miami Downtown Development Authority, the organization responsible for supporting and strengthening the city's downtown, as a beverage sponsor for city initiatives. Most recently, we supported a large public fashion event alongside Mana Fashion and the DDA that brought more than 1,000 people downtown.

I've also independently started several community-focused projects around Alliance, where I was born. Carnation Post is a local publication I created to tell more stories about the city, its people and what's happening there. Visit Alliance was built as a digital resource for discovering

local businesses, places and things to do. Alliance Renaissance came from my interest in the city's voice, preservation, cleanup and finding new possibilities for some of its overlooked buildings and spaces.

Nobody asked me to start any of those things - they came from seeing places and stories I cared about, and feeling like I could do something useful with the skills I had.

That's the same effort I want to bring to Ohio City. I'm still new, and I don't pretend to know all that the neighborhood needs. I do know that I'm willing to be present, listen, take pictures, clean something up, help a business, find a sponsor, make a connection, raise money for a good idea, or lend my experience wherever it can be useful.

Ohio City is where I've chosen to put down roots, and I'd like to play a real part in taking care of it and helping it thrive.



2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS AND COMMITMENT

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.

By signing this form, you are acknowledging 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. Board members are expected to attend all meetings of the Board during their term. Board members 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 Board of 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. Board of 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. If your attendance as a guest at events requires the purchase of a ticket, the cost of the ticket may be 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. In-kind gifts will not substitute for the minimum contribution. This amount is not inclusive of any membership dues that the Board may elect to require. The Board contribution and any dues are 100% tax deductible.

- 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.**

Kash Rogers

Kash Rogers

9/13/2026

Signature

Print

Date

