



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@jplattenohiocity.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.

Matthew T. Lyon

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:	Matthew T. Lyon						
Address:		City:	Cleveland	State:	OH	Zip:	44102
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:



Matthew T. Lyon

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

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OHIO CITY
INCORPORATED
1836

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

As a 33-year resident and long-time homeowner in Ohio City, I feel it is my time to give back to the neighborhood I chose as a young adult and will continue to call home as I have no intentions of leaving. I want to serve on the board of trustees, because I care deeply about preserving what makes Ohio City a true neighborhood.

I want to help sustain the diversity, creativity, and sense of community that have long defined Ohio City while helping guide its continued growth, strategically, while ensuring it remains inclusive, vibrant, and affordable for long-time residents, working families, seniors, and future generations.

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

I bring a deep connection to Ohio City and a strong commitment to ensuring it remains a neighborhood where people of different ages, incomes, and backgrounds can live, work, and thrive. My professional experience in television commercial production and feature film location management has strengthened my skills in relationship-building, communication, problem-solving, logistics, and working with diverse stakeholders. Combined with my long history in the neighborhood, I bring both a resident's perspective and a practical ability to navigate competing priorities, build consensus, and advocate for thoughtful, equitable growth. My passion and drive for a fair and equitable neighborhood are also what I bring to the table.

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 have not previously worked with these groups in a formal capacity, but my connection to the Ohio City community runs deep. I was part of the legendary Speak in Tongues DIY/Art Collective, which some longtime residents may recall. There, we helped build a creative, inclusive community and a space where people could connect, create, and feel welcome. While we were pioneers in enriching the dynamic fabric that is at the heart of Ohio City, I seek to maintain those values for our neighborhood. I remain committed to those values and would welcome the opportunity to bring that same spirit of community, inclusion, and engagement to OCI.