

July 2020 Board Vacancy Applicants

Brendan Cronshaw - At-Large Director

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

Project management, budgeting, financial analysis, strong understanding of real estate/land use, proactive attitude and excitement to join/lead committees and further the reach and scope of HHPNC throughout the Highland Park community; eagerness to organize events, meetings, and other projects for the community.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

Interested in joining the Land Use, Sustainability, and Budget/Finance committees. Also interested in starting a Business or Small Business Committee to target outreach and assistance to local businesses and business owners in the community as I feel there is a strong demand for it.

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

My wife and I moved to Highland Park in August last year and we absolutely love the neighborhood and community and I want to give back and help make it an even better and more inclusive/supportive community for residents, businesses, and visitors. I believe my education in city planning/urban studies at Berkeley and my experience in real estate give me a unique perspective and passion that I hope will be a compliment to the rest of the HHPNC Board and community at large. I am also keenly interested in furthering HHPNC's outreach to the community and engaging various groups of stakeholders, particularly local business owners and what assistance or support HHPNC can provide them, especially today given the economic challenges of COVID-19. Lastly, I am also interested in helping further beautify Highland Park by helping organize clean-ups and additional sanitation support from the City of LA.

Personal statement

Originally from Santa Barbara, my wife and I and our dog recently relocated from Northern California and bought a house here in Highland Park in 2019. We love the neighborhood and I am excited to bring my skills and experience in city planning and real estate, as well as my open-mindedness and diplomatic skills to the HHPNC Board and larger Highland Park community. I am eager to further grow HHPNC's outreach and help community members make our community an even better, more equitable, beautiful, and business-friendly place to live for residents and visitors alike.

Dan Omelio - At-Large Director

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

I would bring a level headed, mindful, open hearted approach in helping to make Highland Park a better place for EVERY member. Not just a select few. Because when we are united, and putting policies forward that help people who are in need, we are a better and stronger community. I am a Music Producer/Songwriter who has made chart topping pop songs for the last 10 years and would be able to call upon anything creative/arts related to help any initiative that might need it. Working with high profile artists and industry executives, I have been apart of industry forums, Music Unites (a touring music group playing for hospitals) as well as university lectures for prospective students of music. I work with people on a daily basis creating songs from scratch and

would bring that knowledge of how to get from idea to creation into any part of my responsibilities as a member of the HHPNC.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

I would be interested in joining any committee where my services could be of use.

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

I have been a Highland Park resident for almost 4 years and I have loved every single minute of living here. As a 3rd generation Italian American coming a large and united family, I love the culture of Highland Park, the history, and the people who make it an LA treasure. After the recent episodes of injustice in our country, I am done sitting on the sidelines. I want to get involved to make my community better. In whatever way I can.

Personal statement

Thank you for taking me into consideration. As I mentioned above, I am ready to help my community in whatever way is needed. I have a passion for politics, for helping people, and for working together for the common good. As a musician (who's father was a jazz drummer from New Jersey) I grew up in a tight knit Italian household where I learned to always treat people with respect, to listen to all sides of a debate and to do whatever good I can with my time here. Starting off as a jazz musician, I learned to not only have an open heart, but an open mind when playing music, but also taking that into everyday life. I hope that if given the chance, I can be of service in anyway that's needed. Thank you!

Garnet Reyes - Treasurer (Officer)

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

Bring something new and innovative to the table. Also with my experience being on school site councils for the last 4 years at my children's school in highland park, I am experienced with quorum and Roberts rule of orders.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

I would love to start a new committee involving education and advocacy for children who lost valuable education time during this quarantine.

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

I am interested in helping my community in anyway I can. I grew up in highland park and attended school in highland park and now my children attend school as well. I just want highland park to continue to prosper.

Personal statement

I have always wanted to join a neighborhood council specifically highland park since I grew up here. I have always wanted to give back to my community. I am a mother of 5 little princesses and work full time at Pasadena City College. My husband grew up in highland park as well. I have been on many councils and committees for the last 4-5 years at my children's school and job. I am very outspoken and advocate for what I believe in. I think I would be a wonderful asset to the highland park council.

Jessica Sarriot - At-Large Director

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

I bring three main skill sets to this position: Firstly, as a community organizer I bring skills of building relational power, facilitating community processes, a bringing a diverse community together around shared interest and goals. Secondly, as a master in public affairs and a current program manager with LA county's Department of Health Services I also bring an understanding of government processes, budgets and public policy issues. Finally, as an anti-racist, bisexual young adult cognizant that Los Angeles sits on stolen Tongva land and that the status quo all too often enables systemic inequity, I bring an intersectional race, gender and class-aware lens to considering neighborhood issues. Being tri-lingual in English, Spanish and French is also a bridge-building skill set I bring.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

If selected to be an at-large director for the Highland Park Historic Neighborhood Council, I would be most interested in serving on the public safety or land use committee.

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

I am strong believer in participatory democracy. I believe that transparency in how public funds are used, the meaningful engagement of diverse residents on deciding the policies which shape their lives, and the healthy debate these create is critical to the long term health of a community. Moreover, as a young middle class white woman moving into a historically latinx neighborhood, I would like to make sure to contribute meaningfully to making this neighborhood a place that remains affordable to and representative of its historic residents, and a place of joy and growth for all residents.

Personal statement

My name is Jessica Sarriot, and I moved to Los Angeles in August 2018 after completing my masters in public affairs at Princeton's newly renamed School for Public and International Affairs in order to live closer to my sister. I moved to highland park a year later with my partner, a graduate student in Pasadena, and two roommates – one, an artist just beginning a new business, the other a young mental health professional from Honduras who is on the cusp of going home as her visa is expiring. We loved the murals, Earnest Debs Park, Tierra de la Culebra park, vegan pan dulces and fruta being sold on the street. I loved getting to use my Spanish in meeting a neighbor who had been in the area for two decades and knew the comuna I had spent two years living in in Colombia a few years ago. I have also loved living in an apartment building with many young adult transplants, like myself, and getting to hear their varied journeys, while struggling with the tension of contributing to gentrification. Still, I love the 81 bus route which took me to work and back every day downtown pre Covid19, and the semi-silent, semi-chatty community on that bus. But I have never loved this neighborhood as much as I did several weeks ago when I participated in the Black Lives Matter march along York and Figueroa and got to see my neighborhood taking collective action in support of justice. For the last two years I have gotten to know this city through the lens of county government and working within an office focused on serving those returning from jail and prison, as well as through the lens of becoming involved in faith based community organizing. As I work on county-wide policy implementation, I am ever-more aware of how issues of racial

justice and equitable development are influenced and shaped by decisions happening at the local level. As I consider serving HHPNC I am particularly committed to supporting the implementation of LA city council's decision to replace police with crisis response teams for nonviolent calls, as well as supporting the goals of keep housing affordable, protecting renters, workers and small businesses in the face of this pandemic and the housing crisis, and expanding public transit options. I believe my background in community organizing, group facilitation and public policy have all prepared me well to be an asset to this larger team, and to my neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration.