

2022 BOARD NOMINEES

At-large board members elected will serve a three-year term from 2022 through 2024.

IVAN CHAMBERS

Fox Valley Park District

Ivan is currently the social equity and outreach strategist for the park district. In his role, he works to build relationships, identify needs, and develop strategies for action to ensure inclusion. He is a member of the city's planning commission and is an avid golfer. Ivan was nominated by Jim Pilmer who hopes to further develop strategic partnerships for the park district.

Ivan said that becoming a board member would allow him to be part of the discussion as the city continues to grow and prosper.

KELSEY COZENS

JH Real Estate Partners

Kelsey is the operations manager for JH Real Estate Partners; she has worked downtown for the past five years, previously managing Endiro Coffee. She also serves as the program director for APS Training Academy, a STEAM training program downtown.

Nominated by Harish Ananthapadmanabhan, he said "Kelsey brings a lot of passion and experience and she truly cares about the development of downtown Aurora..."

BART GROMETER

The Neighbor Project

Bart currently serves on the Aurora Downtown board and sits on the BAR committee. As a former downtown property owner, Bart said he is interested in downtown revitalization and serving his community. Bart is a sales manager for Johnson and Johnson.

Nominated by Rick Guzman, he said: Bart is an excellent networker and connector of people and ideas.

MICHAEL MANCUSO

Yetee Station Arcade

Mike previously served on the Aurora Downtown board and is a member of the Governance Committee. He is the owner of two downtown storefronts and The Yetee, an online t-shirt company based in Aurora. Mike has been involved in downtown for the last 10 years, and he curated and participated in many art shows during that time. He is a member of the Aurora Rotary Club.

Mike was nominated by Ananthapadmanabhan: "He brings a wealth of knowledge that will really help in revitalizing the downtown area businesses."

NESTOR "GIO" RODRIGUEZ

Premil

Gio owns Premil, an urban outfitting company and lifestyle brand currently located at 46 W. New York St. which is a space dedicated to creatives, he said. "Our message is to encourage others (especially Aurora youth) to take a risk and pursue a journey towards the abundance of heart, mind, and soul."

Gio was nominated by Kevin Fitzpatrick who called him an "outstanding Aurora small business owner." "He believes in the future of Aurora and the downtown community," he said.

JOE SADOWSKI

Vizo Arts

Joe is the president of Vizo Arts, an arts-based nonprofit operating out of 1 E. Benton St. Previously, he was the director of parks and recreation, and has a Bachelor's degree in recreation management. Through Vizo Arts, Joe frequently organizes events in partnership with Aurora Downtown.

Joe was nominated by Melinda Kruder: "Joe is very active in downtown Aurora promoting the arts." She said he donates his time and equipment to help artists and local businesses.

GINA SALAMONE

Huck Bouma PC

Gina currently serves as the streetscape chair for the Aurora Downtown board. She is an attorney and an Aurora resident. Presently, she also serves as the chair of the adhoc bylaws review committee. As the streetscape chair, Gina has assisted with troubleshooting with the lights on the star on Leland Tower, and she works closely with the city's downtown services team on landscaping.

Gina was nominated by Kim Woodin: "Gina has been a stellar board member for almost 10 years. Aurora Downtown is lucky to have her dedication and expertise in the neighborhood."

JESUS SANCHEZ

La Quinta de los Reyes

Jesus currently serves on the Aurora Downtown board and sits on the BAR committee. Jesus is the owner and manager of La Quinta de los Reyes. He is the past president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and said he has an interest in downtown development.

Jesus was nominated by Clara Diaz: I would like diversity on the board of directors for Aurora Downtown.

JASON SUNDERLAND

Keller Williams Infinity

Jason currently serves as the events chair for the Aurora Downtown board. A real estate broker for 16 years, he previously resided downtown and presently is a business tenant. He is a supporter of downtown organizations and of the arts. "I am passionate about the amazing community we have in Aurora Downtown and I enjoy being part of the positive growth."

Nominated by Kim Woodin, she said that Jason is an active board member and has "a genuine passion" for downtown.

KIM WOODIN

Aurora Fastprint

Kim is the current board chair. She has owned her downtown business since 2007, and she became a property owner in 2011. She has an interest in small businesses downtown and she wants to make sure they have a voice. With the current review of board bylaws and focus on strategic planning, Kim said she will continue to focus on the core of the organization.

Nominated by Scot Bode, he said that Kim is an advocate for small and local businesses.

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