

South Uptown Neighborhood Association 2023 Board of Director Candidate Profiles

All South Uptown residents (including renters, homeowners, business owners, and property owners 18+ are eligible to run for a seat on the South Uptown Board. Responsibilities include:

- Fulfill oversight and fiduciary duties of the South Uptown Neighborhood Association
- Attend monthly SU Neighborhood Meetings on the third Tuesday of most months, 7 pm online or at Bryant Square Park
- Participate on at least one of the active SU committees
- Act as an ambassador for the organization

The South Uptown neighborhood is bounded by W. Lake Street to the north, W. 36th Street on the south, Hennepin Avenue to the west, and Lyndale Avenue on the east.



Name: Alex Bissen

Address: 9xx W. 34th Street

I am a: Homeowner

Describe your background, including any skills or experience that will benefit the organization.

I have been living in Minneapolis for 20+ years, first in the Whittier neighborhood for many years as a renter and then as a homeowner here in South Uptown for the last 6-7 years.

I have been employed in the building design industry for the last 15 years where I am involved in improving the built environment and where I am able to embrace progressive and sustainable design practices.

I am an active musical composer and performer, and I am very active in community and event organization within our local music and art scene.

As long as I've lived in this city I've chosen the bike as my primary mode of transportation, and I've been fortunate enough to work within biking distance from my home for the majority of this time.

Describe your interests and how they align with service on the South Uptown Neighborhood Association Board.

My interests are in equity and reduction of harm for all citizens of Minneapolis, in growing and supporting walkable, livable and bikable communities, and in supporting the people and their passions that make this city such a great place to live and work.

I want to see safer streets for pedestrians and bikers, greater access to public transit, and a more supportive environment for local small business and local art and music.



Name: Joel Checkik

Address: 35xx Hennepin Avenue South

I am a: Homeowner

Describe your background, including any skills or experience that will benefit the organization.

I am the current Treasurer for SUNA. I arrived to this position somewhat "cold" & didn't receive a lot of direction from the outgoing Treasurer, yet feel I have a positive working

relationship w/ the Exec. Director & Board. I'm open to serving on the Board as Treasurer for a 2nd term.

Describe your interests and how they align with service on the South Uptown Neighborhood Association Board.

I've enjoyed the work w/ SUNA over the past year & hope to continue to support the various efforts that we have in motion.



Name: Brian Dvorak

Address: 35xx Lyndale Avenue South

I am a: Renter

Describe your background, including any skills or experience that will benefit the organization.

I have almost 10 years of finance experience ranging from companies with less than 50 employees (Peace Coffee) to Fortune 50 companies (Target and IBM). I am currently the Director of Finance at Peace Coffee and could support the board with skills in finance and analysis.

Describe your interests and how they align with service on the South Uptown Neighborhood Association Board.

As a long time Minneapolis renter I care deeply about affordability of homes and rental properties. I want to foster an inclusive community where all people feel safe. Additionally, I am an avid runner and biker who spends a lot of time thinking about safe mobility options. I am passionate about alternative transportation including biking, public transit and bike share programs."



Name: Alexandra (Alec) Shannon

Address: 35xx Colfax Avenue South

I am a: Renter

Describe your background, including any skills or experience that will benefit the organization.

Professionally, I am a public health scientist focusing on poverty reduction and human rights, mostly on an international scale. I bring skills in project and administrative management and communications (including event planning and social media). I also speak,

read, and write advanced Spanish. I hail from North Carolina originally, though I have been a renter here in South Uptown for the past 5+ years. I identify as a straight, white woman.

Describe your interests and how they align with service on the South Uptown Neighborhood Association Board.

I am very interested in community service, harm reduction, and ensuring that our neighborhood is a safe and welcoming space for all individuals. I would bring my background in public health and human rights to add a unique perspective to the Board. I very much look forward to working with and learning from you all, and forging deeper ties with our community in the process!