

2019-2020 Board Candidates

Candidates for Executive Board (One-Year Terms):



Candidate for President

Renee McBride-Williams
51XX Webster Street

This native of West Philadelphia has become one of the leaders in her humble Cedar Park community. Ms. McBride-Williams received the 2014-2015 Dorothy I. Height Award from the National Council of Negro Women, Philadelphia Chapter for her community service and leadership. Renee McBride-Williams is the General Manager to West Philadelphia's only community radio station, WPEB 88.1 FM. While juggling her responsibilities to the broadcasters at the station, Renee is the Project Manager for the 2014-2015 "Arts On Air" projects spearheaded by Scribe Video, Inc. and sponsored by PNC Bank Arts Alive Project. She is also the director of the "Youth On Air" project at WPEB. With all that, Renee McBride-Williams is a mentor and educator to middle to high school students in the Philadelphia school community while still volunteering in the Arts and Broadcasting. Today, Renee is the Senior Executive Producer of a public affairs program called, "The Shed Kitchen" with Karen Dunn.

Above all, she is committed to her 16- year marriage to her best friend, George E. Williams and mother to 6-time Grammy winner, Bassist Christian McBride.



Candidate for 1st Vice President

David Hincer
50XX Catharine Street

David is originally from North Carolina, moved to Philadelphia over 13 years ago, and into Cedar Park 11 years ago. He and his wife are raising their daughter and are actively engaged in the West Philly Girl Scout troop and their neighborhood school. They love this neighborhood, its grassroots activism, sense of inclusiveness, and diversity.

As an architect, David has a particular interest in issues that impact the quality of life in the community, such as the vitality of neighborhood schools, zoning, development, safety, etc. He was the lead volunteer on the Baltimore Avenue Community Corridor design study, completed in 2010. As chair of the Development Impact Task Force committee, it produced the "Future of the Neighborhood" survey in 2012. David's goal is to assist CPN to think tactically about how to preserve the neighborhood character and spread prosperity throughout the community.



Candidate for 2nd Vice President

Whitney Martinko
47XX Cedar Avenue

Whitney has lived on Cedar Avenue since 2016 and has served as a CPN board member for two years. With the Park Committee, she has written grant applications for Cedar Park improvements, watered plants and trees during the summer, taught a class for the Junior Tree Tenders, and helped coordinate Love Your Park events. She also has worked to improve internal and external CPN communications and helped to transfer the CPN archives to a new archival home. Whitney has served on the Gary Bronson Memorial Scholarship Committee for three years and recently stepped into the role of chairperson. Whitney hopes to continue serving Cedar Park Neighbors by strengthening connections between different generations of residents, improving communication and education initiatives to connect neighbors with community resources, and working collaboratively to find practical solutions to neighborhood issues. She is a history professor with a

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special interest in cities, buildings, and environments, and in her free time, you can find her working on her house and garden.



Candidate for Treasurer

Amara Rockar
50XX Catharine Street

Amara Rockar has lived in West Philadelphia her whole adult life (over fifteen years if you want to do the math!) and most of it in Cedar Park. She and her husband are raising their family here with their oldest attending Lea Elementary School. Amara is a board member of the West Philly Coalition for Neighborhood Schools and serves on the Lea School Advisory Council. She loves researching our neighborhood's history and is currently working on a project based on Cedar Park Neighbors' archives. During the day, she works as an admin for the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.



Candidate for Secretary

Far McKon
50XX Walton Street

Far McKon is a local resident, who both lives and works in Cedar Park. He was a member of Cedar Park Board during 2014/2015, before leaving for Berlin for 2 years. Back from abroad, he has become involved in local greening and transit issues, including CPN's own Transit Committee. As CTO of a small start-up, he is interested in making technology work for everyone. He is also focused on making sure Cedar Park remains a livable neighborhood, and as diverse as Philly itself.

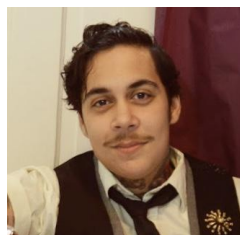
Candidates for At-Large Board (Vote For Up to 8 for Two-Year Terms):



Angela DiBattiste
51XX Webster Street

Since 2011, Angela DiBattiste has been enamored with her neighborhood and community in Cedar Park. Drawn to Cedar Park for its diversity, inclusivity, and uniqueness, Angela has always strived to better understand the nuances of the neighborhood and support those who make it what it is. She has worked with and volunteered for the West Philadelphia YMCA, Philadelphia Folklore Project, Media Mobilizing Project, and the Scribe Video Center, to learn, educate, and advocate for youth, the queer community, and people of color. In 2015 Angela bought her first home in Cedar Park. While she has learned a lot through this experience, she is eager make her investment meaningful through the advocacy of her neighbors and local business owners as a part of CPN.

With a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education and Infant/Toddler Mental Health, Angela DiBattiste finds happiness in her career as a Preschool Teacher at Belmont Academy Charter School. She is excited by the opportunity to take her passion for teaching and learning to the CPN board and ultimately, to her community in Cedar Park.



Jas Morrell
49XX Baltimore Avenue

Jas Morrell is the founder of the Spirited Tattooing Coalition, which set out to make a creative and respectful space that makes all of its patrons feel positive, supported and free. A safe space for people to express themselves. We want to make changes in the industry and help people grow and feel accomplished in their bodies

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in ways that make them feel connected and at home with themselves. It builds a space for artists from the immediate community of West Philadelphia and all over the world to be a part of the shop and have the tools and platform they need to express themselves, where they otherwise might not have one. We want marginalized voices, artists and identities to have sanctuary while making those connections and bearing down to their deepest layer.



Rian Franks
50XX Cedar Avenue

I am a West Philadelphia native, my family moved to Cedar Park in the early 1990s. When we moved here there were many families with children my age and we walked to school, played and help each other with outside chores. I knew most of the people by name (if only their first) and felt safe to explore my neighborhood as I believe children should. I have always loved this neighborhood, and I have always been proud to call Cedar Park my home.

Now I am a certified a housing counselor with the Unemployment Information Center, a non-profit agency working help homeowners experiencing mortgage or real estate tax foreclosure and other financial crisis.

I am currently filling an interim board position, and am seeking my first official term. My goal is to use my talents and skills to help Cedar Park continue its mission of inclusion and diversity. In addition, I am deeply committed to helping to the residents of Cedar Park both old and new to engage in open dialog about the shift of our more diverse community. I believe that long-time resident and new higher income resident are primary seeing the same thing, a safe, decent, affordable place to live, shop and enjoy. Over the past ten years, I have witnessed the increase in property values that makes some of the long-term residents feel they are being forced out of the neighborhood by the higher income investors. Most of the families that I grew up with did not have the financial means to keep the homes they inherited due to rising real estate taxes and the cost burden of repairs. Living in this area is also becoming unaffordable for rents as well as landlord have increased the rent to keep up increase of the same issues.



Carly Rapaport-Stein
49XX Walton Street

Carly Rapaport-Stein moved to Philadelphia 10 years ago, and settled in Cedar Park in summer 2017. She lives with her partner, Andrew, and two playful kittens, Hobbes and Hermione. Carly is interested in the ways that we come together as a community, particularly in how art and culture connect neighbors and neighborhoods, and how a sense of belonging and community well-being affects community safety. She is the executive director of Intercultural Journeys (a performing arts nonprofit with an office in Cedar Park), and an adjunct instructor in Drexel University's Entertainment and Arts Management program. In her free time, Carly enjoys dissecting politics and policy, drinking coffee, taking photographs, and trying new recipes.

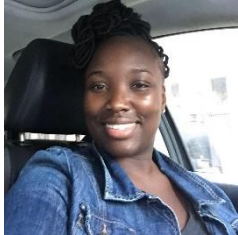


Ashton Jones
49XX Catharine Street

Ashton grew up in the far western Philadelphia suburbs on a small goat farm. Coming first to University City in 2000 to attend college, Ashton has lived in Cedar Park since 2008. As it relates to CPN, Ashton's interests are community economic development, infrastructure improvements throughout the city, and issues surrounding planning and zoning. While professionally a city planner, Ashton would rather spend his time, hiking/camping with friends, working on house renovations or planning the next trip. He is running for an open position on the CPN board with the hope of playing a more active role in

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balancing neighborhood growth, improving access to community resources and establishing additional avenues for resident interaction.



Francesca Carvalho
49XX Cedar Avenue

Francesca is a lifelong Resident of Philadelphia. She and her family moved to Cedar Park in 2012 where she has served as Block Captain of 4900 Cedar since 2016. During the day she works as a registered nurse at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and is an adjunct instructor for Drexel's College of Nursing and Health Professions.

As both an educator and health care provider, Francesca recognizes the importance of community service and engagement. She looks forward to joining the CPN Board and having the opportunity to connect and engage with old and new residents. Building these relationships is pivotal to gaining more stakeholder involvement. Francesca will bring fresh ideas in an effort to help achieve this goal.



Victoria Lambert
46XX Chester Avenue

We have lived in the West Philadelphia since 1997 (minus a few years living in Morris Park), and currently reside at 46th and Chester. I am the proud single mom of an 18 year old son, due to graduate this year from The Philly Free School.

I was an active member in good standing at Calvary United Methodists Church, and was often asked to do prayers near the conclusion of service. My son was christened there, and I taught Sunday School in the Samaritan Room. I was on the pastoral search committee and participated in the selection of the last two pastors (including the current Pastor, Rev. John Prichard). I chose the bricks that currently grace the ground in front of and around of the building. There were many activities we participated in and much I was responsible for over the next 10 years. Although we no longer worship at Calvary, the memories are priceless.

In addition, I was a board member and secretary for the Early Head Start program through CHOP and on the board of the Christian Association at University of Pennsylvania.

We have happy memories of days at Clark Park, Cedar Park, and around the neighborhood with our rolling lemonade stand. My son rode in the wagon with the lemonade while mommy pulled. I would like to be a part of the Cedar Park Neighbors because I am sure that I could become a vital part of the organization, due in part to my long history with the area and my desire to continue working toward true diversity.



Marilyn Clark
48XX Regent Street

My name is Marilyn Clark and I am your new neighbor, residing on 49th street between Chester Ave and Regent Street. My husband and I moved to the neighborhood in June of 2018. We acquired, affectionately known as Mr. Bill's house. After extensive renovations, hard work and sweat, we finally became your neighbors.

My husband is a contractor by trade and I am in sales. We have several children, with none of them residing with us. So we are considered empty nesters!

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I have an interest in the community and would like to work with Cedar Park Neighbors as a Board Member to be an advocate for our neighborhood. I understand we have involvement in many community events and also pilot several initiatives throughout the year.

Thank you for the consideration of having me join as a Board Member. I can assure you of my level of commitment to the neighborhood we will call home for many years to come.



Karen Palmer
49XX Baltimore Avenue

I am a lifelong resident of West Philadelphia. My mother is a retired special needs teacher and my father is currently a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. I retired from FedEx as a courier after 21 years at the age of 52. I am also an entrepreneur, having owned and operated a small cafe in South Philadelphia for more than ten years and remain an owner of the building.

I became a valued employee working at Cedar Park Safe Haven for Women a little over three years. I have grown to know a lot about West Philly, Cedar Park, Garden Court associations along with the everyday folk, business owners, and neighbors. I am self-motivated, loyal and have an enormous passion for building relationships with folks from all walks of life. I believe that the Cedar Park Neighbors would be a great to work with and I would be an asset. I am also a self-taught drummer, certified cook, and am pursuing my realtors license. I hope to become part of the CPN board.