

## **Declaration of Candidacy for the Tremont West Development Corporation Board of Directors**

Name: Chris Blue

1. Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:

**My community involvement includes serving as Board Ex Officio for the Duck Island Block Club through the Tremont West Development Corporation and as a member of the Duck Island Action Committee, where I help organize neighborhood events, communication initiatives, and community programs. I have long supported local quality of life efforts through the Duck Island Green Space Committee, contributing to cleanup, beautification, fundraising, and capital improvement initiatives, and as a yearly RiverSweep leader and participant protecting the Cuyahoga River. I have also served, for over 8 years, as Graphic Artist and Logistics Coordinator for the Tremont Arts & Cultural Festival, developing branding and promotional materials while coordinating vendors, artists, and site logistics to support smooth event execution, and I am an active Duck Island Block Club member.**

- 2: Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:

**I have a longstanding commitment to supporting education, community, and youth-focused organizations throughout Cleveland. I regularly donate to CMSD teachers through DonorsChoose at both Campus International and Tremont Montessori, directly supporting classroom resources and student learning, and contribute to school based organizations including CMSD Campus International School's SPO and Music Boosters. My charitable involvement also includes ongoing support of The Prouty, advancing cancer research and patient care, Tremont West annual Food Drive, as well as time and monetary support of St. Wendelin Church in Duck Island, and community based programming through Near West Recreation fundraisers. Together, these efforts reflect my sustained dedication to strengthening local public schools, neighborhoods, and families.**

- 3: Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):

**I currently serve as a Commissioner on the Bond Accountability Commission for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where I provide independent monitoring and public reporting on the district's major construction and renovation programs. I am also a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Board. During the Abbey Park renovation, I leveraged my professional relationship with the City of Cleveland to gather community feedback and communicate it to the city landscape architect for inclusion in the project. Over the last five years, I have given back to families through my role as Head Tee Ball Coach and as an assistant basketball coach with Near West Recreation.**

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- 4: Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:

**I would bring to the Board of Directors my professional expertise in architecture and project management, practical experience with public oversight and governance, and strong involvement in the Tremont and Duck Island communities. As a licensed architect and project manager, I bring skills in capital planning, facilities assessment, design review, budgeting, consultant coordination, and navigating public-sector processes experience directly applicable to development, infrastructure, and neighborhood improvement initiatives. My service as a Commissioner on the CMSD Bond Accountability Commission has strengthened my ability to evaluate large capital programs, balance community priorities with financial accountability, and communicate complex issues clearly and transparently. In addition, my roles with Tremont West, the Duck Island Block Club and Action Committee, Green Space and beautification efforts, festival logistics and graphic design, youth sports, and charitable fundraising reflect a sustained commitment to community building, collaboration, and stewardship. I understand the neighborhood not only as a professional but as a resident, volunteer, and parent, and would bring a collaborative and community centered perspective to advancing Tremont West's mission.**

- 5: Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:

**I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation because I am already invested in the organization's mission and the long term success of the Tremont and Duck Island communities. Through my current service as a Board Ex Officio member representing the Duck Island Block Club, I have gained a strong understanding of Tremont West's role in economic development, neighborhood advocacy, and community engagement. Serving on the Board has allowed me to contribute meaningfully while also seeing firsthand the value of consistent leadership, informed decision making, and strong community representation. As a resident, architect, and longtime volunteer, I am motivated to expand my role and responsibility to further support Tremont West's strategic goals, strengthen collaboration between neighborhoods and the organization, and help guide projects and initiatives that responsibly balance development, preservation, and quality of life for residents.**

- 6: Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Members of the Board typically serve on one or more committees, which meet monthly, as well as the Board of Directors meeting, which also meets monthly. Typically, the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors: **10**
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