

PPCC At-large & Area Rep Candidates 2026

**Chris Spitz – PPCC At-large
Friends St.**

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35-year resident of Via Bluffs/Friends. Temporarily displaced but fully intend to return/currently in process of rebuilding our home on Friends.

Retired business litigation attorney (UCLA undergrad; Loyola Law School New Orleans; major firm experience). On PPCC board for 18 years. PPCC At-large Representative (2022-present). Past PPCC Chair (2014-16) and Secretary (2018-22). 2021 PPCC Citizen of the Year. Vice-Chair of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (2020-present). Excellent working relationship with officials and Westside community leaders. Managed PPCC administration for many years, author of majority of PPCC positions in recent years, wrote all PPCC bulletins and continued to serve the community without a pause after January 7, 2025. Led or served on key committees, including Executive, Land Use (current LUC chair), Election, Awards and Bylaws. Member of the CRCC and co-lead of the Advocacy ATF. Strong supporter of our first responders and local businesses. Very familiar with all Palisades areas. Has long analyzed and brought before PPCC important issues affecting the Palisades such as land use & zoning regulations, development, density, homelessness, wildfire safety, evacuations and police protection. Wish to continue serving the community as PPCC At-large Rep as the Palisades recovers from the unimaginable disaster. Honored for your vote!

Richard Fink II - PPCC At-large
Will Rogers State Park Rd.

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Please accept my submission for the 2026 Pacific Palisades Community Council At-Large Representative election. My family has proudly called Pacific Palisades home for the past three years. When the Palisades Fire changed our community, we returned as soon as it was safe because we believe recovery begins when neighbors come home. Our son is a proud Canyon Charter Cricket entering fourth grade. As District Superintendent for California State Parks and a Governing Board Member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, I helped lead one of the most complex interagency wildfire recovery efforts in California history, including the EPA Phase I hazardous materials cleanup and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Phase II debris removal mission. The Corps described it as the "largest and fastest wildfire debris removal operation" in its history, helping Pacific Palisades residents begin rebuilding their homes and community sooner. Those experiences reinforced what I believe: communities are rebuilt by people. The next chapter of recovery requires leadership that can unite agencies, navigate complex challenges, and turn plans into progress. That is the collaborative, results-driven approach I will bring to the Pacific Palisades Community Council.

Bart Young - PPCC Area 1
Tramonto Dr.

byoung@youngcompany.com



My name is Bart Young, and I am running to represent Area 1 on the Pacific Palisades Community Council. My wife, Cindi, and I have lived in Castellammare for 29 years. Like many of our neighbors, we lost our home in the Palisades fire, but we are committed to rebuilding and returning.

PPCC plays an essential role in giving Pacific Palisades residents a respected voice with City, County, and State agencies. Its work to protect our neighborhoods, advocate for sensible policies, and help facilitate recovery and rebuilding is more important now than ever. I would be honored to contribute to that effort.

For the past three years, I have served on the Castellammare Mesa Homeowners Association Board, working to oppose damaging development, protecting neighborhood character, and bringing infrastructure problems to the attention of public officials. I also founded the Castellammare Security Committee, a nonprofit supporting surveillance camera, brush clearance, and private patrol services, and helped develop Wissle, a private neighborhood alert system.

I am running because Area 1 needs an active, practical, and persistent voice. I understand our challenges because I am living them, and I want to help PPCC support a safer, stronger, and better-rebuilt Pacific Palisades.

Diane Bleak - PPCC Area 2

Avenida de Cortez

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My name is Diane Bleak and I believe I am the most qualified to represent the Highlands for the Pacific Palisades Community Council. My family and I have lived on Avenida de Cortez almost 30 years and we are currently living there now. Our home survived the fire and we moved back March, 2025. The most important issues facing the Highlands are; The Santa Ynez Reservoir & lack of water, Fire and Evacuation safety, Public Health safety, and Crime. I attend LADWP meetings and PPCC monthly meetings. I actively participate in "fire safety" and "evacuation route" ideas. I am a fierce advocate for public health safety issues since I am a Nurse Anesthesiologist for over 30 years. A SAFE and FREE of CRIME Highlands is my passion. I have worked closely with Tracy Park's office during and after the fire, helping my neighbors and keeping Palisades Drive clean, safe and drivable. Over 80% of the Highlands survived and many of us have moved back and have unique needs unlike other areas of the Palisades. Please elect me as your Area Rep for the Highlands

Kambiz Kamdar – PPCC Area 2
Avenida de Cortez

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My name is Kambiz Kamdar, and I am proud to be running to represent Area 2 on the PPCC. I currently serve as the Area 2 Second Alternate on the Community Council, am a member of the PPCC Infrastructure Committee, serve on the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association Board, and am a member of the Park Advisory Board. These roles have given me the opportunity to work with and advocate for residents, community organizations, and City agencies.

For the past 16 years, my family and I have called the Highlands home. My wife is a proud graduate of Pali High. We have two children at Pali High, and our youngest attends Calvary.

Professionally, I am a general contractor of two decades building in LA and now focused on helping families rebuild in the Palisades. Since the fire, I have worked closely with homeowners, City departments, and fellow volunteers to navigate the rebuilding process, identify obstacles, and push for practical solutions that help our community recover faster.

If elected, my priorities will be to advocate for improved infrastructure, support our park facilities, strengthen communication between residents and government agencies, and ensure Area 2 has a strong, informed voice in every important discussion.

Julia Nilsen Lombari - PPCC Area 3
(fka Julia Breitman)

Via Anita

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I have been honored to be your area rep for the past 2 years and am happy to be running again. Like many of you, my family lost our home. After 14 months of being displaced, we are grateful to be back again in the Palisades Highlands while we rebuild our home in Area 3. We have experienced the challenges of evacuation, displacement, insurance claims, and rebuilding firsthand. Those experiences have strengthened my commitment to advocating for residents and ensuring our community's voice is heard as we move forward.

As an attorney, Certified Divorce Coach, and founder of the Butterfly Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports women through major life transitions, I have dedicated my career to helping people navigate difficult circumstances with compassion, integrity, and practical solutions. Those values guide my work on the Community Council.

Throughout my service, I have worked to keep residents informed, encourage respectful dialogue, and advocate for thoughtful, transparent decision-making. Our community deserves leaders who are accessible, collaborative, and focused on results rather than politics.

As we rebuild, the decisions made today will shape Pacific Palisades for decades to come. I will continue to advocate for responsible rebuilding, public safety, wildfire resilience, neighborhood preservation, and policies that protect the character and quality of life that make Marquez Knolls such a special place to live.

Elissa Ashwood - PPCC Area 3
Lachman Ln.

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I am writing to volunteer as an Area 3 Rep for the PPCC. We've been through a heck of a year, Pacific Palisades. It's hard to find our smiles through these unbelievably difficult times. But bringing comfort and wisdom to each other is what neighbors are for, and no one can take this away from us. I'm a third generation Palisadian, the last Lachman in the Palisades, and I hope to connect our past and our future positively. Throughout the last 18 months I've made it through by

- leading weekly neighborhood calls for Marquez Knolls and for Standing Homes,
- serving on the Team Palisades leadership in year 1 and the Palisades Rotary Board in year 2, as well as both years on the Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association.
- co-leading the Standing Homes ATF of the PPCC.
- championing immediate emergency preparedness as a member of the PPCC Emergency Preparedness Committee and early implementer of RYLAN emergency training training the first 100 Palisadians.

My home is destroyed but standing in a cruel twist of fate that has kept us in a terrible limbo because of insurers defying their contracts. We've moved 7 times. This is absolutely devastating. But when we work together, we recover. Brighter days ahead and as much fun as we can pack in now too.

Rebecca Lobl - PPCC Area 4
Muskingum Ave.

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I am running to be Area 4 Representative because I care deeply about the future of our community, the return of our neighbors, and improving wildfire resilience. My family lived on Muskingum Avenue in the El Medio Bluffs for 34 years until our home was destroyed in the fire. My husband, Andrew Halpern, and I are rebuilding and hope to return home in January 2026. We raised our two children, Cooper and Grace, at 514 and shared many wonderful years there with our dog, Rosie. Since November 2025, we have been renting on Almar Ave., just one block away.

Since July 2025, I have served as a Team Palisades Neighborhood Representative for the El Medio Bluffs. In that role, I have helped neighbors navigate permit fee waivers, resilient rebuilding, and insurance issues. I have organized neighborhood video conferences with security services, private fire protection companies, and experts on fire-resistant rebuilding as it relates to insurance. I am currently working with a neighbor to establish our area as a Firewise community by developing a three-year action plan focused on education and outreach, home hardening, defensible space and fuel reduction, and evacuation planning.

**Karen Ridgley - PPCC Area 4
Northfield St.**

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I'm Karen Ridgley, your current Area 4 Pacific Palisades Community Council Representative. I've lived on Northfield St. in El Medio Bluffs 40+ years, where I raised 3 sons. Professionally, I was a Field Service Manager and Sales Director for computer systems maintenance and tech services companies. Formerly, I was a French Teacher.

I've served 6 years as Area 4's Representative and now seek re-election. I know our Area 4 and Palisades' pre- and post-fire issues and recovery challenges well. I'm an informed and effective advocate for my constituents and know how to secure the information and City/CD11 services they need to resolve individual and neighborhood problems. I've been the Bluff's Neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator 7 years and am a member of the WLAPD Community Advisory Board. I serve on PPCC's Evacuation Capabilities Advisory Task Force and am a Team Palisades Block Captain. Key concerns: fire prevention, community emergency preparedness (RYLAN), security, insurability of properties, housing density, construction traffic and parking management, 500 displaced Area 4 mobile home residents of Tahitian Park and Palisades Bowl. I would be honored to continue serving as your representative and voice on the Council. Please re-elect Karen Ridgley as your Area 4 Representative.

Eliana Bernstein - PPCC Area 4
Muskingum Ave.

elianabernstein@g.ucla.edu



I would be honored to serve as your Area 4 Representative. My name is Eliana Bernstein, and the Palisades has been my home for 16 years since I was six years old. I first lived in Area 4 for 3 years on Almar. I then lived on Palisades Drive in the Highlands, and I lost that home in the wildfires. I have returned to the community I love to serve, working at the Palisades Recovery Coalition, and now reside on Muskingum Ave for the past 4 months. I recently graduated from UCLA with a degree in Political Science and Professional Writing, earned with Latin honors, and I am committed to bringing that education and my deep roots here to serve our community. I work full time in the Palisades for a nonprofit aimed at policy solutions for the issues we face. I am passionate about exploring ideas that can bridge the gaps in our recovery, and I believe in the people of this community. As a young Palisadian, I feel it is my duty to represent the generations to come and advocate for solutions for the elders I have grown up with and admire.

May Sung - PPCC Area 5

Iliff St.

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My name is May Sung, and I am honored to run for the Pacific Palisades Community Council representing Area 5, the Alphabet Streets. A Palisades resident since 2005, I have lived in the Alphabet Streets since 2017 with my husband, two children, four dogs, and two cats. Rebuilding our home after the Palisades Fire gave me a personal stake in neighborhood safety. I turned hardship into action by advocating for a streamlined plan-check process, organizing local cleanups, hosting rebuild webinars, and securing vendor discounts to help our community rebuild. Proven Community Leadership. I am a founding Team Palisades Steering Committee member, Alphabet Streets Block Captains Coordinator, PPCC Infrastructure Committee member advocating for underground utilities, and former Friends of Marquez Elementary Board Member.

I founded SUBU Design Architecture locally in 2010. Armed with architecture degrees from UC Berkeley and Harvard GSD, and experience as a Fulbright Fellow, I bring critical planning and design expertise to our local challenges.

If elected, I will continue to champion resilient infrastructure, transparent rebuilding process, and thoughtful planning, ensuring Alphabet Streets residents' voices are always prioritized. I would be honored to earn your vote. Thank you.

Lorie Cudzil - Area 6

Alma Real Dr.

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It has been a true privilege to serve as your PPCC Area 6 Representative these past two years. As a 14-year resident and 11-year homeowner on Alma Real Drive, I am deeply invested in our community. My husband and I have three children; we intend to return and plan to rebuild alongside our neighbors. The first months of my term were spent becoming familiar with my new role. When the Palisades Fire hit, I became heavily focused on getting timely, accurate information to residents concerning everything related to recovery. I attended numerous City Council meetings and Zoom calls, was a member of the PPCC Rebuild Committee, and continue to advocate for grants as a member of the PPCC Grants Committee. I have also represented Area 6 by helping draft/give input on official letters regarding SB 79, street vendor compliance, and the Potrero Canyon Bridge/Bike Path Project. I am deeply committed to safety and security in Potrero Canyon. I value keeping residents informed through regular bi-monthly emails and welcome your direct input through calls, emails, texts, and in-person visits. There is still much work ahead rebuilding stronger and protecting our quality of life.

Sharon Kilbride - PPCC Area 7
Entrada Dr.

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I have admired the work of PPCC and feel that I can continue to be an asset to this fine organization representing the Santa Monica Canyon. I am a sixth-generation member of the Marquez family, which received a land grant of the area now covering Santa Monica Canyon and Pacific Palisades in 1839. I have resided in Santa Monica Canyon for 68 years and graduated from Palisades High School and Santa Monica College. Now retired, I had a 33-year career as a corporate auditor for Safeway Inc. I currently sit on the boards of The Canyon alliance and BOCA neighborhood associations. I also serve as treasurer for the Santuario San Lorenzo garden in front of the historic Marquez family cemetery. Besides working to preserve the cemetery, I have developed an educational program that teaches local 4th graders about the history of the area. For my community service, I was honored as Pacific Palisades Citizen of the Year in 2015.

Andrew Wolfberg - PPCC Area 8

Allenford Ave.

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It has been an honor to serve our community, and I would appreciate the opportunity to continue representing Area 8. I have previously served PPCC as Area 8 Representative, Area 8 Alternate, At-Large Alternate, and Vice-President. I grew up in Pacific Palisades and attended Canyon School. For more than 15 years, my wife and I have lived here, and our children have also attended Canyon. Since the Fire, I have continued to be involved in our community's recovery, serving on the PPCC By-Laws Committee and Grants Committee. I am an estate planning attorney with an office in West Los Angeles. My work requires careful listening, problem-solving, and working with people to address difficult issues. I have a particular interest in the relationship between our schools and the neighborhoods around them. I previously served on the Paul Revere Traffic Safety Committee, where I worked with parents and community members on transportation and pedestrian safety issues. The Committee helped expand the parent-sponsored yellow bus program, supported additional public transportation options, and worked with LAUSD on its bus program. I also led the effort to install speed humps on Allenford to improve safety for residents and students.