



Board Member Position Description

Brooklyn Greenway Initiative Board of Directors

Position Overview / Summary

Brooklyn Greenway Initiative (BGI) seeks qualified and interested individuals to join its Board of Directors, a volunteer position that guides and supports its mission as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that is committed to the development, establishment, and long-term stewardship of the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway – a 26-mile protected and landscaped route for pedestrians and cyclists that, when complete, will connect Brooklyn’s storied and iconic waterfront, parks and open space, commercial and cultural corridors, and new tech and innovation hubs for 2.65 million Brooklyn residents, over 1 million employees in Brooklyn, and 15 million visitors from across the City and around the world. The current focus of the Board is to increase organizational reach and capacity for greater impact.

About Brooklyn Greenway Initiative

Founded in 2004, BGI works with community, non-profit, business, and governmental partners to create and fulfill a comprehensive vision for the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway, while at the same time building awareness and support among residents and employees who live and work along its route. Since its founding, BGI has channeled more than \$218 million in public and private investment toward implementation of the Greenway, leveraged public and private investment of \$2.38 million toward the creation of the Naval Cemetery Landscape as a new park-like space adjacent to the Greenway, and conceptualized or supported the development and stewardship of other open spaces and public amenities along the Greenway.

Approximately 18 miles of completed Greenway are actively used by tens of thousands of cyclists and pedestrians daily. BGI ensures the stewardship of the Greenway through a wide variety of public engagement events, campaigns, and volunteer opportunities.

About the BGI Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is currently comprised of 11 individuals who collectively make up an Executive Committee, standing committees, and ad-hoc working groups as needed.

The Board’s key roles include:

- Focusing on strategy and oversight of the organization’s affairs.
- Evaluating and enhancing funding and financial strength and security.

- Building and developing an outstanding Board, ensuring effective planning as well as legal and ethical integrity.
- Evaluating performance of the executive director on an annual basis.

Board members are expected to:

- Regularly attend all quarterly Board meetings and participate actively in Board discussions, deliberations, and decisions. When attendance is not possible, Board members are expected to inform themselves of the substance and outcome of the meeting in a timely manner.
- Read and respond to email communications that require Board input or action within 48 hours.
- Serve on a committee and/or working groups, lending time, advice and expertise to the oversight of BGI and its mission and activities. This includes serving on the Executive Committee and as a Board officer.
- Board members are expected to demonstrate leadership in fundraising by making or securing generous personal contributions. BGI requests that its Board members make an annual “give or get” contribution of at least \$5,000. As a not-for-profit organization, BGI relies on financial contributions to fund its operations and programming. Generous financial support at a level that represents an individual stretch is part of the Board’s culture of philanthropy. The Board, with help from BGI Staff, will work with each director to develop a commitment plan tailored to that director.
- Regularly attend annual fundraising and leading donor events and help market these events to personal and professional networks as appropriate.
- Get to know members of the Staff and strive to support productive Board/Staff working relationships.
- Propose at least one candidate annually for Board membership.
- Become informed about opportunities that impact BGI’s mission, as well as details of the financial condition and shorter-term progress in achieving major goals.

Note: Per BGI’s annual Form 990 filing, Board members are expected to work on average one hour per week. This is the minimum required threshold.

Prospective Board Members, please contact:

Michael Porto

Vice-Chair, Brooklyn Greenway Initiative Board of Directors

mporto37@gmail.com