



## **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 and broad scope of work to realize the full benefits of the Greenway as a safe, green route of connectivity among the diverse communities along the Brooklyn waterfront. The current focus of the Board is to increase organizational reach and capacity for greater impact.

#### **About Brooklyn Greenway Initiative**

The Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway was originally conceived in the 1990s as a “thick ribbon of green” along the entirety of the Brooklyn waterfront comprised of a landscaped bicycle and pedestrian corridor contiguous with parks and open space, enabling access and connectivity to the waterfront as well as new mobility options for transit-starved coastal communities. Over the last 20 years of its development and implementation, the Greenway has become more than a mobility and open space solution. The completed Greenway has the potential to retain significant amounts of stormwater and attenuate storm surge during weather events, provide habitat corridors, reduce heat island effect, foster healthy lifestyles and active recreation, provide opportunities for community and civic engagement, support economic and job development, connect commercial districts, increase access to neighborhood-based cultural amenities, and foster tourism. 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

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