



NEWSLETTER

November 2018

The Clarion Newsletter — Volume 33, Number 11

Next General Meeting

Tuesday, November 20th, 7:30pm

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming General Membership meeting on November 20th, starting at 7:30pm.

For this meeting, we will be hosted by the Engineer's Club, located at 11 W. Mount Vernon Place and the MVBA November election will take place promptly at 7:30pm. Ballots will be provided at the beginning of the meeting and must be cast no later than 8:30pm to be counted.

We welcome Johns Hopkins University representatives, Jennifer Mielke, Director of Local & Community Affairs and Rodney Giacomelli, Director of Campus Security, Peabody Campus, for a follow-up discussion regarding the formation of the JHU Police Department. We also welcome Cory McCray,

District 45 State Senator (newly elected) to outline his plans for the coming year.

Also attending the meeting will be Baltimore City representatives Matt Achhammer, Baltimore City Liquor Board Community Liaison and Jabari Lyles, Baltimore City LGBTQ Community Liaison to introduce themselves and to discuss their new roles within Baltimore City.

As always, our general meetings are free and open to the public, members and non-members alike. Please join us to discuss important issues and events related to our Mount Vernon community.

Upcoming MVBA November Election

The November 20th MVBA Board Election will take place as stated above. **To vote in this election, your MVBA membership must be current.** As mentioned in last month's newsletter, this election cycle has two (2) Director positions up for election and the candidates listed below will have an opportunity to address the general membership.

Nominated and Board-Recommended Director Position

Candidates --Steve Shen (incumbent), Jack Danna, and Kira Wisniewski.

Short bios for each candidate follow below.

Steve Shen (*incumbent*)

Since moving to Baltimore in 2002, Steve has volunteered over 20,000 hours and raised over \$450,000 in grant funding for Mount Vernon initiatives. As a member and/or chair of the MVBA architectural review, development, zoning, property stewardship, and liquor committees, he has helped review or advise on approximately 3,300 projects with investments totaling over \$775 million.

As Mount Vernon's at-large elected representative to Midtown District from 2006-2015, former board vice chair, and ten-year chair of the operations committee (with clean, green, and safety subcommittees), Steve initiated and led a successful five-year effort to raise funds, design, and install 25 high definition security cameras in the Charles Street and W Read Street commercial corridors of Mount Vernon in the city's first public-private partnership with the Baltimore Police Department's CitiWatch program. Other projects included logistical studies which led to improvements in Midtown cleaning efficiency by up to 500%, construction of a water tanker and stake bed trucks, increased mechanical street sweeping, acquiring over 100 corner baskets, collaborative code enforcement with the city for illegal dumping, and overhead cost reductions. At Midtown, he also pioneered service requests/tracking, graffiti tracking (leading to the arrest and conviction of a prolific vandal), bag removal from trees, targeted snow removal, and six ton bulk purchases of eco-friendly magnesium chloride de-icer for local residents and businesses.

From 2011-2014, Steve was a member of the steering committee for the Mount Vernon Area Master Plan and working member of the development, transportation, and open space committees, which

culminated in a 141-page comprehensive plan document. He has also been a member of the 2-Way Traffic Study steering committee, advocated for the Downtown Bicycle Network, was a key negotiator for the 2008 Homeless Resource Center MOU with the city, and helped draft the 2006 Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Plan and MV Guidelines For New Construction. Steve has also served since 2009 as MVBA's representative to the Charles Street Development Corporation board, serving on the executive committee. Projects include successful removal and re-planting of over 75 large caliper matched-species trees on Charles Street and corridor-wide safety initiatives. Steve was among the 22 inaugural graduates in 2013 of the city's TreeKeepers program.

Jack Danna

Jack Danna began his career in Baltimore in 2001 as the Director of the Pigtown Main Street Program, located on Washington Boulevard. During his six-year tenure, he led a community-based commercial revitalization initiative modeled after the National Main Street Program. This effort included creation of the Annual Pigtown Festival (along with its signature event – the “Running of the Pigs”), to focus attention on the neighborhood's pride and history. The long-running festival is still popular today. Danna also created a \$275,000 revolving loan fund to support commercial development and business recruitment, and implemented an aggressive facade restoration program. His work was recognized at the National Main Street Conference in Baltimore in 2005 for excellence in urban commercial district revitalization. Prior to leaving in 2007, Danna completed one of Baltimore's most successful community-led eminent domain efforts – a \$2.75 million initiative along Washington Boulevard (Pigtown's Main Street).

In 2007, Danna joined the Local Initiative Support Corporation's (LISC) Commercial Markets Advisory division in New York City until 2010. In this capacity, he helped plan LISC's Urban Forum 2008 – a national planning and community development conference – in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also assisted in the creation of a comprehensive retail district market analysis for Downtown New Rochelle, New York, and managed the Commercial Markets Advisory online resource catalogue that serves 50 urban community development affiliates nationwide.

Danna has a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Queens College in New York City. He completed a graduate thesis titled "Contesting Willets Point in the Aspirational City." The thesis examined the planning concepts behind New York City's \$4 billion redevelopment plan for Willets Point located in the immigrant community of Corona, Queens. The thesis also evaluated the effectiveness of the City's Willets Point Worker Assistance Program designed to mitigate worker displacement as result of the development plan.

Danna resides close to Central Baltimore in the Mount Vernon, neighborhood, with his cat, Paco.

Kira Wisniewski

Kira is someone who turns ideas into reality—whether it's running [a successful collaborative art show](#), developing an [interactive karaoke-based experience that celebrates friendship](#), or creating [a satirical trailer](#) for a movie that will never (and should never) be made.

Kira served for over eight years as Director of Operations at the [National Women's Studies Association](#), the academic

association for the field of women and gender studies. She co-founded [826DC](#) (formerly Capitol Letters) , a non-profit that provides free programming including creative writing workshops, student publications, field trips, and after-school tutoring for K-12 students in the nation's capital. Additionally, Kira serves on the Baltimore City Women's Commission, as an [Awesome Foundation Baltimore](#) Trustee, the Grand Rapids Customer Advisory Board, is active with [Fluid Movement](#), and has the pleasure of volunteering with [Special Olympics DC](#) Unified basketball every winter. Originally from Florida, Kira has called Mount Vernon home since 2012 where she currently lives with her partner and their pet rabbit.

Other Nominated Director Position Candidates --

Andrew (Andy) Klymkowsky and Stefan Popescu.

Short bios for each candidate follow below.

Andrew (Andy) Klymkowsky

Andrew Klymkowsky is a 3 year resident of Baltimore City. Andrew currently works for Reveal Real Estate, a boutique real estate development and management company. Over the last 3 years Andrew has lived in Federal Hill, Canton, Fells, and most recently Mount Vernon. Originally from Boulder, Colorado, Andrew has a strong connection to green initiatives and maintains a healthy growing community. During his stay in Baltimore, Andrew has partaken in and led coalitions to help biking safety in the city, clean up streets, lower drug-trafficking and crime, as well as increase community growth. Working with city officials, local community groups, and business leaders, Andrew has a great understanding

of both the problems and the many solutions that can help

Baltimore grow.

Andrew graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.S. in Integrated Physiology, a Pre-Medical major. During his university years and into his first few professional years, Andrew was a founding employee at Sanitas Brewing Company – a start-up craft brewery located in Boulder, Colorado. While living in Boulder, Andrew enjoyed hiking, rock climbing, snowboarding and other outdoor activities. He also ran a honey farm and a goat farm on his parents' property. In early 2015 Andrew moved to Baltimore for his employment at Reveal Real Estate. During his tenure at Reveal, Andrew has worked all over the city building and developing everything including low-income houses, luxury apartment buildings, restaurants, and office spaces. While living in Baltimore, Andrew frequents the local museums (Walters being his favorite), takes advantage of nearby hiking trails, and continues to rock climb at the local gym. Andrew has worked hand-in-hand with the Mayor's office, City Council, Section 8, HUD, and other government agencies in Baltimore City. Additionally Andrew works directly with up to 250 tenants daily, giving him a deep understanding of the qualms the majority of individuals residing in Baltimore deal with on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis.

Andrew possesses the experience, sense of civic duty, and first-hand knowledge to help the MVBA continue to grow and help better the Mount Vernon-Belvedere area.

Stefan Popescu

Stefan has been a resident of Baltimore City for nearly 6 years. In that time, he has done numerous construction and development

projects in the city as well as started a full property management company. Stefan has a vast knowledge of the entirety of the city and has lived in numerous neighborhoods including West Baltimore, Federal Hill, Butchers Hill, Mount Vernon, Fells Point, and Canton. Stefan has been working in the real estate field for nearly 10 years beginning during his tenure as a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Stefan played collegiate rugby and other team sports, which has honed his inherent drive to improve both himself and those around him. At Vanderbilt, Stefan studied civil engineering and continued his studies to receive his Masters' degree in Structural Engineering from Catholic University of America in Washington DC. He pursued a career in construction as a Project Engineer at Whiting Turner. In 2013, Stefan moved to Baltimore to begin his own development company focused on improving the real estate and living in Baltimore one property at a time. Originally from New York City, Stefan has been involved with numerous and varied communities and has worked hard to improve every new area he finds himself in. After starting Reveal Real Estate, Stefan branched out into numerous projects across Baltimore city, creating new and vibrant communities and businesses. With an unrivaled work ethic and a contagious determination, Stefan is constantly working to improve Baltimore city. Specific areas of accomplishment are neighborhood and vacant property clean ups, working with city agencies to clean and remove trash, community outreach for both businesses and individuals, creating a stronger and safer community for everyone, fundraising for local law enforcement, and helping community safety. Stefan brings an enormous amount of motivation, enthusiasm, knowledge, and determination to the table, and I believe would be an incredible asset to the MVBA.

Director *(2 positions serving 3-year term)*

Steve Shen & Open Director Position, Current Directors

The purpose and function of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be to provide advice and consent to the President in the day-to-day management of the Association's affairs.

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *Meeting and acting as a board to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of meetings and management of the Association as are deemed proper, not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Association.*
- *Participate in the planning of the meetings of the Association and to prepare recommendations for the membership.*
- *Approve the expenditures funds by the officers of the Association and to adopt a budget for the Association each year;*
- *Receive an annual statement of income and expense and provide for its audit;*
- *Act on behalf of the issue(s) at a general meeting of the full membership.*
- *Executive such additional duties as may be required by the By-laws, as amended from time to time.*

Time Commitment for Position:

10+ hours per week

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, all board members are expected to act as a *Chair/Co-Chair of a MVBA Committee.*

Best wishes to all of the candidates that are running!

New MVBA Business Members

Each month, we will be recognizing businesses that join MVBA membership. This month we are proud to welcome [Bikram Yoga Works](#), [Gould Property Company](#), & [REJ Associates](#).

Encourage your neighbors and other businesses in Mount Vernon to become members of MVBA. It is only \$20 for Individuals and \$50 for Businesses, per year, to become a member. We welcome all businesses in the neighborhood to join MVBA by clicking [HERE](#). If you have any questions on membership, please reach out to our Membership Committee Chair, Julie Canard at membership@mvba.org.



47th Annual Monument Lighting

West Mount Vernon Place

December 6th | 5-8pm

Join the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy and Downtown Partnership in the 47th Annual Monument Lighting. There will be a holiday village, photos with Santa, and live performances from Kristen Toedtman & The Community Chorus of Peabody, OrchKids, City College Choir, and Morgan State Choir. Stick around for a grand firework finale at 8pm.

More info can be found at GoDowntownBaltimore.com



‘Dine out’ with Chase Brexton

#GivingTuesday | November 27th

‘Dine out’ with Chase Brexton and participating restaurants (*ALL located on Charles Street!*) on #Giving Tuesday, November 27th.

Marie Louis Bistro | 904 North Charles Street

Mt. Vernon Stable and Saloon | 909 North Charles Street

Potbelly | 1201 North Charles Street

Consider taking your team out to lunch or your family and friends
out for dinner. Up to 25% of the bill will be going back to Chase
Brexton patients in need!



Oh, What a Night!
Prepare to have a load of fun!

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 11TH | 6PM TO 9PM
SAMMY'S TRATTORIA AT 1200 NORTH CHARLES STREET

ITALIAN BUFFET WITH FULL CASH BAR

COCKTAIL ATTIRE | RAFFLE
\$30 MVBA MEMBERS | \$35 NON-MEMBERS

MVBA

MVBA HOLIDAY PARTY 2018

MVBA Holiday Party 2018

Tuesday | December 11th | 6pm to 9pm

Sammy's Trattoria at 1200 North Charles Street

Oh, What a Night!

Prepare to have a load of fun!

Join the MVBA for a night of Holiday Fun!

Italian Buffet | Full Cash Bar

Cocktail Attire | Raffle

\$30 MVBA Members | \$35 Non-Members

Tickets are available on Facebook and Eventbrite.

Purchase your tickets now, by clicking below.

TICKETS

Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors and share on

Facebook.

Coming Up in December

- **47th Annual Monument Lighting**

West Mount Vernon Place

December 6th | 5-8pm

- **MVBA Holiday Party**

Tuesday, December 11th | 6-9pm

Sammy's Trattoria | 1200 North Charles Street

- **No MVBA General Meeting** in December

CONTACTS 2018

Officers

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| President | Michele Richter | <u>president@mvba.org</u> |
| Vice President | Wesley Stuckey | <u>vicepresident@mvba.org</u> |
| Treasurer | Onahlea Shimunek | <u>treasurer@mvba.org</u> |
| Recording Secretary | — | <u>secretary@mvba.org</u> |
| Corresponding Secretary | Lex Wiesand | <u>corrsecretary@mvba.org</u> |

Directors

| |
|------------------|
| Mario Brandhorst |
| Julie Canard |
| Teddy Davidson |
| John Molino |
| Steve Shen |

Committees

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Architectural Review | Steve Shen | <u>arc@mvba.org</u> |
| Business | Onahlea Shimunek | <u>business@mvba.org</u> |
| Children's Park | John Molino | <u>childrenspark@mvba.org</u> |
| Clean + Beautiful | Michele Richter | <u>cleanandbeautiful@mvba.org</u> |
| Community Service + Engagement | Teddy Davidson | <u>community@mvba.org</u> |
| Development | Steve Shen | <u>development@mvba.org</u> |
| Dog Park | Marci Yankelov Bea Harris | <u>dogpark@mvba.org</u> |
| Grants | Teddy Davidson | <u>grants@mvba.org</u> |
| Liquor Review | Michele Richter | <u>liquor@mvba.org</u> |
| Marketing + Promotions | Wesley Stuckey | <u>marketing@mvba.org</u> |
| Membership | Julie Canard | <u>membership@mvba.org</u> |
| Parking + Transportation | Steve Johnson | <u>parking@mvba.org</u> |
| Safety | Vicki Schassler | <u>safety@mvba.org</u> |
| Trees + Greening | MJ Dame | <u>trees@mvba.org</u> |
| Zoning | Steve Shen | <u>zoning@mvba.org</u> |

Ex-Officio

| |
|---------------|
| Jason Curtis |
| Jack Danna |
| Steve Johnson |
| Brian Levy |

To contact members by phone, call MVBA's main number 410-528-1919 and select the desired extension from the menu.—

Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association, 1 East Chase Street, Suite 2, Baltimore, MD 21202

[Unsubscribe](#)