

Nominations for the NOMA Board of Directors 2020

Danilo Bach * I've been a resident of the city for 44 years, the first ten as a renter and homeowner in Ocean Park, where I was involved with preservation and local zoning issues and with my wife and friends helped save and rehab the Irving Gill-designed Horatio West Court apartments, the first Santa Monica landmark to be listed on the National Register. I've since been a resident of north of Montana for over 30 years, made my living as a screenwriter, have a wife who, if anything, is more passionate about the singularity of our city than I, and two sons who are products of Santa Monica's extraordinary public school system.

Jeff Brecht* My wife and I have lived on 4th and San Vicente in Santa Monica for the last five years. I've made my career as a Financial Consultant focused on promoting financial health and literacy. I first became involved with the community as an active member of the Historic San Vicente Coalition. In the coalition, I worked side by side with numerous NOMA members and countless North of Montana residents in creating the largest historic district in Santa Monica. AS a member of the NOMA board, I hope to promote the welfare of our neighborhood and it's citizens through furthering the democratic process.

Nancy Coleman* I returned to Santa Monica after a 40 year period in Washington, DC in mid-2011 and joined NOMA shortly thereafter. I graduated from Roosevelt, Lincoln, and Santa Monica High School and continued to visit the area during the intervening years. Most recently I have served as Chair of NOMA, a member of the Santa Monica Social Services Commission and served two terms on the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury.

My NOMA work has concerned the McMansionization of R 1 neighborhoods, the incursion of residential neighborhoods of commercial entities and the lack of parks in NOMA.

I have spent my professional life looking at better ways for citizens to influence public policy whether at the national or local levels. I hope to be able to use my skills to work with NOMA to influence the Santa Monica City Council and other Commission's such as the Planning Commission.

Stan Fox

I grew up in Beaufort, a small town in coastal South Carolina, and attended college at The Citadel, in Charleston, for my freshman year, then transferred to the University of Georgia as a sophomore. After working on a construction crew all summer on campus, I postponed my formal education to enlist in the Air Force. Following basic training in Texas, I was assigned to Vandenberg AFB, near Lompoc, CA. Eighteen months later I was sent to southeast Asia where I served in the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Korea. Upon my return to the U.S., I was assigned to a small air station near Corvallis, OR.

Shortly after arriving at Vandenberg, I came to Los Angeles to meet a fraternity brother from the University of Georgia, who had moved here from Atlanta. He arranged a blind date for me with a Santa Monica girl he had met. We hit it off well and continued to see each other when possible, and corresponded while I was overseas and in Oregon. We were married two days after my discharge from the Air Force, and I moved to Santa Monica. That was 1966, but my wife, Karen's family has lived in Santa Monica for nearly a century. I returned to school immediately after getting married and earned a BA from Cal. State Univ., Northridge.

While in school, I worked part-time in my father-in-law's retail shoe business in Santa Monica. After his passing in 1968, my mother-in-law and I continued to run the business until 1987. During that period (in 1978) I purchased two laundromats in Santa Monica, and then expanded the business to four locations within the next ten years. I am still in the laundry business, but have reduced the number of locations to two, and, hopefully soon, the number will be one.

Karen is a semi-retired teacher with LAUSD. She was a classroom teacher for 36 years before retiring. She then returned to work for LAUSD as a part-time consultant. We have three adult children and an eight-year-old granddaughter who all have homes in Santa Monica. Karen, our children, and our granddaughter were all born in Santa Monica, and have never resided anywhere else. All of our children attended Santa Monica public schools. Two of our children are attorneys, while the third decided to go right to work upon graduation from U.C. Berkeley. He is the Director of Sales for a world-wide housewares manufacturer. Our daughter is a lawyer in a Century City office, and our other son is a partner in a U.S. firm, but most of his practice is in Asia. Though he lives in Tokyo much of the year, he also maintains a home in Santa Monica. Our family has deep roots in the community and cares a great deal about preserving Santa Monica's special qualities.

Since my relocation to Santa Monica, I've been engaged in the community as much as possible. Starting in the early 1970s, I became involved in local politics, and actively campaigned for candidates who I believed would work hard to benefit this city. I was invited to join the Santa Monica Rotary club in 1987. I am still an active member and have served on its board of directors on two separate occasions.

When each of our two sons reached age 11, they joined Santa Monica's legendary Boy Scout Troop 2, and both attained the rank of Eagle prior to the age of 18. During that entire time, I was actively involved in everything the troop did. This was a troop of nearly 100 scouts with very engaged parents. Because of that engagement, Karen, our sons, and I, have made life-long local friends.

It seems to me that NOMA board members have their fingers on the pulse of the community. Organizations like this have the power to exert influence on the future direction of the community, and Santa Monica should have the benefit of NOMA's input. During my more than 50 years in this city, a lot has changed. While many developments have been positive, I believe it is essential for the views of those with strong and long-standing commitments to the community to be heard in order to ensure that Santa Monica keeps its unique and wonderful character.

Jeff Gordon* I have lived in Santa Monica since 1988. I am a retired attorney (inactive status.) Over the years, as part of my litigation practice, I have worked on protecting women's and first amendment rights and to help ensure gender equality for girls in LA park's programs and numerous other pro bono projects. I have received recognition from the State Bar and the ACLU's Pro Bono Advocacy Award for my work. I am concerned about traffic gridlock in our city caused by overdevelopment and preserving the character of our wonderful NOMA neighborhood and city as a whole. I am a member of our Home Owners Association Board and have been involved with neighborhood issues as part of this responsibility.

Tawny Laskar

I am a Los Angeles native and purchased a home in the North of Montana neighborhood of Santa Monica in 2013. I immediately fell in love with the community here. Since that time I have seen the city and this neighborhood begin to change. I want to see us continue to grow, evolve, and modernize. As a mother, I want families to feel safe in our community, particularly our parks, and not have worry about the growing homeless population that has taken over our neighborhood. I'm excited about the opportunity to be on the NOMA board because I would like the board to be more reflective of the different points of view that exist in this community.

I am an educator and have been a classroom teacher, coach, and consultant. Most recently, I co-founded a charter school in South Los Angeles. I have been a member of other non-profit boards including MOMS Club of Santa Monica (as president), Teach for America Associates Board, and the Valor Academy Charter School Board (as secretary).

Jim Williams* I have lived in our home at 11th and Carlyle in Santa Monica since 1973. I was appointed as City Manger of Santa Monica at the time, a position I held until 1978. Following that, I managed the development of regional shopping centers and office buildings for various commercial property owners and conducted economic analysis for real estate financing and development. I am retired and have become actively interested in the policies and actions of the City of Santa Monica. In that context, I hope that I can be of some help to NOMA in developing its policies and communications with the city government.