

WHNA Candidate Profiles:

Name: Sarah Barai

About Me: I have lived in Washington Heights since I moved to Milwaukee in 2011. I am married to my husband Kallol who is a mechanical engineer. I am currently a K5 teacher and am pursuing a Masters Degree in Professional Counseling. We have a Miniature Schnauzer named Maggie who has probably barked at you if you walk down 59th Street! We love to travel and spend time outdoors camping and hiking.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I have been looking for a way to be active in our community and this seems like a great way to do that! I love living in Washington Heights and also want to give back to this wonderful neighborhood.

Board position of interest: Area 7 Representative



Name: Lyra O'Brien

About Me: Realtor with First Weber. Married with two teen boys. I also volunteer at Mount Olive Lutheran Church and Christian Day School. We've called the Heights home for over 16 years.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I love this neighborhood and want to make a difference. I have a communications and event planning background and want to use my skill set to help the community. I also like being involved and meeting new people.

Board position of interest: At Large, Odd

Name: Sabrina Eder

About Me: I have lived in Washington Heights for the last three years with my husband. We have a 7 month old son, two cats and a dog. My husband works for Milwaukee County and I work at Rockwell Automation. We love spending time outdoors, supporting our local community and traveling.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I've been on the board for a few years, love living in Washington Heights and want to continue making a difference in our neighborhood. I have passion for bringing people together through experiences and am looking forward to improving the current events we offer through WHNA and introducing new ones like our Night Market!

Board position of interest: At Large, Even



Name: Simon McConico

About Me: Hello! I am a husband, father, and business owner in Washington Heights for the past 5 years. I am a co-owner and brewer at Vennture Brew Co. on 55th and North and live in Area 4 and have been the rep for the past two years. I used to be a photographer and when I am not brewing or playing with my kids, we are walking around the neighborhood with our pup.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I have been on the board for a couple of years and I feel like I have a lot to offer in the way of creativity and perspective. As someone whos whole life is in Washington Heights, it makes sense for me to see this neighborhood grow and thrive for my kids, my business, and for the joy and pride of saying I live in Washington Heights.

Board position of interest: Area 4 Rep



Name: Kinard Dozier

About Me: Proudly born and raised in the Greater Boston, Massachusetts area, however, I have a profound love for the city of Milwaukee. I'm an Assistant Controller at Zilber Limited, a real estate development company, but also enjoy assisting clients as a licensed Shorewest Realtors' agent. My fiancée, Morgan, and daughter, Londyn, moved to Washington Heights area after an extensive home search last October. We love hanging out in Door County to visit family and watching our favorite sports teams compete.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I want to join the WHNA Board because I'd like to be a reliable resource that my neighbors can call upon for the latest information and the happenings in our community. I understand the importance of building relationships and having a trusted member will help bring people together in our quintessential, historic neighborhood.

Board position of interest: Area 1 Representative or At-Large Odd



Name: Eileen Seeger- Garcia

About Me: I am Eileen Seeger- Garcia the current Area 3 Representative. I live on 49th Street with my husband Shad, and step-sons, Austin and Landon. I work as an Immigration Paralegal at von Briesen & Roper, s.c. and the Founder of The Velo Femmes, a Milwaukee-based female cycling team.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: Area 3 is turning a long-awaited page. There are more owner-occupied homes with young families than it has seen in decades and meaningful investments are being made to transform properties where our residents can be proud to call home. However, our streets continue to be litter filled drawing attention away from our beautiful neighborhood. As your AREA 3 Rep I will continue to work with all neighbors in Washington Heights to keep our community litter free – but I need your help. If you are a resident of AREA 3, or would just like to see what good work we are doing on a block-by-block level, please join our Facebook Group: AREA3 WHNA

Board position of interest: AREA 3 REP



Name: Amanda Wambold

About Me: I am a mom of two little girls, ages 2.5 and one month. Our family moved to the Heights in February 2020 from a condo in the Third Ward but I actually grew up here and my dad and step-mom still live in the neighborhood. I have a background in marketing and social media and worked at an ad agency downtown Milwaukee before having kids. Now I do freelance marketing, and additionally my husband and I have a company called Milwaukee Beer Gear. We create and sell Milwaukee and Wisconsin-themed paraphernalia including custom engraved wooden coasters of Milwaukee neighborhoods (Washington Heights neighborhood coming this summer!), beer glasses, bottle openers, and kids and adult apparel. I have a deep love for Milwaukee and my hobbies include trying out local restaurants, reading, working out and playing with my kids.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I would love to get more involved in the local community and neighborhood. We have lived here for over a year but haven't gotten the chance to meet a lot of people because of COVID. Because of my marketing background, I really enjoy planning events and writing and would love to use those skill sets to enhance and connect the community in a meaningful way.

Board position of interest: Events or Highlighter - article writing

Picture (optional):



Name: Kirsten Finn

About Me: Hi, I'm Kirsten Finn. I have lived in Washington Heights since 1997 - both as a renter and as a homeowner. My husband Bill and I currently own a home in Area 9 with our three teenage children. For work, I am the executive director of the Wisconsin Bike Federation. For fun, in addition to riding bikes, I enjoy gardening, walking our dogs in the neighborhood, reading mysteries, the arts, and spending time with neighbors and friends.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: After a year (plus) of relative isolation, I am looking forward to getting involved in my community again. I would like to bring my passion for advocating for vulnerable users of our streets to our neighborhood - making sure that Washington Heights neighbors feel safe walking, scooting, and riding their bikes.

Board position of interest: Area 9 Representative or At Large. Open to almost any committee.



Name: Kevin Driscoll

About Me: 2001 UW Madison graduate in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Moved to neighborhood in 2007. Residing at current address since 2014.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I like the neighborhood and the events that WHNA offers that make the heights a great place to live. I'm interested in continuing to serve on the membership committee, and support continuing events including the night market, earth day clean-up, green committee, boulevard bash, Spooktacular and others.

Board position of interest: Area 2 Rep



Name: Alexa and Brandon Taylor

About Us: We have lived in the neighborhood and served on the board for the last 3 years. We have 2 dogs, Poppy and Violet. We enjoy traveling, hiking, and cooking together.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: We love Washington Heights and enjoy doing our part to continue strengthening our community

Board position of interest: Area 9 Representatives

Name: Robin Andre Palm, AICP

About Me: I moved to Washington Heights in the summer of 2019 with my wife, Dr. Karen Kersting, just a few short weeks before we welcomed our son, Gus, into this world. Karen and I met in graduate school in Richmond, Virginia, where I'm from, and our journey has landed us mere blocks from where hers began in neighboring Wauwatosa. I completed my Master of Urban Planning Degree at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, and currently work as an urban planner for the Village of Mount Pleasant in Racine County. I'm a big fan of hockey, retro video games, and pub trivia. I'm also really excited about my new e-bike.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: Firstly, I want to join the board to get more involved in the community and its wonderful people. We're constantly floored by how great of a neighborhood this is for us and our little son, Gus. I also feel I have a lot to offer with my professional expertise. I could easily keep up on city land use plans, developments, and public works projects to serve as a point of contact and advocacy between the neighborhood association and the City of Milwaukee. I would also like to pester the city to get better and safer infrastructure improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians for the entire neighborhood. My goal would be to help establish a new committee of the WHNA to discuss these Planning, Parks, Public Works, and Housing issues.

Board position of interest: Area 6 Rep

Name: Heidi Steeno

About Me: Heidi Steeno is a native of Wisconsin and a 20+ year resident of Washington Heights. You'll find Heidi around the neighborhood supporting and organizing events that highlight the neighborhood as well as its artists, makers and small businesses. She's a small business advocate and enthusiastic promoter of all things local. Heidi has served on the WHNA Board of Directors since 2019 as the representative of Area 5, organized Spooktacular in 2013, 2014 and 2019 and is part of the Washington Heights Night Market organizing team. Heidi and her husband are owners of James Steeno Gallery and reside on 52nd Street with their daughter Simone.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: As an enthusiastic neighborhood supporter, I want to continue to shine a light on all the great things Washington Heights has to offer. I have 18+ years of corporate experience in marketing, advertising and event organizing that I will enthusiastically share with WHNA. Serving on the board means being an ambassador and advocate for not only Washington Heights, but for the city of Milwaukee as well, sharing all the good things Washington Heights and the city have to offer when you live, work or are here for a visit.

Board position of interest: Area 5 Representative



Name: Sara Czarnecki-Reynolds

About Me: After finding out my husband and I were relocating to Milwaukee by mid-November, we were both excited and nervous about moving to a large city, though it was always our dream, but now it was just becoming reality. Eager, we made several weekend trips trying to find the perfect house in the perfect neighborhood. This was easier said than done. After another flop weekend house hunting, and our deadline to move ticking, this warm and inviting, green, house came on the market. Not risking being outbid, we put an offer in on it without walking through both the house and the neighborhood. No risk, no reward. That following weekend, we walked through our dream house (with the housing inspector too of course). By pure luck, we found a perfect house in a perfect neighborhood. Being right off Vliet and 57th, my husband and I have already made a name for ourselves at local neighborhood spots and we couldn't be happier.

Why I want to join the WHNA Board: I have 8 years of fundraising and large community event management experience and I am excited to be a part of a neighborhood that can use my skills for the better, benefiting all members of the neighborhood. Having lived in a part of rural Michigan for the past 6 years, I look forward to becoming more involved within the Washington Heights Neighborhood. Remember if you are near Vliet and 57th and hear two crazy dogs barking, those are just our dog-thers.

Board position of interest: Area 7 Representative