



## Central Texas–Balcones

Austin, TX 78767-0157  
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512-470-9923

### 2010-2011 Board Member Application Form

**Nominees:** Please answer the following questions in the space provided and return this completed Application Form plus the signed attached Commitment Form to [bulrich@usgbc-centraltexas.org](mailto:bulrich@usgbc-centraltexas.org) in an electronic format by 5:00pm, Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Email or call Brian Ulrich at 210-546-0200 with any questions. The Committee reserves the right to delete narrative exceeding the space provided. By submitting this application you agree that the material can be made available to the Nominating Committee for evaluation and to the chapter membership if selected as a candidate. Thank you!

#### Submitted By:

Name: Effie Brunson

Title: Development Director

Organization: 1house at a time, a program of A Nurtured World

Address: 8418 Fathom Circle, #503, Austin, TX 78750

Membership Category: Non-Profits

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Email: [effie@1houseatathetime.org](mailto:effie@1houseatathetime.org)

**Questionnaire** – Please note that answers will appear online as they are answered below:

**a. In general, why do you wish to be a member of the Chapter Board?**

I would like to put my skills, knowledge, experience, and passion for sustainability to good use for the Chapter.

**b. Please provide a summary of your professional qualifications, knowledge and experience of most relevance to the Chapter. Also indicate the degree to which you have senior management and executive level experience.**

As Sustainable Development Coordinator for a commercial real estate development company, I gained first-hand experience of green building from an owner's perspective. As an architectural project manager, I gained knowledge of the building industry, and insight into the challenges & advantages of a design professional with multiple directives. However, the most valuable experience I bring to bear, I believe, is my other non-profit governance and self-sought learning about sustainability.

**c. The Chapter is committed to strengthening its membership diversity. What resources could you bring to bear (e.g., demonstrated expertise, leadership positions, and willingness) to help further Chapter participation from high priority**

**sectors including: real estate, energy/utility, finance/insurance, residential, corporate, and product manufacturing? You can also address other sectors you think require greater involvement in the Chapter.**

In my role with the Chapter for the past 22 months, I've instigated valuable strategic relationships and have given presentations on LEED-related topics to diverse groups and encouraging the reach & scope of the chapter in other ways, including by coordinating pilot LEED study groups and recruiting new Board & committee members. I will continue to give my time and energies to outreach & education, as this is a personal priority.

**One of the important functions of Board members is fundraising and other activities to support priority needs of the Chapter. This may take many forms, including: direct sponsorships; helping secure funding or otherwise opening doors from corporate, governmental, and charitable sources; seeking third-party sponsors; recruiting important new members; in-kind support, etc. Please explain your ability and willingness to participate in resource development.**

As mentioned above, I piloted a program that will potentially create a new ongoing revenue stream for the chapter, and have personally solicited sponsorships. In my current position as Development Director for a local non-profit, I have gained much knowledge and a level of comfort with both creation and implementation of fundraising plans. In this capacity, I've helped raise funds from multiple sources, including corporate and foundation grants, individual donations, payroll deductions, technical donation acceptance systems, in-kind donations, and revenue-generating events. I will continue to prioritize funding of essential chapter activities if elected to a second term.

**d. Describe what expertise, experience and resources you would bring to any of the following priority activities; advocacy, LEED, education, research, community and organizational excellence**

I have had the privilege of being included in many webinars and seminars re: LEED given by USGBC National specifically targeted to chapters, through my involvement on the chapter Board, which gives me straight-from-the-source knowledge of the most current LEED v3 information. By volunteering to man the USGBC CT-B booth at several expos & shows, I've gotten to speak with current and potential chapter members, volunteers, and sponsors, which gives me unique insight into our region's specific needs. With regard to community and organizational excellence, the chapter has made tremendous strides by hiring an Executive Director (an effort of which I was a part), opening the door to an unprecedented level of community outreach & education, and the internal infrastructure to support it.

**e. Describe your experience from other organizations with successful chapter programs.**

I have been involved with the local chapter of Net Impact as a committee volunteer, BOMA Austin as a member, and with the ASID, also as a volunteer. I have not been involved with any other organization to the same degree as with the USGBC CT-B chapter.

**f. Leadership positions (volunteer or professional staff) with nonprofit governance.**

I have been an Executive Committee Board member and Chair of the partners (membership) committee with local non-profit Design~Build~Live for almost 3 years, and Development Director (a part-time contract position) with local non-profit A Nurtured World for almost a year, in addition to my role as Co Vice-Chair for the USGBC CT-B chapter for 2009, and Secretary for 2008. In these positions, I've become familiar with many tools and resources that are essential for non-profit organizational development. A couple of examples are: 1) my role in procuring a Constituent Relationship Management system to track & manage members, online donation & payment acceptance, event registration, and broadcast email communications for Design~Build~Live, and planning & coordination of several fundraising events for A Nurtured World.

**g. Other areas you believe are critical for the Chapter.**

I believe the chapter is poised to provide outreach and educational programming to counties outside Travis and Bexar in 2010-11, and to expand the current program offerings in those counties as part of the new credential maintenance program which is part of LEED v3. It is the local chapters' directive now more than ever, to be the provider of quality educational and professional networking opportunities to our membership, especially as awareness of green building grows. Of equal importance is growing strategic partnerships to advance the chapter's mission of becoming the go-to organization for information about sustainable building.

**h. Please identify any affiliations, memberships, and accreditations which may be pertinent for Chapter leadership.**

*accreditations:* LEED AP without specialization, NCIDQ certification, and coursework in solar photovoltaic design and installation

*memberships:* Real Estate Council of Austin (past member & volunteer), Building Owners and Managers Association (past member), Net Impact committee volunteer

*affiliations:* American YouthWorks, Austin Community College, AIA Government Affairs committee, Liveable City, COA NHCD Affordable Housing roundtable, COA/Travis County Housing Repair & Rehab Coalition, Design~Build~Live, and A Nurtured World's 1house at a time program

**i. Are you a chapter member in good standing and employed in the membership category above?**

Yes, I am a chapter member, and am a contract employee in the nonprofit category.

**j. Are you able to attend at least nine of the twelve regularly scheduled Board meetings each year?**

Yes

**k. The Board's conflict of interest policy is summarized in the Fact Sheet. As the full statement indicates, conflicts are not inherently improper but Directors must be conscious of such conflicts and act with candor and care in dealing with such situations. Will you abide by the Chapter's conflict policy and can you do so without significantly affecting your Board responsibilities?**

Yes, and yes