



Central Texas–Balcones

P.O. Box 157
Austin, TX 78767-0157
www.usgbc-centraltexas.org
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 buhlrich@usgbc-centraltexas.org in an electronic format by 5:00 pm, Monday, October 5, 2009.

2010-2011 Board Member Application Form

Submitted by: Kalpana Sutaria

Name: Kalpana Sutaria

Title: Project Manager Supervisor, Architect, LEED-AP & PMP

Organization: City of Austin, Public Works Department, Project Management Division

Address: 505 Barton Springs Road, #900, Austin, Texas 78704

Membership Category: Chapter member and USGBC member

Telephone: 512-974-7225 (o), 512-252-1619 (h)

Email: Kalpana.sutaria@ci.austin.tx.us

QUESTIONS:

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

I have been involved in implementing sustainable building principles in City of Austin's projects for about 15 years before LEED was introduced. As a student, my focus was on use of passive design systems to create built environment and reduce use of energy. I believe that as responsible stewards of the earth, we have a special responsibility to design and construct built environment to preserve resources of the earth and reduce global warming. I would like to use this position to promote this vision.

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.

I have worked with the City of Austin for 20 years as a project manager on building projects. I have provided leadership in all the jobs I have done at the City. I am a LEED-AP. Last three years, I am a supervisor of a group of project managers who are primarily architects and work on City's building projects. Two of my projects were LEED certified facilities. I am also chairing an Interdepartmental Sustainability Working Group of COA to implement two Council resolutions which require all buildings to achieve the most optimum levels of sustainability and incorporate green infrastructure. The attached shows our 2008 Sustainability Achievement Report.
(<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/sustainability/default.htm>)

c. The Chapter is committed to strengthening its membership diversity. What resources could you bring to bear (e.g., demonstrated expertise, leadership



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**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. **

I came to the US as a graduate student. I had my undergraduate degree in architecture in India. My experience of living in both countries gives me a broader look at the issues of developing and developed countries. The problems of climate change and global warming are truly global and cannot be resolved without all countries participating in that effort. My job at the City has provided a lot of leadership opportunities. I work with different City departments including Austin Energy to understand and implement the policy issues at local level.

- d. 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.**

I will try to seek governmental support and provide direct sponsorship.

- e. 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 am a member of AIA Austin COTE. In the City of Austin I have provided leadership in implementing LEED and sustainability in our projects. I would like to pursue my efforts to incorporate these principles in all City projects not just the building projects. I am working with Climate Protection Plan to reduce carbon foot print for our department that includes education of employees and green purchasing.

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

I do not have any experience with other chapters. Related experience is shown in "g".

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

I am one of the founding members of a non-profit group called SAHELI which helps victims of domestic violence of Asian origin. It was founded 17 years ago. I am still a board member of that group. I have learnt a lot about non-profit governance in this group. Also, I am a chair of the Architectural Control Committee in my homeowner's association. I was able to work with the community to add solar panels in the DCCRs.

- h. Other areas you believe are critical for the Chapter.**



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I think it is critical for the chapter to emphasize importance of energy performance in LEED buildings. This has been a criticism of USGBC. It is possible to have a LEED-Gold facility whose energy performance can be low and would get very low Energy Star rating. USGBC has started addressing this issue now. It is also important for the chapter to take part in community education. Education is the key in changing public opinion and behavior.

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

Yes, I am a chapter member.

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

Yes I would be able to attend at least nine meetings. I would like to join in by a conference call in some of the meetings.

- 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, I will be able to abide by the Chapter's conflict of interest policy as summarized in the Fact Sheet.