



Central Texas–Balcones

P.O. Box 157, Austin, TX 78767-0157

www.usgbc-centraltexas.org

512-470-9923

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heather Venhaus
2009 Chair
LBJ Wildflower Center
Effie Brunson
Co-Vice Chair - Austin
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Dr. Diana Glawe
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Trinity University
Andrew Kelch
Treasurer
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Heather DeGrella
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Gerry Acuna
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James Andrews
Board Member
SCRC Board Representative
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John Walewski
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Erin Zayko
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CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Michele Van Hyfte
Chair

SCRC REPRESENTATIVE

Kathy Zarsky
At Large Representative
Holos Collaborative

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Harris
SCRC Representative
Lake/Flato Architects
Gail Vittori
2009 National Chair
CMPBS

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 5th, 2009.

Email or call Brian Uhrich 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: **Maricela Rodriguez Barr**

Title: **President**

Organization: **The Barr Company, AIA**

Address: **612 A West 22nd Street, Austin, TX 78705**

Membership Category: **#4 - Real Estate, #8 - Architect & #10 Contractors and Builders**

Telephone: **512-474-4222 or 512-751-9422**

Email: **mbarr@thebarrcompany.com**



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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?

Being an Architect, Real Estate Agent, Interior Designer and Building Contractor for the past 28 years, it is evident that the most important part of our profession is maintaining our Earth's resources. I believe that we as individuals, architects and contractors need to do what we can and to educate ourselves and others in how to protect the earth. I have incorporated practices at my home, in my office and construction site to make users aware of the need to recycle, clean with environmental friendly cleaners, etc. As Contractors, I feel we could have the biggest impact since so many raw materials are used. As Architects, we can design our homes and commercial buildings by following a Green Building Protocol. I am passionate about a World Order which protects the earth and all the resources.

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 am a registered Architect, licensed real estate person for the State of Texas, and General Contractor. I have owned my own Architectural/Contracting firm for the last 28 years. I was appointed by Gov Ann Richards to serve as the first woman on the State Bd of Architectural Examiners for six years. I served as the Chair for the The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chair for The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce for five years. During that time, I also chaired the fundraising committee and increased our annual funds from \$25,000 to \$150,000 during those three years. I served on the RUDAT (Rural Urban Design Assistance Team) Committee for The Austin Chamber of Commerce which assisted the City in opening barriers between downtown Austin and east Austin. I have been an active member on the City of Austin Women & Minority Advisory Committee, the City of Austin Construction Advisory Committee, the City of Austin Small Contractor Support Network, plus other committees. I have been honored by The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce by being named Businesswoman of The Year for 1993, 1996, and 2003. I started out as a designer/builder of residential homes and have grown into design and building of commercial properties for entities such as The City of Austin, Austin ISD, Williamson County, Travis County, etc.

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.

I feel that I can bring my knowledge of the real estate, building contractors, and corporate sector to the table. Having owned my own business for 28 years and having served on many of the City Boards, I have a vast group of friends and business associates which I would like to recruit. My company also maintains a database of over 1,000 subcontractors for the area. I feel that this is an area yet to be tapped. I am a member of the Keller Williams Realty with over 1,200 members.

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 would like to establish new programs for the reuse of construction waste materials. See "b" for fundraising

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 am a firm believer in this program. I am trying to incorporate green living into every aspect of my life. My construction firm earned the first silver rating for a LEED project - The Owner was the City of Austin. We were contracted to provide a building in order to receive a bronze rating, but we took extra steps to receive a silver rating. We are very proud of this project.

As an architect and real estate person I must take continuing education classes and I have been concentrating on the LEED and green living classes. I am continually researching for new and better ways of saving our resources and incorporating that into our daily and business life.

I have a strong sense of community and am a very organized person. I have had to be with being the sole Owner of my Company. I am a hands on Owner in the daily operation of my businesses.

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

American Institute of Architects
Texas Society of Architects
Austin Chapter, AIA, served on the Executive Committee, as Commissioner, and
Small Sponsorship Chair.

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

I served on the Board of Directors for the United Way Capital Area. I was on the Board of Directors, served as chair for the Board Development and also as Secretary.

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

I believe that as being a Contractor for 28 years, our Subcontractors need to be educated. This is an important area of concentration. Another area for implementation which I have found as a Contractor, is that there should be more checks, more hands on involvement from the Qualifying entity when the Contractor is building. My experience to date is that there really isn't much involvement until the very end and it should start at the beginning of the project with checks made during the entire course of construction. I feel we need to also reach the "ordinary person". What can they do in their daily life to affect change? How do we reach the average Joe?

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

I am affiliated with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Austin Chamber of Commerce, Keller Williams Realty, the real estate development community and the Texas Society of Architects and the construction community.

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

I am a current member of Keller Williams Realty, and the American Institute of Architects-local,

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

Yes, I will attend the meetings. I look forward to them and becoming an active member.

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.



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2010-2011 Commitment Form

As a director of the USGBC Central Texas-Balcones Chapter Board of Directors, I will commit to the following basic responsibilities:

- Help determine the organization's mission and purposes;
- Input to hiring staff (if applicable);
- Ensure effective organizational planning;
- Ensure adequate resources;
- Manage resources effectively;
- Determine, monitor, and strengthen the organization's programs and services;
- Enhance the organization's public standing;
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability; and
- Recruit and orient new board members and assess board performance.

I will also commit to the following specific responsibilities reflected in the election materials:

1. Remain a Chapter member in good standing;
2. Serve on the Board for two years;
3. Contribute knowledge and experience to help assure success of priority programs and needs of the Chapter;
4. Help influence key players and sectors in the industry including high priority sectors of real estate, corporate, energy/utility, finance, residential and product manufacturers;
5. Help recruit new members for the Chapter;
6. Serve as a Board Liaison for committees as needed;
7. Help secure funding for the Chapter's programs through sponsorships, corporate and charitable sources, and other significant sources of funding;
8. Abide by the USGBC's Conflict of Interest policy, and
9. Attend at least nine of the twelve Board meetings each year.

Signature 

Date 10/5/09

Print Name Maricela Rodriguez Barr

Print Name