

Manhattan Community Board 11 2023 Election Questionnaire

We'd like to inform you that your responses will be made public on the CB11 website. As such, please avoid including any personal, identifying, or sensitive information. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for clarification.

Q1: What is your full name?

A: Jessica Elliott

Q2: What position are you running for?

A: Vice Chair

Q3: What is the role of this position as a Board Officer?

A: Per the CB11 Bylaws, the role of the Vice Chairperson is to further the purpose of the Board as directed by the Chairperson and act in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. I also view the role of the Vice Chair to support the members and staff of the Community Board, to identify opportunities for the board's work and partnerships with the Chair and District Manager, and to continually improve the processes, growth and leadership of the Board with the Chair and District Manager.

Q4: What skills and experience do you possess that qualify you for this position?

A: I have served in leadership roles through many different capacities across public and private institutions in my professional career. I am currently an Associate at Hart Howerton where I manage multiple large-scale planning and architecture projects across the country and serve on the ISO committee and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. I also serve as an Advisory Board member and Management Committee member as Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee for Urban Land Institute NY. I have a passion for health equity in the built environment and have participated in multiple leadership development training programs, from PSMJ training to participation in a 3-year Culture of Health Leaders program through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. I also serve on the WELL City Advisory Board and through the Columbia Community Partners in Residence program.

Q5: How do you view leadership? Check all that apply.

- **Leadership helps bring people together.**
- **Leadership is working with a team to get things done.**
- Leadership is telling people what to do to get things done.
- Leadership takes years to develop.
- **Everyone is a leader.**
- **Leadership is stepping back and allowing people to lead.**
- Leadership is giving your team the vision and telling them to execute it.
- Leaders run the show.
- **Leadership is a supportive role.**

Please explain:

A: I believe that the best leaders help to uplift others into their own leadership, admit what they don't know, listen, partner with people who they might not always agree with, and have a

continual willingness to learn and grow. Leaders should identify and address short and long-term opportunities for the betterment of the board and its work and seek to uphold the integrity of the board in acknowledgement of the rich history and work that has come before.

Q6: How long have you been a member of the Community Board?

A: I have been a board member since 2019.

Q7. What is your leadership background in terms of managing successful projects? Please provide an example of one project you've managed. What was the outcome?

A: One example of a project that I have managed in partnership with the Environment, Open Space and Parks committee and the Youth & Education committee is the Annual East Harlem Earth Day Conference. Together as a committee we identified the desire to hold this conference as part of our goals and accomplishments. We worked together to identify a space, work through the logistics of speakers, attendees, food and other program elements. After the event we review the outcome and discuss what worked and what could be improved. The event has been a success since its first year in 2022 and we look forward to hosting the 3rd annual event in April 2024.

Q8: What is your style of leadership? Please check all that apply.

- **Cross-Cultural Leadership**
- **Team Leadership**
- **Facilitative Leadership**
- **Transformational Leadership**
- **Strategic Leadership Style**
- **Democratic Leadership**

Please expound on your leadership style:

A: With my experiences in the MovingWorlds Institute, IDEO, and the Culture of Health Leaders programs, I have been fortunate to have training on leadership development across topics of diversity, equity and inclusion, cross-cultural leadership, systems change leadership, and more. My preferred method of leadership is to help think strategically for the long-term success of the board, while promoting the leadership of the board members as individuals and ownership of the work together. I think that the community board will function at its best when all members are activated and engaged in doing the work together even when we might disagree. We are a 50-person board that relies on collaboration and discussion and action to serve East Harlem effectively.

Q9: How would you ensure that you have an effective relationship with the full board? How would you ensure that the board maintains its independence to act despite the political allegiances of its membership?

A: I have worked to be in relationship with the board in my current leadership capacity as Vice Chair and look forward to continuing to build upon our friendships and partnership with each other now that we are back in person and able to engage in meetings and our work together directly. I commit to remaining accessible and to supporting members in any capacity that I can as Vice Chair in alignment with the board and its work. To maintain independence, I would continue to implore the board members to recognize their fellow board members, honor their commitments and their voices even when we disagree, and continue to uphold respect and our board's values in our work together.

Q10: How would you address or mediate conflict within the (1) Board? (2) the broader community we serve?

A: In partnership with the Chair, District Manager, and Executive Committee, I would continue to work to identify potential or active issues, explore solutions, and work within the bylaws and procedures of our board to take the most appropriate corrective action. As with any volunteer organization with 50 members, conflict and disagreement will undoubtedly occur, and it is our responsibility to find productive paths forward together so that the board work can continue without undue barriers. To address conflict in the community, I would continue to listen with an open mind to those who might not share the same opinions as myself, trying to find ways to address complex issues with solutions that seek to honor viewpoints from as many perspectives as possible. We must be able to work together if we want to be successful.

Q11: How do you collaborate to create productive partnerships within (1) Board? (2) the broader community we serve?

A: I like to think that my involvement across institutions and sectors improves my ability to facilitate partnerships, expand upon lessons learned across organizations, and assist in addressing complex intersectional issues. I have utilized my connections to provide trainings like the UrbanPlan for Public Officials workshop for CB9-12 community board members and staff for free. Outside of the board, I consistently push for city agencies, OMB and others to think across their jurisdictions and typical procedures. I also promote within the board our opportunities for cross-committee collaboration. The EOSP committee has worked with other committees and leadership to create events, promote opportunities for collaboration, and connect community partners. I look forward to continuing to build partnerships with our Chair and District Manager across organizations, sectors, boards, and boroughs to help further the impact of our work.

Q12: What are the top 3 issues facing East Harlem? How will you be effective in addressing these issues individually, within Executive Committee and as a full board?

A: The top three issues facing East Harlem in my mind are 1) the creation and preservation of affordable housing, 2) economic mobility and educational opportunity for East Harlem residents, and 3) the aspects of our neighborhood's environment that impact the health and longevity of East Harlem residents. I feel that my work in partnership with my fellow board members has addressed each of these items on an ongoing basis, including in the Statement of District Needs process and the EOSP committee work and East Harlem Earth Day Conference. Our effectiveness requires partnership with a number of our committees, city agencies and elected officials and we will continue to see the committees that work within these areas as well as the Executive committee advancing projects and elements that will assist in furthering our collective goals. I hope to continue to assist in the ongoing development and facilitation of all of our important work together as a community board.