

Board Candidate:

Rebecca Sappenfield Baptiste, Associate Manager, Advisory Services for the Center for Sustainable Energy

Why do you wish to join the Board of Directors of the San Diego Green Building Council?

After being an active volunteer with the San Diego Green Building Council since I moved to San Diego in 2014, I think the best way for me to meaningfully contribute to helping SDGBC achieve its mission and vision would be through volunteering on the Board of Directors. My main goals serving on the Board would be to increase the community's awareness of the great work done by SDGBC staff and volunteers, identify and pursue diverse and long-term funding sources for mission-driven projects, and ensure that volunteers continue to be meaningfully engaged in serving SDGBC's mission.

Please provide a summary of your professional qualifications, knowledge, and experience most relevant to SDGBC? Also indicate any senior management and executive level experience.

At CSE, I manage the San Diego Regional Green Business Network and Benchmarking Coach programs, where we help business and building owners learn how to be more sustainable. I also help cities pursue climate action plan goals through various projects. I have volunteered with SDGBC as a Green Assistance Program volunteer, completing the LEED v4 Feasibility study for the San Diego Food Bank Project and have won the SDGBC volunteer of the year award twice in four years. Finally, I have prepared for Board service through the Junior League of San Diego's Board Academy and Leaders2020 Board Next programs.

Please explain your availability and willingness to participate in resource development. This may take many forms, including direct sponsorship; helping secure funding or otherwise opening doors to corporate, governmental and charitable sources.

I am able and willing to assist in resource development. I have prior experience doing fundraising projects for both the Junior League of San Diego and annual giving for my high school. I am an experienced public speaker and am eager to spread the word about SDGBC's mission, encouraging new memberships and sponsorships to further fund mission-driven projects.

Please describe what other expertise, experience and resources you bring to the Board of Directors.

As a local non-profit professional and active community volunteer in San Diego, I have connections to many organizations and individuals in all sectors of the community. I have excellent writing and public speaking skills, which I would put to use pursuing additional funding opportunities, as well as spreading the word about SDGBC's great work in the community. Additionally, I am a LEED AP O+M and am currently pursuing my WELL AP.

Please describe your experience and any current engagement with other nonprofit organizations and governance:

As a non-profit employee, I understand the day-to-day realities and opportunities serving in a non-profit staff role. Through my volunteer work with the Junior League of San Diego, both as a member and in my previous leadership role as mission-based marketing chair, I understand the importance of effective volunteer engagement to achieve mission objectives under tight budgets and deadlines. Finally, my education through two different board service preparatory programs has allowed me to fully understand the roles and responsibilities of board members and prepped me with the resources I need to be successful in serving SDGBC's mission.

Affiliation, memberships, and accreditations that may be valuable to SDGBC leadership:

I'm a LEED AP in Operations and Maintenance, currently pursuing my WELL AP certification, and a lifetime member of Phi Beta Kappa. Additionally, I am an active member and volunteer with the Junior League of San Diego. Through my professional role at the Center for Sustainable Energy, I have many connections with local jurisdictions, industry professionals, and businesses throughout the region.

Additional thoughts on ways the SDGBC can improve attainment of our vision:

Through SB 350, California set aggressive goals to double energy efficiency savings by 2030. A key way SDGBC can improve attainment of its vision and help meet California's energy savings goals, is to continue and expand upon educating businesses and building owners/operators about the cost-savings potential of energy efficiency in the existing building stock. Additionally, SDGBC-hosted workforce development and training for tomorrow's energy professionals through programs like the Green Assistance Program, is crucial for ensuring the green building community continues to push the needle forward in achieving these ambitious goals.

Experience Focus: General Commercial Development

Strength: Active Community Volunteer, Grant Writing, Public Speaking, Event Planning, Strategic Planning

Committee Interest: Green Business Committee

Ambassador/Advocate/Asker: Ambassador