

City of Asheville BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS Application Form

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS OF A BOARD PRIOR
TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD

Name of board or commission(s): ASHEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Your name: Jenny G. Bowen

Home Phone #: 828-423-5673

Street address: 166 ½ E. Chestnut St. **City:** Asheville **Zip Code:** 28801

Mailing address (if different): PO Box 18571, AVL 28814

Employer: Poetry Alive!, Inc.

Your position: Finance Manager **Office Phone #:** 828-255-7636

Resident of City Asheville County Buncombe Race Caucasian **Sex** Fem. **Age** 27

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes

Residence location: Central

How did you become aware of the opening? Webpage-Blogs, Newspaper, Friends

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board, and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving.

Expertise: _____ Legal _____ Technical X Fundraising X Community Contacts
 X Business Management (Financial) X Business Management (Operational) X Public Speaking

Over the past four years I have been primarily employed in operational business management, and the past two years in financial business management, for a small local independent arts business.

I am engaged in an independent community documentary called the Faces of Asheville Documentary Project, which has given me the opportunity to receive the thoughts, concerns, and ideas of almost 400 citizens from every diverse aspect of our city. This has given me many great insights as to the state of our region, as well as extensive contacts in the community.

My experiences have developed leadership, community advocacy, and civic service skills. I have always found a gift in being at ease with public speaking and interactions. I am also a member of Toastmasters International so that I may continue to improve my skills.

Signature: Jenny G. Bowen

Date: 11/26/08

Email: docjen@gmail.com

Phone: 828-423-5673

Return to:

Maggie Burleson, City Clerk

E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov

Telephone: 259-5601

Fax #: 259-5499

- JENNY G. BOWEN -

PO BOX 18571 ASHEVILLE, NC 28814 828.423.5673 DOCJEN@GMAIL.COM

EDUCATION

1999-2004 University of North Carolina at Asheville

Bachelors of Arts, Multimedia Computer Arts & Digital Sciences

- Emphasis Photography / Digital Design / Theatre.
- Also studied History, ephasis American Politics
- Student Body Vice President (2002), Studeny Body President (2003)

EMPLOYMENT

2006-Present Poetry Alive!, Inc. Asheville, NC

Finance & Operations Manager, Show Coordinator

- Manage company books, finances, payroll, 401K, federal and state taxes
- Manage multiple pairs of actors all over the country on theatrical tours
- Exemplary customer service, data entry skills, daily multitasking and creative problem solving, filing & organizational skills, proficiency in Mac & PC platforms
- General responsibility in maintaining smooth flow of company operations

2005-2006 North Carolina Stage Company Asheville, NC

Executive Office Assistant

- Understanding of 501(c)(3) non-profit arts administration
- Box office management and office organizational needs
- In house graphics and publicity designer. Consistent website maintenance.

2004-2005 Americorps VISTA Reading, PA

Director of Community Tutoring Programs at Albright College

- Recruited education majors to tutor elementary math and reading in local schools
- Established a creative arts after school program for at risk urban youth
- Designed website, marketing, and press packages for program.
- Worked under strict budget and deadlines, reported to several administrators.

2005-2006 EarthGuild Asheville, NC

Crafts & Supplies Retail Associate

- Broad comprehension of various craft and textile art techniques
- Exemplary customer retail service
- Extensive knowledge of Asheville history, destinations and art for tourist traffic












CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

2008-2009 Downtown Master Plan Advisory Committee Asheville, NC

Community Liason and Represenative

- Advocate for the arts, local business, eco-industry, green development, historical presevation
- Myspace page designer

<p>~ CIVIC INVOLVEMENT ~</p>	<p>2008 Asheville City Citizen's Academy Asheville, NC <i>Participant</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in 13 week course learning basic in's & out's of city departments and the inner details of regional trends <p>2007-2008 Holly Jones for County Commission Asheville, NC <i>Member of Citizen-Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotions designer Event photographer <p>2002 Office of the Honorable Charles H. Taylor Washington, DC <i>Congressional Intern</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched bills, observed meetings, engaged in fundraising efforts, answered constituent mail, observed House & Senate proceedings, gave extensive constituent tours on the art architecture and history of the US Capitol Building.
<p>~ PHOTOGRAPHY & GRAPHIC DESIGN ~</p>	<p>1999-2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Davy Rothbardt, FOUND Magazine, publicity & documentary photographer Brett Loudermilk, "The Freak Prodigy", publicity photographer Asheville Fringe Arts Festival, publicity & documentary photographer North Carolina Stage Company, season poster designer Palooza Concerts, T-Bone Productions, documentary photographer Zealot Theatre Company, marketing design Documentary photographer for Manna Food Banks study funded by Duke University, "Manna Food Bank Recipients in Rural WNC" coordinated with Joseph G. Lee, Duke Research Fellow for WNC Migrant Farmworker Health UNC-Asheville History & Theatre Departments, graphic and website designer Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, public relations and arts marketing intern
<p>~ ARTIST EXHIBITS & PROJECTS ~</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creator & Director of the <i>Faces of Asheville Portrait Documentary Project</i>, exhibiting June 2009 at the Satillite Gallery (www.facesofasheville.com) Creator of <i>Calling Cards</i>, guerrilla art project of 13 calling cards designed to inspire citizens to a sense of community, spiritual, mental, or humanitarian action. (www.myspace.com/callingcards) <i>Faces IN Asheville</i>, street portraits people in Asheville – Rosetta's AVL, NC 2008 <i>Birth of the Millennium</i>, digital & found art exhibit, Hookah Joe's AVL, NC 2006 <i>Pride Rallies in Asheville</i>, documentary portraits, Outspoken, AVL, NC 2007
<p>~ AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS ~</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded Asheville Area Arts Council Regional Artist Grant 2007 UNC-Asheville: UNC-A Leader of the Year (2002) , Student Government Senator of the Year (2001), Resident Assistant of the Year (2001), Trustee on UNC-A Board of Trustees (2004), Vice President of the Society of Digital Arts (SODA), Vice President of the UNC-A Photography Association (2002-2003), Co-Founder of the Blue Echo Campus Radio Station (2002-2003), served on several various standing & ad-hoc committees ranging on all levels of importance. Scholarship for logo design of Asheville City Schools Multi-Cultural Program

 COMPUTER & ARTISTIC SKILLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Extensive experience in graphic design & digital photo editing. ■ Formal academic training in film photography & documentary studies. ■ Trained in 2-D & 3-D art, typography, full comprehension of 7 elements of design. ■ Able to learn software quickly and can type between 60wpm. ■ Experience with the following programs: Microsoft Office Suite Applications, Corel Suites, Corel PhotoShop, Adobe Photo-Shop, Adobe Suites, Adobe Premier, Adobe Audition, Quark, MYOB financial software, Soundforge, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Macromedia Flash, Final Cut Pro.
 OTHER SKILLS & TALENTS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Excellent at working in group-dynamics, able to take on leadership responsibility. ■ Have formal leadership training and attended seminars on group management; ■ Flexible, resourceful, creative problem-solver ■ Able to keep stability in times of disorder. ■ Ability to work and communicate with business class, struggling classes, elderly & children. Exposed to many different cultural aspects and social classes. ■ Experienced public speaker and presenter. ■ Member of Toastmasters International.
 PORTFOLIO & REFERENCES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ http://www.facesofasheville.com for current portrait work ■ http://picasaweb.google.com/docjen for current photodocumentary work ■ Personal contact information for references available upon request.
 P.O. BOX 18571  ASHEVILLE, NC 28814  828.423.5673  DOCJEN@GMAIL.COM 	

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

At the age of twelve, I moved to Asheville and the age of twenty-three I named her home. Every-time I leave I take comfort in knowing that I will always return, every time I arrive the soul of our mountains and the hearts of the people reinspire me.

For the past two years I have been researching Asheville on every level. I enrolled in the Asheville City Citizen's Academy in order to learn about our municipal government, which inspired me to become an informed & active citizen leader. In college, I studied Asheville as a historical entity, because without knowing our past we cannot hope to shape our future. Encouraged by our community I engaged a project that is documenting today's citizens for tomorrow's generations. I started taking portraits of individuals from every aspect of Asheville's diverse macro-community as a means of documenting the city's adaptations during an exponential time of global change. The project: Faces of Asheville Portrait Documentary, continues on to document participant's thoughts on the city and the roles of individual expression, community activism, and global awareness. In continued research, I have answered several of my initial questions but this has only lead me to ask many more. In physically documenting the contemporary thoughts & observations of almost 400 individuals from nearly every aspect of our city's culture, and by continuously speaking with countless others who find themselves attracted to this region, I have gained deep insight into major issues, challenges, concerns, beliefs, and opportunities that are consistent to our city.

As a strong independent woman, as a supporter of local business and regional economic stability, as an active professional artist, as a leader in a younger generation, as renter dependant on affordable housing, as a concerned citizen who believes in equal opportunity to a means for all citizens, and as a proud Ashevilleian, I would welcome the opportunity to serve the greater community with a sound and reasonable perspective rooted in the sustainability of a prosperous future and love for the community of today.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

My background is rooted in public service. While attending UNC-Asheville I served as the non-partisan Student Body President where I helped develop many essential programs for students as the University was growing in popularity. During this period, I served as an intern in the United States Congress to the conservative Charles H. Taylor so that I could gain a deeper appreciation for our nation's history and a better understanding of the federal government's current state of infrastructure. The next year I worked as a personal assistant to the retired democrat Marie Watters Colton, the first female Speaker Pro Tempore of the North Carolina House of Representatives, inspiring me both as a community leader, a woman, and as a public servant. I do not straddle issues but rather attempt to see all aspects before making cohesive decisions. I am more concerned with local needs and opportunities rather than the national liberal or conservative biases.

Fiscally I believe in balanced budgets, prioritizing local programs necessary to retaining equal opportunities, stabilizing infrastructure, along with supporting our diverse community's needs and desires with creative and thoughtful solutions. When it comes to debt, Asheville's long history of mountain pride should be revered and respected. I would strive fiscally to encourage the native Asheville classes, focusing on residential sustainability and equilibrium within a tourist-based economy. I would also look to solutions that would diversify our economic strengths so that we are not strictly dependant on the affluence of visitors.

Socially I put emphasis on programs that endorse the arts and sciences so they uplift our community while striving to inspire the individual. Ideally, social programs should be designed to give equal assistance to citizens outside of what is provided by the free-market. Social programs that need to be prioritized in the city's eyes include equal opportunities to clean & safe, affordable housing and consistently accessible public transit. By investing in our future with youth outreach and support systems, we can sustain as vibrant and budding culture.

3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

Asheville and America alike are engaged in an overhaul of infrastructure. Asheville will need to start transitioning from a priority of tourism into a state of local sustainability and industrial resourcefulness. We will need to focus on economic stability and community preparations in the next eleven months.

The first priority is completing, passing, and initiating the Downtown Master Plan. I have been sitting on the Downtown Master Plan Advisory Team and have been included at the table of close discussions with key figures representing the best interests of all aspects of the community. Local businesses need support in creative manners and growth must continue with emphasis in green technology and quality eco-development. The process of approving projects needs to be uncomplicated and in-fill development and renovations should be emphasized instead of building on empty lots. The city and the county must emphasize height growth in downtown area view sheds over the sprawl into precious farmland. There is a concern that the implementation of the Downtown Master Plan will falter under the constraints of political agendas, and that a lot of dear people's time will be wasted and taxpayer money ill spent. Coming from an inside perspective of the process would allow me to bridge the entities of public officials who have worked so diligently on preparing this plan and the public servants who are to be the stewards of civic initiatives.

The second concern will directly coincide with the Downtown Master Plan and that will be to support the city's new Planning & Development Director Judy Daniel and her department's overhaul of the Unified Development Ordinances and the process of approving downtown development projects.

The final major priority that will need to be addressed this year is to establish an infrastructure of transportation. A Transportation Master Plan would need to develop the future of downtown & local interstate traffic. The Bicycle Master Plan, as passed by Council last February, should start broad scale implementation. In the immediate needs of our transportation infrastructure, the city should examine our downtown parking rates and coordinate fees to encourage clean-air dependable bus travel for all metro citizens. Quality public transportation serves as a key to a stronger economic work force, integrated classes, and increased access to affordable housing.

4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

There is no one cause, need, or crucial problem facing the entirety of our citizens. The city is an integrated macrocosm of individual microcosmic needs and issues. Through the research conducted with the Faces of Asheville Project, I have identified seven major issues that concern our community. Each issue comes with its own challenges and opportunities. The issues: local businesses and economic sustainability, eco-consciousness and green techno-industry, artistic creativity and freedom of individual expression, diversity and integration, interfaith spirituality and alternative and traditional health and human services, which are all influenced by the accessible and transparent local government.

Where I to be appointed to Councilwoman Jones' seat, my primary initiative over the next eleven months would be to organize and coordinate city-wide discussions based on gaining understanding and insight as well as networking and establishing foundations for infrastructure on those key issues.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

Affordable housing initiatives, health and human services, encouraging new economic industry and local business development, and increased access to dependable and safe public transportation would be key funding priorities.

In order to balance the budget, increase public awareness initiatives, and encourage commitment to local sustainability I would support [but would not propose an initiative of this nature without being democratically elected during a public election] a property tax increase on all non-primary homes that are not being rented for residential or business use. Current property taxes for primary residences may need to be reconsidered within the currently shifting economy.

I would support cutting the majority if not all of the Asheville Film Festival from the city's budget and responsibilities. Art flourishes better without the dictations of municipal rule, and in line with better practice, it makes sense to follow suit with other successful city film festivals and find private sponsors to promote and further the future of the Asheville Film Festival.