



MOUNT WASHINGTON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Together We Can:
Inspire. Nurture. Transform.
301 Shiloh Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15211
412.481.3220 tel
412.481.2324 fax
mwcdc.org

MWCDC Board Nominee Biographies

The following ten candidates are running for seven available seats on the MWCDC's Board. The 5 top-ranked candidates will each fill three year terms. The next 2 ranked candidates will each fill a two year term. All MWCDC members whose membership was up-to-date as of September 16th are eligible to vote in the election on Thursday, October 16th, at 7:00 PM at the Virginia Avenue Senior Center. If you have any questions, please call 412.481.3220.

Lynn Banaszak Brusco. Lynne has worked in the City of Pittsburgh, in economic development, community investment and government relations for the past 22 years. Her work has allowed her the great fortune to forge working relationships with government leadership, philanthropic decision makers and innovators who are investing in our region's vitality. Recently, Lynn moved to Duquesne Heights and is passionate about the continued revitalization of the city's assets, believing that our Mount Washington community should be treated as one of the city's key neighborhoods. Lynn would like to leverage her experience and relationships to serve our community. It would be Lynn's pleasure to serve each of you to make sure that our streets, residents and businesses are represented when funding, policy and economic vitality decisions are being made by the city, the county, state and federal leadership. Following are a few of Lynn's accomplishments:

- Raised and invested more than \$30M in economic development initiatives over last 12 years
- Member of the White House Business Council Economic Development Panel
- Appointed to Pittsburgh Mayor Peduto's Transition Team
- Served on County Executive Fitzgerald's Transition Innovation Team
- Nominated for the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Coro Alumni Leadership Award
- Pittsburgh Business Times 2013 BusinessWomen First award winners.
- Nominated for 2012 and 2013 Athena Award
- The National Diversity Council of Pennsylvania's Most Powerful and Influential Women of 2012

Darla D'anna moved to Mount Washington 45 years ago and currently lives in Chatham Village. She is currently a Realtor, although her past life included working at Hillman Library and Human Resources at University of Pittsburgh and years of volunteer work: WGED, Kingsley, Children Hospital, Jaycees, campaigns. Darla has been active in the Mount community on committees, events, and the MWCDC for 45 years and would like to continue to serve and make Mount Washington the best community possible.

Gianny Diaz is the Land Supervisor at Cabot Oil & Gas. He received his juris doctorate from WVU College of Law in 2003, and has worked for the oil and gas sector since graduation. He moved to Pittsburgh from Oklahoma City in November of 2011, and is originally from Sarasota, FL. He built a new house at Sweetbriar Village after picking Mount Washington for its prime location, and as a resident wants to improve the area to see it thrive.

Eric Horwith has volunteered for the MWDC and served on its board since 2009. A 15 year resident and home-owner in the Duquesne Heights community of Mount Washington, Eric is currently employed by the local, non-profit, Family Hospice & Palliative Care as Vice President of Access. He serves on the City of Pittsburgh's Commission on Human Relations as Treasurer of that department, and was recently elected by residents of Mount Washington as Allegheny County's Democratic Committeeman for Ward 2, District 3. He was also appointed to serve on Mayor Peduto's transition team to assist with the development of the City's Ethics Review Board.

Breen Masciotra is a seven-year resident and homeowner in Mount Washington. She has served on the MWDC Development Committee for six years and the Board of Directors for five years. She also serves as the primary MWDC representative to the Hilltop Alliance Board of Directors. Breen has spent the last ten years working for and with nonprofit community organizations and she is currently employed with Port Authority of Allegheny County. Breen has a BA in Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her neighbors.

Ryan Mustio was born and raised in the suburbs of Pittsburgh and graduated from Moon High School in 2005. Ryan attended Virginia Tech and graduated with a Bachelor's of Architecture in the spring of 2010. During the summers he interned with 2 full service Architecture / Engineering firms; IDC Architects and Astorino Architects. After graduating, he attended Robert Morris University while working for Astorino and graduated with a Master's of Business Administration, since then he has become a licensed architect and works for Astorino as a Project Architect. Ryan has lived in Mount Washington for 3 years now, becoming a homeowner in June, buying the house that the MWDC renovated on Eureka Street.

Edward Preston has been a resident of Fingal Street, in Duquesne Heights, for over eight years, residing there with his wife, Walki, and eight month old son, Nico. Ed, Walki and Nico enjoy walks along Grandview Avenue and to Eileen McCoy Playground. For over three years, Ed has been in-house legal counsel with Zamagias Properties, a Pittsburgh based real estate developer who owns and operates shopping centers, office buildings, student housing and residential properties throughout the eastern portion of the country. Ed attended the University of Pittsburgh, receiving degrees in Computer Information Science and History and a certificate in Historic Preservation, and the Duquesne University School of Law. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the MWDC, including its Executive, Development and Governance committees, over the past five years, Ed attends Haven Heights United Methodist Church, on Virginia Avenue, and is a member of the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations.

Alaina Spanoudakis. Raised in Mt Washington, Alaina returned as a homeowner after attending Pitt and earning a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies and completing her graduate work at Duquesne. For the past 10 years she has worked as a teacher for Pittsburgh Public schools where she has been recognized and also held various leadership positions. Her community contributions include founding the Run for Roch, a 5k race/walk and memorial scholarship fund, and supporting the Ream Recreation Center.

Kyle Stewart is a young professional living near the former Prospect School in Mount Washington and enjoys sports, politics, and meeting new people. Meeting neighbors and new people helps him understand the complex problems we all face, both individually and as a community. Kyle is running for a Board seat in order to work together to find a solution to our problems. While learning and getting engaged with community issues as a committeeman, in his free time he also enjoys mentoring students with the Goodwill of Pennsylvania GoodGuides program and officiating high school and college basketball.

Josh Whiteside grew up in the South Hills of Pittsburgh where he attended Upper St. Clair High School. He continued his education and football career at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, where upon graduation he returned to his native city to begin his career as an independent corporate benefits consultant. In 2012, Josh and his childhood friend, Megs Yunn, began the non-profit organization Beverly's Birthdays, providing birthday celebrations for homeless youth, for which he now proudly serves as Development Director. Josh currently resides in Mt. Washington with his girlfriend, Lindsey, and his Boston Terrier, Ries.