

Member Biographies

Willis Adams

Mr. Adams was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Austin in the summer of 1980, He attended both the University of Akron, in Akron, Ohio and the University of Texas. He's been a member of the CBOC since the fall of 2007. Mr. Adams was a board member of ARA (Austin Revitalization Authority) for seven years, in addition to a former CAC member at Maplewood Elementary School. Mr. Adams recently retired from Continental Airlines after serving 24 years as a Manager, Hazmat Trainer and Crew Chief. His wife is Carla Nickerson, a well-known Austin actress and artist, and they have an 18-year old daughter who is a senior at McCallum High School.

Ramon Alvarez

Ramón Alvarez is a senior scientist in with Environmental Defense Fund, where he works on clean air and clean energy issues. He is proud dad of two boys who attend Highland Park Elementary. He has previously served on the City of Austin's Environmental Board. He is a new member of the CBOC.

Margarito Aranda

Margarito Aranda has been a member of the CBOC since fall 2006. He attended both The University of Texas and St Edward's University. Together with his wife, he operates a small restaurant in South Austin. He is the father of three children, two of which attend AISD schools.

Mary Ann Auster

Mary Ann has 30 years of engineering and business leadership experience in the high tech industry, specializing in product and process development, as well as strategy deployment and change management. She is a product of Illinois schools, where she completed her undergraduate studies in Computer Engineering from Northwestern University and Masters of Science in Computer Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She has resided in Austin since 1997, after relocating here from Chicago with her husband and son. Mary Ann has been active in the Austin schools through PTA and APIE, and most recently as a member of the Middle Level Education Plan action teams.

Mark Boyden

In youth, Mark's Mom taught him to be involved in shaping the world. An Eagle Scout, and state bicycle champion in his youth, active in community organizations throughout his schooling years, it's no surprise to anyone that he became a busy-body serving in the community. Among his many lifetime activities, more recently Mark spends time as a DJ on KOOP Radio, a local community station operated by volunteers, producing both music and news programming. His passion is working with local organizations to empower the community and better the quality of life in Austin. Among others, he currently serves with his Windsor Park Neighborhood Association, the Austin Neighborhoods Council, the Austin Clean Water Program, and the Austin 42 Club. Professionally, after working at Emerson Process Management (then Fisher-Rosemount) in the 90s, serving primarily as their global Internet lead strategist, Mark became a member of Athens Group, an employee-owned, democratically run company specializing in the integration of technology and software solutions for Fortune-500 companies. In 2003, Mark left Athens Group and formed his own consultancy focusing on small-to-mid-sized businesses and non-profits. In 2004, he purchased Junior's Beer and Wine, a local keg beer and wine store near the UT campus. Mark has lived on the east side of Austin since arriving in 1984, moved to Windsor Park in 1992, and purchased there in 1996. Mark's son spent 2/3 of his schooling in AISD, at all levels, and his daughter is in 2nd grade at Blanton. Mark's past and current hobbies include volleyball, 42, canoeing, music, back-packing, camping, massage, bicycling, skydiving, sailing, and the outdoors.

Rosanne Brazeal

Rosanne Brazeal is originally from Corpus Christi and attended Baylor University. She is the owner of a small power sweeping company and is an account executive for a whole mortgage lender in San Diego, California. She has four children, one of whom attends Ann Richards. She is the president of the PTA at Paredes Middle School and has become very much interested in the education system and believes parental involvement is critical. She is a new member of the CBOC.

Cari Clark

Cari is a graduate of The University of Texas and a native Austinite. She has been a homebuilder since 1989 and over the past 20 years she has built hundreds of homes in Central Austin. Cari has been active in local politics and has served on the state board for The League of Conservation Voters. She joined the CBOC in the fall of 2008, and she is the current Facilities Chair for the Friends of The Academy at McCallum. Cari and her husband have one daughter who is a freshman at McCallum.

Nan Clayton

Nan was born and raised in Central Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas Austin with a BA in Zoology (Physiology) and a MEd in Chemical Education. Professionally, she has taught and practiced chemistry including eight years with the Texas Health Department in water, food, and drug testing.

Married to Bill Clayton, they have three sons, all graduates of Austin ISD.

Nan has served on many AISD committees, including 14 years on the AISD Board of Trustees. Most recently she served on the 2008 Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee.

Ashton Cumberbatch

Ashton G. Cumberbatch Jr., is the Vice President of Advocacy and Community Relations for Seton Family of Hospitals. Prior to joining Seton, Ashton served as Police Monitor for the City of Austin; a partner in the law firm of McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, L.L.P., where he was head of the employment law section; and Chief of the Trial Division at the Travis County District Attorney's Office. In addition to his work at Seton, he still provides counsel at Cumberbatch & Associates, where he focuses on employment law and mediation.

Mr. Cumberbatch is an Associate Pastor at Agape Christian Ministries; and also ministers at Austin Bridge Builders Alliance (ABBA), a faith-based intermediary that influences Christian and community leaders to build partnerships that break down barriers and more effectively fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. As part of his ministry, he has been doing cultural competency training since 2001 and is one of the co-authors of the Austin Pastoral Covenant for Racial Reconciliation and the (Austin) Commitment to Racial Reconciliation.

Staley Gray

Staley Gray has served on the CBOC since the formation of the committee. She was asked to serve based on her service through PTA's and her involvement with Texas Parent PAC. As the parent of three school age children, public education is always a priority.

Jacquelyn Hawkins

With over thirty years of experience in automated systems, Jackie is currently employed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as an Information Technology Consultant. Having an avid interest in education, she has devoted countless volunteer hours to organizations with scholarship objectives and adult literacy programs. She has also served

on advisory committees to local school boards for the purpose of developing and maintaining specialized magnet schools, particularly in science and technology. In addition to the CBOC, she serves as a U.S. Commissioner for UNESCO where worldwide education is one of the priorities. Jackie earned her Bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. She and her husband, Albert, have three children, the youngest now in 8th grade in the magnet program at Kealing Middle School.

Morris Hoover, AIA

Morris is an Austin native, a product of AISD schools, and a graduate of UT Austin School of Architecture. Morris' wife Lynn is a retired AISD Special Ed educator, and is now assistant administrator of Rawson Saunders School, a private school that specializes in dyslexia education and training. Morris' two children attended AISD schools, including the Science Magnets at Kealing and LBJ. As owner of Hoover & Associates, Architects & Planners since 1981, Morris is interested in the management and growth of the "bricks and mortar" part of the AISD school system, and has been a member of the 2004 CBOC since its inception.

Lawrence Huang

Larry works as a chip designer and software developer in the high tech industry. He received a B.S. and M.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a participant in AISD UpClose. He served as PTA treasurer at Kealing Middle School and on various committees supporting the magnet program. His daughter is in the Academy of Global Studies (AGS) at Austin High where he participates in the CAC.

Bobby Jenkins

Bobby Jenkins has served as one of the CBOC tri-chairs since 2005. He is owner of ABC Pest and Lawn Services in Austin and a graduate of Texas A&M University. Bobby is active in the Austin Chamber of Commerce and Caritas. He has three children, who are either attending or attended AISD schools.

Cindy Lara

Cindy Lara is an HR Generalist for the State of Texas, who has dedicated 22 years of her career to state government. She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and lifetime LONGHORN fan. Cindy has three amazing children who attended AISD and are currently attending ACC. This is her third year serving CBOC.

Rashaanne N. Lewis

Rashaanne N. Lewis is a graduate of Houston Baptist University, ACC, and completed some coursework at Huston-Tillotson University. Her degrees are in Hospitality Management with a minor in Accounting, Global Business, and Theology. She is currently a student at the Austin Graduate School of Theology, Austin. She has one daughter and is the vice president of the Austin Council of PTAs-LBJ Vertical Team (2nd year). She is a youth minister for PAPILLON Ministries, Inc. Also, she is the Founder, President, and CEO of Girls Inc. of Greater Austin. Her passion is to metamorph girls ages 9-18 into responsible, successful young ladies, while inspiring them to be STRONG, SMART, & BOLD.

Eliza May

Eliza May has been an Austin resident since 1976. She holds a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She is the former president of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) and currently is the senior vice president for the public affairs firm of Adelante Solutions. In 2004 she was nationally recognized by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of for the "Best Large Chamber in the U.S." award and also was awarded the "Best Regional Chamber in the Southern Region". Ms. May has been involved in numerous community initiatives including the historic Save Our Springs Referendum, which in 1991 awarded her the Barton Springs Guardian Award. She has been recognized by the LULAC Foundation as the recipient of the Outstanding Hispanic Woman in 1996.

Ms. May dedicates her time and financial resources to numerous nonprofit organizations and serves as a tri-chair for the A.I.S.D. Bond Oversight Committee. Additionally, she is the Treasurer for the Austin Area Inter Religious Ministries, and serves on the boards of the Austin Revitalization Authority and Austin Partners in Education.

She is married to Tracy Kelly and has two dogs: Ebi Dog and Blue Boy.

Beverly Mendez

Beverly Mendez is a 1988 graduate of Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) with a degree in Accounting. She has worked for the State (TCADA & Comptroller of Public Accounts) in contracting and auditing capacities. She has worked in purchasing and contracting for the Lower Colorado River Authority, USAA and currently for the City of Austin. Beverly is a member of the Texas Association of Public Purchasers, Akins Boys' Basketball Booster Club President, Akins Baseball Booster Club President, member of Akins CAC, Paredes PTA, Akins PTSA, AISD UpClose participant and Sunday school teacher. She and her husband live in south Austin with their two boys who attend

Paredes Middle School and Akins High School.

Carolyn Merritt

Carolyn Merritt has been a volunteer at Kiker (PTSA and CAC), Bailey (office volunteer) and Bowie (PTSA and CAC). She has served as the chair of the Circle C Education Committee and was active in the 2004 Bond Program election efforts. Carolyn has a degree in engineering and currently works part-time for Test Spectrum, Inc. She has two children currently attending AISD schools.

Mary Ann Neely

Mary Ann has a long involvement with environmental issues and is a member of the City of Austin Environmental Board.. She was state co-director of Clean Water Action, worked at the Lower Colorado River Authority and worked with the City of Austin's Climate Protection Team for the past five years. She has been a member of the CBOC since its inception and is currently the acting chair of the Survey Subcommittee. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Arizona and has taught elementary school.

Sarah Price

Sarah Price is new to the CBOC. She is a native of Central Texas and is a former high school social studies teacher in AISD. She holds a Masters Degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas but is currently a stay-at-home mother to her three children. Two of her children currently attend Barton Hills Elementary in AISD with the third starting kindergarten next fall. Sarah is active on the Barton Hills PTA and is co-chair of the Campus Advisory Council.

Jim Recek, AIA

Jim has been a member of the CBOC since its inception. A principal of his own architectural practice in Austin for 25+ years and a graduate of the UT School of Architecture. He was an original member of the Austin Adopt-A-School program which started in the early 1980's. Jim and his wife have three children who went through the AISD school system.

Steve Rogers

Has been a member of the CBOC since its beginning in February of 2005. He has a B.A. in Computer Science from UT and a B.S. in education from the University of Illinois. He has worked as a software engineer at National Instruments for almost 25 years. He has spent

half a day each week at Burnet Middle School tutoring eighth grade math students for the last 10 years. He is also on the Burnet CAC through which he became aware of the CBOC.

Jeff Walker

Jeff Walker is the Director of Project Development for the Texas Water Development Board. He has served on the CAC, Executive Board and as president of the PTA at Mills Elementary. He previously served on the Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee for the 2004 and 2008 Bond Programs. His wife is a second grade teacher in AISD and he has a freshman and fifth grader in AISD. He stays busy shuttling and cheering his boys in sports and music.

Horace Willis

Horace is a long-time resident of Northeast Austin and a community activist. He is a civic leader and has actively supported AISD schools in many capacities. He currently manages the Churches' Food Bank in Northeast Austin.

Kennard Wright

Kennard is the Alumni Affairs Coordinator at the LBJ School of Public Affairs where he is responsible for alumni related programs and initiatives.

He is a graduate of Leadership Austin, the McBee Fellowship in Civic Entrepreneurship with the AARO, and of AISD UpClose, and he served on the 2008 AISD Budget Task Force.

He is a board member with A New Entry, which provides reentry services for individuals who were formerly homeless, incarcerated, or on drugs. He also serves as parliamentarian for the Black Faculty and Staff Association at the University of Texas, on the Theatre Action Project Advisory Council, and on the Lee Elementary CAC.

He received a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from the LBJ School, and a B.A. in Political Science from Morris Brown College. He is the proud father of a second grader at Lee Elementary School whom he loves dearly. He is a new member of the CBOC.

Peck Young

Peck Young, Director of ACC Center for Public Policy and Political Studies, was the political consultant for all of AISD's successful bond campaigns from 1983 until 2004. His wife taught in the system for 30 years and his wife, he and both his daughters graduated from AISD. He has been on the CBOC since its inception.