

2025 SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR SHCA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Office	Term	Candidate Name	Bio
President	2025-2026	Bob Kramer	<p>My goal, if elected, as President is to empower the SHCA Board and committees to set the SHCA agenda through respectful debate and community outreach.</p> <p>I have served as a SHCA Board Member since May 2015, during my tenure I have been chair of the Legal Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the 5th St Committee, which led the effort to retain the Acme market on 5th Street. I have also been a member of the Finance, ZHP, I-95, Parking, Master Plan and Foglietta Plaza Committees.</p> <p>My wife and I have been residents of Society Hill since 2012. I am a retired attorney. During my career I have represented clients with respect to real estate matters, mergers and acquisitions, securities, corporate governance, commercial transactions, employment law, and finance.</p>
1st Vice President	2025-2026	Mary Purcell	<p>I have been volunteering in the community for over 10 years, having been a Partner of Towers Perrin and a Principal at Mercer leading teams in account, operations and project management. In Society Hill I have worked in ways large and small, from clean-up days, the holiday social, chairing the McCall School Committee and helping enact our Neighborhood Plan into law. I chair our I-95 and Foglietta Plaza committees.</p> <p>In my time volunteering here, I have found the people of Society Hill to be caring and creative and willing to work together for our community and city. I hope for us to reinvigorate that and promote a more positive culture on our board and in the community. We need everyone.</p>
2nd Vice President	2025-2026	Jay Borowsky	<p>Jay Borowsky is the principal at the Law Offices of Jay M. Borowsky, LLC., where he engages in practice of business law. He counsels small and midsize companies in all business aspects ranging from start-up through succession planning. Jay also serves as general counsel for a Philadelphia region start-up.</p> <p>Jay has long been Involved in local community affairs. He is the founder and served as the first board president of Independence Charter School in Center City. Jay currently serves as a SE quadrant director of SHCA as well as the chair of the SHCA legal committee.</p> <p>As second vice president, Jay intends to focus on revitalizing the 2nd street business corridor, specifically to fill the vacancies in the former CVS and Wawa spaces.</p>

Treasurer	2025-2026	William Koch	<p>My wife and I reside on Delancey Street and can't imagine living anywhere else. I'm passionate about the neighborhood and protecting and improving its unique charm. I recently founded Society Hill Advisors, a boutique consulting firm providing business development, exit planning and strategic direction to founder-owned businesses.</p> <p>I believe my professional background in strategy and planning will complement the backgrounds of the other board members, helping us to prioritize and sustainably fund meaningful contributions to the neighborhood. Passionate about safety, cleanliness and promoting local business, I'm willing to support/lead any of the SHCA committees.</p>
Secretary	2025-2026	Brooke Marshall	<p>I'm Brooke Marshall and I've proudly called Society Hill home for four years. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, I lived in the Ambler suburbs for a decade. In Ambler, I was deeply engaged in community initiatives – from serving as an elected member of Borough Council, to aiding in the launch of a community-owned co-op grocery store, and volunteering at Pennypack Farm and the Farmers' Market. I'm passionate about building strong, connected communities. As a Board member, I will be actively engaged, transparent, and equitable in my representation of the community. I'm excited to bring my experience and dedication to the Society Hill Civic Association and hope you will support me with your vote!</p>
Director at Large #1	2025-2026	Stacey Ackerman	<p>Stacey L. Ackerman, MD, of Society Hill since 1986, is a current Board member of the SHCA. Stacey has been a member of the Condo Board for St. James Court for the past 14 years, and intermittently since 1986. She is a longtime member of the SHCA (since 1986) and a Board member since 2023. She is also serving on the Board of the Society Hill Preservation Foundation. Stacey has worked recently with the City of Philadelphia, our administrator Samantha Brown and others to secure a large grant from the State of PA to renovate Starr Garden.</p> <p>Education and Career: A retired ophthalmologist; College 1977 BA, Cornell University Medical Degree, 1981 SUNY Buffalo Internship (1981-2), Millard Fillmore Hospital, Ophthalmology residency (1982-1985) SUNY Buffalo, University of Pennsylvania Scheie Eye Inst., Private Practice (1985-2020), and privileges at Wills Eye Hospital (1987-2020).</p>

Director at Large #2	2025-2026	Antonio Atacan	<p>In 1997, my wife and I moved from Chicago to Society Hill to raise our family. I attended Wharton Business School and opened Philadelphia's first Keller Williams Realty, which became the city's #1 brokerage, and I recently sold it. I currently own Venture Philly at Hopkinson House.</p> <p>Having lived in Society Hill for decades, I appreciate the neighborhood and respects its preservation. As a board member, I'd help us improve South Street and make the thoroughfare more family-friendly. My experience on numerous real estate boards makes me aware of the commitment required, and, as a natural team player, I am ready to collaborate and contribute to the board's efforts to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Society Hill.</p>
Director at Large #3	2025-2026	Brandon Englehardt	<p>Brandon Engelhardt is a longtime Philadelphian, tech executive, and homeowner on Lombard Street. He and his wife live in one of Society Hill's oldest homes (Palmer House, 1742). Formerly at Microsoft and LinkedIn, he now oversees North American operations for a Philly-based tech company that supports economic development through tourism. With over a decade in technology, partnerships, and civic-focused innovation, Brandon brings real-world experience to neighborhood development. You may have seen him contributing to <i>The Reporter</i>, hosting the Garden Tour BBQ, or walking the beat as squirrel patrolman with his dog Fitzgerald. A UPenn graduate, he's currently pursuing an MS in Urban Strategy at Drexel. Brandon is committed to preserving Society Hill's legacy while modernizing how we fundraise and engage the community.</p>
Director at Large #4	2025-2026	Bonnie Halda	<p>Bonnie Halda has been a resident of Society Hill for 35 years and is a long-time member of the SHCA. She has held positions as SHCA Treasurer, Second Vice-President, and Chair of the Communications and Outreach Committee. She co-edits the weekly Spotlight and regularly contributes to the Reporter. Last year, she assisted in hiring the SHCA Administrator and social media contractor.</p> <p>Bonnie retired from the National Park Service in 2020, where she worked as a historical architect and manager. She has extensive experience with history and architecture, grants, and working with nonprofit organizations. She works part-time as a historic preservation consultant and free-lance photographer.</p>

Director at Large #5	2025-2026	Gracie Harrington	<p>Gracie Harrington is an Associate Director of Major Gifts at the University of Pennsylvania. Previously, Gracie held the position of Major Gifts Officer at Bryn Mawr College. Gracie began her career at her alma mater, Wake Forest University.</p> <p>Gracie serves as President of the Alumnae Association Board of Directors for the Bryn Mawr School for Girls. She also serves as a member of their Board of Trustees, holds two additional positions, and sits on three committees.</p> <p>Gracie graduated from Wake Forest University in 2015 with a BA in Politics and International Affairs and minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.</p> <p>Gracie enjoys spending time with her dog Mittsy Rae, traveling with her partner, and spending time with family and friends.</p>
Director at Large #6	2025-2026	Rick Herskovitz	<p>My wife and I have had the pleasure of raising our family in Society Hill and living here for several decades. I am a long-time member of SHCA and a Block Coordinator. Given my careers as an architect and developer, I am pleased to serve on the Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, helping our community grow responsibly. I always enjoy assisting neighbors, old and new. This is my community, my home and they are my friends. Ed Bacon was a mentor, and I was the managing director of the Penn's Landing Corporation at its inception. I ask for your support so I can serve on our Board. I will listen to your views and take them to heart.</p>
Director at Large #7	2025-2026	Ben Hooson-Jones	<p>My name is Ben Hooson-Jones, and I'm honored to express my interest in serving on the SHCA Board. I've lived in Philadelphia for nine years and in Society Hill for nearly three, developing a deep appreciation for its history, character, and community spirit. Originally from England, I value historical preservation and take great pride in living in a neighborhood that reflects so much of our city's heritage.</p> <p>Professionally, I'm a Realtor with the Mike McCann Team, the top-selling real estate team in the city. I believe in leaving your corner of the world better than you found it, and I'm eager to contribute my time, energy, and experience to help maintain and enrich Society Hill's unique qualities.</p>

Director at Large # 8	2025-2026	Judie Koss	<p>I have lived in Society Hill for the past 24 years and have proudly raised my children here. It's an amazing community with caring people and vibrant businesses, including some on Headhouse Square, near my home. I am passionate about keeping our neighborhood safe, supportive and connected.</p> <p>I am an attorney in the education and tech industries, and I bring years of experience of thoughtful detail-oriented analysis. I am committed to advocating for what matters most to our residents. I believe in being proactive, having open communication and discussing resolutions. I want to serve on the Board so I can help our Civic Association do its best to serve our community.</p>
Director at Large # 9	2025-2026	Nancy Lanham	<p>I have always been an urban resident, in Chicago and then in Society Hill for the last 36 years. My commitment to building community has been a constant. The diversity of our residents is one of our strengths. Through listening, clear communication and consensus building, our community can be safer, more comfortable and welcoming. The SHCA has always represented our needs, improving our community. I want to be part of that work.</p> <p>I am a Block Coordinator, Democratic Committeeperson, pedestrian and Rep Mary Isaacson's representative on the Interstate Land Management Corporation Board, working with SHCA on Foglietta Plaza. Professionally, prior to retirement, I was a banker and a non-profit executive director. I would appreciate your vote.</p>
Director at Large # 10	2025-2026	Kathleen McAfee	<p>My name is Kathleen McAfee, and I've lived in Society Hill for fourteen years and worked in public service for the entirety of my forty-year professional career, all in Philadelphia. Although I'm now self-employed, I would like to continue serving others as a Board Member of the SHCA. This neighborhood and the people who live here are important to me and, if elected, I will work to make sure everyone has a voice in the decisions that are made by the Board because they affect us all. I hope I can count on your support.</p>

Director at Large # 11	2025-2026	Al Meinster	<p>Serving as a Board and committee member should be seen as an act of caring for our beloved neighborhood and for me it has certainly been such. Headed Cleanup Days, Tree Tenders regular, Graffiti Committee's "spotter", McCall School Yard cleaner, Liaison to CCD Friday cleaners, Block Coordinator, PSA 3/5 Police Liaison.</p> <p>Easy to understand my love for Society Hill. I was born here, attended the McCall School, and have been a home owner here for more than 50 years.</p> <p>I have initiated a move to make functioning of the SHCA even more responsive and transparent by urging the distribution of the board meetings' minutes containing the voting record of each member. If elected, I promise to provide such minutes upon request.</p> <p>About me: Educator, Master Auto Mechanic, FCC Licensed Transmitter Technician, Real Estate Entrepreneur.</p> <p>M.A. Social Psychology, National Science Foundation Fellow, A.S.E. Certified Master Auto Tech.</p>
Director at Large # 12	2025-2026	Jules Pepitone Richardson	<p>I live in Bingham Court with my husband and toddler daughter. I work as an architectural designer at a firm in Philadelphia, where I contribute to a wide range of projects—from high-end residential homes and multi-family housing to commercial, institutional, and urban planning. I'm passionate about architecture, historic preservation, and the role the built environment plays in shaping vibrant, inclusive communities. I hold a B.F.A. in Interior Architecture from GWU and Master of Architecture from UPenn. I believe my professional background and perspective as a homeowner of a historically designated property designed by I.M. Pei would be a valuable asset to the board. I'm eager to contribute to preserving and enhancing the neighborhood where my daughter will grow up.</p>

Director at Large # 13	2025-2026	Ned Scharff	I am a long-term Society Hill homeowner running for re-election to the Society Hill Civic Association board. I want to help preserve and enhance the special charm and character of our neighborhood and to promote the spirit of neighborliness and civility that make Society Hill a special place to live. Like many current board members, I am troubled by the extreme dissention and ugly rhetoric that have characterized the SHCA in recent months. If re-elected, I will work to restore a sense of common courtesy and community and to support fresh SHCA leadership that is grounded in respect and caring for all our neighbors.
Director at Large # 14	2025-2026	Eric Stahl	I live at 606 Spruce Street with my wife Sarah and our kids, Maeve and Leo—we moved in four years ago. After the November election, I decided to focus my energy on my immediate neighborhood. I joined the SHCA Legal Committee and closely followed SHCA meetings. The SHCA is our community's strongest voice, and I think I could be valuable to the Board. I am an attorney, but as the safety and compliance lead for IKEA US my job is bringing teams together and problem solving. I also previously worked on local elections. I hope that my skill set and dedication to reasonable conversation can be an asset to the SHCA, and therefore Society Hill as a whole.
Director at Large # 15	2025-2026	Kim Williams	My wife, Rosanne, and I have lived in Society Hill for 16 years. I am committed to preserving the beauty and historic character of our neighborhood. I've been on the Board previously, serving as Vice-President, and as a member of several committees. I am a Block Coordinator. I support the Friends of Pine and Spruce and am committed to promoting the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike through fair and reasonable public policy. I am a retired President/CEO with expertise in board leadership, strategic planning, fund-raising and financial management. I believe in a collaborative approach to promoting the quality of life, beauty and historic significance of our neighborhood and would be honored to serve again on our Board.

NE Quadrant	2025- 2028	Paul Boni	<p>I've lived in Society Hill since the 1990s, currently in a Bells Court trinity. I am a zoning and land use attorney, and currently chair our Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, which listens to the views of neighbors, and supports community growth in ways that retain the character of Society Hill. I am also a member of the I-95 Committee.</p> <p>I have been on the Board for only a few months, finishing out someone else's term. I wish to continue my Board service to help promote decision-making based on transparency, proficiency and seeking consensus, after meaningful engagement with residents. A new idea of mine is that SHCA could provide professionally guided historic walking tours of Society Hill for our residents.</p>
NE Quadrant	2025- 2027 (filling vacancy)	David Haas	<p>David Haas raised his family in Bethesda, MD where he was president of the neighborhood civic association and treasurer of the volunteer fire department. He has served our community for three years on the board of the Society Hill Towers Owner's Council, as treasurer of the Society Hill Preservation Foundation, and treasurer of the Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition. He is a retired manager of major financial and technology projects at the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Labor Department, and National Archives, among others. David has two sons, in grad school at Berkeley and NYU. He raises funds for MS and sick children each summer as a rider in multi-day bike tours through the Poconos and along Maryland's Eastern Shore.</p>
NW Quadrant	2025- 2028	Joe McLaughlin	<p>I am a civic-minded resident who moved to Society Hill in 2022. Before settling here, I spent 14 years living in the Fairmount neighborhood of Philadelphia, where I actively contributed to the community as a board member for the Neighborhood Development Association. During my time there, I served as the chair for the zoning committee and held the position of treasurer for two years.</p> <p>Upon relocating to Society Hill, I immediately reached out to SHCA to offer my support and volunteer my time to help with the board's efforts in continuously improving our neighborhood. In my free time, you can often find me walking or running around Washington Square or volunteering to attend to the planting beds at Independence Mall. I am passionate about community development and would love the opportunity to continue serving on the board to help make a positive impact.</p>

SE Quadrant	2025- 2028	Tanya Brassie	Tanya Brassie is a designer and software engineer who has been living in Society Hill for the past three years. She first discovered the neighborhood during a college research trip and fell in love with its historical charm. After living in Austin, Brooklyn, and Paris, she is excited to call Society Hill home and to get involved in the community. She is particularly interested in helping to preserve and highlight the neighborhood's historic buildings and in boosting newer residents' awareness of — and involvement in — SHCA.
SE Quadrant	2025- 2026 (filling vacancy)	Nelie Shah	<p>As a committed homeowner of this vibrant and historic neighborhood, I care deeply about preserving its character while ensuring it continues to be a welcoming, safe and thriving community for all who live here. Professionally, I am an attorney with a strong background in advocacy, community engagement and problem-solving. I founded and ran a marketing and public relations firm that specialized in strategic communications and crisis management. This experience gave me a deep understanding of how to craft effective messaging, build consensus and engage diverse audiences. I am confident this could be a valuable asset to the Civic Association, particularly in the areas of community outreach, public relations and marketing initiatives.</p> <p>I enjoy connecting with neighbors, fostering dialogue and working collaboratively to support the success and well-being of our community. I am especially interested in contributing to efforts related to sustainability, public safety, historic preservation and responsible development.</p>
SE Quadrant	2025- 2027 (filling vacancy)	Debbie Zak-Cohen	<p>I have proudly called Society Hill my home since 1985 and served as a block captain for the 200 block of Pine Street for the past seven years. My appreciation deepens daily for the distinctive character and rich history that make our neighborhood truly special.</p> <p>I am dedicated to fostering a diverse and welcoming community grounded in strong, respectful relationships among neighbors, commercial partners, and our many cultural and educational institutions. Equally important is the stewardship of our majestic old-growth tree canopy and the preservation and maintenance of our historic surroundings for everyone's enjoyment.</p> <p>As a longtime resident, I look forward to collaborating with everyone in Society Hill to build an even brighter, more vibrant future for our remarkable neighborhood.</p>

SW Quadrant .	2025- 2028	Jason Anderson	Jason Anderson, an architect, and his family moved to Society Hill in 2021. Over the past four years, he has developed a deep appreciation for the neighborhood's unique character and historic charm. With a professional background in design, urbanism, and education, Jason is committed to preserving the area's rich history while actively engaging with the community and the SHCA to address ongoing quality-of-life concerns. As a resident of the Southwest Quadrant, he's experienced firsthand the nuisance posed by noise, litter, and speeding vehicles. Already in conversation with Councilman Squilla, Jason is dedicated to pursuing practical, community-driven solutions as an SHCA Director.
SW Quadrant	2025- 2028	Larry Spector	Living in Society Hill since 1976, my wife and I raised two daughters here and now enjoy grandchildren nearby. I served on the Board previously and as President from 2018-21. Before serving I met with every board member to form constructive relationships, leading to compliments even from those who were in the minority of any specific vote. I believe the health and general unity of both our Civic Association and our community members are more important than any particular topic. This will continue to be my philosophy going forward, if I am fortunate enough to obtain your vote. As an attorney who has litigated, and settled, business disputes for decades, I have the right stuff to help us succeed.