

Application to Fill Vacancy on Columbus City Council



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Related form version 1

Name Densil R Porteous

Pronouns He/They

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City Columbus

State OH

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District in which you are applying to serve District 7

Do you live within the corporate limits of the City of Columbus and within the district for which you are applying to serve? Yes

For how long? June 2013

Are you registered to vote? Yes

Registration address, if different than home address

Do you hold any other public office except that of notary public, or member of the state militia or any reserve unit of the Armed Forces of the United States of America? No

In 250 words or less, please include a statement that describes your motivation for public service at this time; any past or current community involvement; the most important perspectives, priorities, or skillsets you bring to the role and what you see as the greatest challenges and opportunities facing the City and District 7.

At this time, my motivation for public service stems from a commitment to uplift diverse voices and create a Columbus where all identities are represented and respected. As a longtime resident, advocate, and community leader, I've witnessed the power of inclusion and the positive impact it has on our neighborhoods. My involvement with local organizations like Create Columbus, Stonewall Columbus, and the Diversity Chamber of Central Ohio has reinforced my dedication to community-building, equity, and economic opportunity for all residents.

I bring a background in advocacy, business, and community engagement to this role, and I am ready to leverage these skills to serve District 7. My priorities include supporting small businesses, expanding diverse housing options, promoting continued public safety reforms, and fostering sustainable community growth and development. I believe in building partnerships that empower residents and allow Columbus to grow inclusively.

The greatest challenge facing Columbus—and particularly District 7—is ensuring that our rapid growth benefits all community members. We must address affordability, access to resources, and equitable representation to ensure no resident is left behind. The opportunity lies in creating a Columbus that leads in innovation and inclusivity. I am motivated to serve because I believe we can bridge gaps, strengthen neighborhoods, and create lasting change together.

Documents to be attached (Resume required, and rental agreement if applicable)

[Porteous 2024.docx](#)

By signing this application, I attest to the following: 1. I am a qualified elector (registered voter). 2. You have been a resident in the district for which you're seeking office for one year. 3. That you do not hold any other public office except that of a notary public, member of the state militia, or any reserve unit of the United States Armed Forces.



[Link to signature](#)

Densil R. Porteous

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614.309.5884

[LinkedIn](#)

My passion rests in driving organizational impact and intentional growth. I have successfully built and led diverse teams, optimized operations, and exceeded strategic goals. I have proven skills and talents in nonprofit management, communications, marketing, and fundraising/development at executive and administrative functional levels. I am seen as an organizational leader accomplished at building and motivating diverse and multi-generational teams, developing and implementing policies, creating strategic plans, launching program initiatives, and managing change.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Stonewall Columbus – Columbus, OH

Executive Director/CEO - January 2021 – Present (as CEO)

Interim Executive Director - June 2020 – December 2020

Key Achievements:

- **Leadership and Growth:**
 - Successfully hire, manage, and nurture a diverse multi-generational team.
 - Led team expansion from 4.5 staff members in 2020 to 10 full-time equivalent employees in 2024.
- **Operational Excellence:**
 - Evaluate, refine, and execute operational practices to optimize organizational performance.
- **Stakeholder Management:**
 - Cultivate and maintain relationships with Board members, Stonewall members, donors, corporate partners, elected officials, civic and business leaders.
- **Strategic Planning:**
 - Spearhead the development and attainment of short-term objectives and long-term goals, furthering the organization's sustainability.
- **Financial Stewardship:**
 - Ensure the fiscal health of the organization by effectively managing and growing a budget from \$730K in 2020 to \$1.7 million in 2023.

Pride Fund 1 – Columbus, OH

Chief Executive Officer - June 2020 – Present

- Serve as primary spokesperson for the company.
- Oversee communications, marketing, public relations working to elevate name recognition.
- Guide organizational messaging, tone, and brand to fulfill a \$10 million raise.

DePorteous Consulting – Remote

Founder/Chief Strategist - September 2015 – Present (nonactive)

- Established a capacity-building practice working with nonprofits and their leaders.
- Served as a valued, working, and thought partner for individuals and organizations looking to be intentional about their engagement.

Wexner Center for the Arts – Columbus, OH

Director, Marketing/Communications & Outreach - September 2016 – January 2020

- Served as the chief marketing/communications and outreach officer.

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- Set vision, strategy, and direction for institutional marketing/communications.
- Managed an inter-generational team of 8 members.
- Created operational practices to employ strategic long-term planning.
- Aligned team structure to meet increased output of institutionally generated content.
- Worked to guide the development of a new data-rich website.

Chegg – Santa Clara, CA

Client Success Manager/Consultant - February 2016 – October 2016

- Consulted with College and University clients to optimize Chegg product utilization.
- Advised clients on digital and mobile marketing strategies.
- Increased product use and engagement across client roster by 15%.

Columbus College of Art & Design – Columbus, OH

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Operations - August 2014 – September 2015

Director of Admissions - August 2012 – July 2014

- Guided the development and implementation of a long-range strategic plan for the Enrollment Division (Admissions, Outreach, Financial Aid).
- Restructured the Enrollment Division to align with College needs.
- Hired, managed, and supported a multi-generational team.
- Developed a comprehensive multi-channel marketing and communications plan.
- Increased applications by 20% and state representation to 16.
- Instituted new community partnerships.
- Served as the College's marketing & communications head during leadership transition.

Stanford University – Stanford, CA

Assistant Dean of Admission, Marketing & Communications Outreach - August 2010 – August 2012

- Enhanced Stanford's brand identity through the management of the admission family of websites and through the integration of the University into social media networks.
- Oversight of the marketing, communications, outreach, and yield budget—roughly \$900,000.
- Maintained and developed an integrated marketing, communications, and outreach strategy.
- Supervised 6 professional staff and 1 support staff.
- Engaged University partners to launch a new University website spearheaded by Admission.
- Served as primary liaison to key University constituents in University Communications, Alumni Affairs, Undergraduate Education Program and the Stanford Lively Arts program.
- Advised the unit Dean in processes related to organizational administration and staffing.

Drew School – San Francisco, CA

Director of College Counseling/Associate Academic Dean - July 2008 – August 2010

- Reviewed, adjusted, and improved the college counseling program and staffing structure.
- Created the first departmental budget.
- Cultivated and maintained relationships with colleges and universities through print, electronic, and person-to-person communications.
- Guide the work of an Associate Director and school Registrar.
- Introduced new technologies in the college search process to the school community.
- Advised the Head of School on academic issues.

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Stanford University – Stanford, CA

Associate Director of Admission/Creative Director, Webmaster - July 2006 – June 2008

- Identified, developed, and implemented marketing strategies in specific regions that maintained and enhanced the University's reputation and reach.
- Facilitated portions of orientation and training for junior staff and student employees.
- Directed production of all publications (electronic and print), as well as direct responsibility for any new communication strategies (electronic and print).
- Served as project manager for the development of a new family of publications (view book, preview piece and website) and video for the Offices of Admission, Financial Aid and Visitor Information services—a \$500,000 project.
- Served as the Webmaster of the Office of Undergraduate Admission website continually developing new web material; working closely with the web developer.

Kenyon College – Gambier, OH

Director of Multicultural Admissions, Associate Director of Admissions - June 2002 – July 2006

- Created and deployed the College's plan for outreach and recruitment for underrepresented students at the College to the College.
- Created the College's first functional team for multicultural admissions.
- Created communications focusing on prospective students of color, Jewish students, and other underrepresented student populations at the College.
- Managed scholarship process for first-generation, Black-American, Asian-American, Latine/Hispanic-American and Native/Indigenous-American students.
- Created and managed partnerships with external underrepresented student organizations.

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Volunteer leader, at local and national levels, for more than 20 years; a demonstrated passion for engaging moments that support equity and access in a variety of arenas.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Human Rights Campaign (January 2010 – October 2019; February 2020 – present)

- **Board of Directors** (February 2020 – present)
 - Board Development Committee (February 2021 – present)
- **Board of Governors** (October 2013 – October 2019)
 - Board Development Co-Chair
 - Community Engagement Co-Chair
- **San Francisco Bay Area Steering Committee**
 - Corporate Sponsorship Co-Chair
- **Columbus, OH Steering Committee**
 - Corporate Sponsorship Co-Chair, Federal Club Co-Chair, Steering Committee Co-Chair

The Legacy Fund of the Columbus Foundation (January 2017 – Present)

- Development Committee – Chair
- Scholarships Committee (2017)
- Executive Committee (2020 – 2022)

Kenyon College

- Board of Trustees (July 2021 – present)
- Alumni Council (2011 – 2014)
- Class Agent (2010 – 2021)
- Presidential Fellow (2011 – 2014)
- San Francisco – Bay Area Leadership Group (2007 – 2012)

Create Columbus Commission (January 2016 – January 2021)

- Chair (2019 – 2021)
- Vice Chair/Treasurer (January 2019 – June 2019)
 - Interim Chair (April – June 2019)
 - Vice Chair elect (October – December 2018)
- Marketing/Communications Committee, Grants Committee, Development Committee

Equitas Health (March 2016 – June 2020)

- Vice Chair (November 2016 – June 2020)
 - Acting Secretary (2017)
- Executive Committee, Facilities Subcommittee, Personnel Subcommittee, Public Policy Subcommittee, Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Advocates for Youth (September 2002 – November 2008)

- Board of Directors
 - Secretary of the Board (October 2004 – September 2006; March – November 2008)

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EDUCATION

MBA - University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Business Administration/Marketing

BA - Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
Synoptic Major: Psychology of Gender