



2009 Board member biographies and terms

Cei Bell has been involved in the LGBT community since joining the Gay Activist Alliance in 1971. She co-founded Radical Queens, and was a writer for the Gayzette, Philadelphia's first gay newspaper. She has also written for the PGN and Au Courant as well as the Inquirer, Daily News, Tribune, City Paper, Blackout Magazine and other publications. One of the founders of Transactions in the '90s, Cei has also written a chapter in an anthology about the early gay liberation movement that will be published in June. She volunteered for Bill Clinton in 1992, was a staff member of PA Victory '04, the Democratic presidential campaign in Pennsylvania, and has participated in various Liberty City meetings and events over the years.

Cei would like to see more outreach by Liberty City to people of color and working class gay and transgender people, and more outreach in neighborhoods throughout the city, not only in Center City. She saw no transgender outreach in Philadelphia during the Kerry and Obama campaigns, and no LGBT outreach while volunteering for Obama in Northwest Philadelphia. She says, "The shame of that is there are significant numbers of LGBT people in Germantown, Mt. Airy, Cedarbrook and West Oak Lane. There is a perception that the gay community is limited to the Center City gayborhood. We need to be more inclusive if we are going to be a significant voting bloc rather than a disposable constituency."

Began a two-year term in 2009

Adah Bush has volunteered for several Liberty City events during the past year. Before moving to Philadelphia, she was involved in many grass roots community efforts in Utah. She was a member of the Utah Department of Health Ethnic Health Advisory Committee, Utah Ethnic Coalition on HIV/AIDS, and Utah Department of Health Bureau of HIV/AIDS Community Planning Committee. She served on the committee against the 'English Only' Utah legislation that was defeated, was a founding member of Color Me Human which organized an annual Martin Luther King Day event at the Utah legislative rotunda, and facilitated workshops on the topic of Racism. Adah resides in Cheltenham, and works in Contracting at GSK.

Appointed in 2009

Lee Carpenter teaches Legal Research and Writing at Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law. Prior to joining the Temple Law faculty, Lee served as Legal Director at Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, a public interest agency that provides direct legal services, education, and policy reform advocacy for LGBT Pennsylvanians. Lee believes that Liberty City must continue to work to involve, educate and empower politically disengaged LGBT people of every background. She also believes that Liberty City can lead the way to a future in which LGBT Pennsylvanians hold office at every level of government.

Appointed in 2009

Lee Carson works as a behavioral science researcher for Public Health Management Corporation on projects related to HIV-prevention among men who have sex with men. He also works part-time as a mental health therapist for Mazzoni Center. Lee is one of the founding members and current president of the Black Gay Men's Leadership Council, and is also a founding member of the People of Color Coalition, both of which have been active in the community around political issues and community development.

In his four years in the Philadelphia community, he has worked with many different community organizations, including Liberty City. During the 2007 primary season he served on Liberty City's endorsement committee. In August of 2008, he was one of the organizers, along with Liberty City, of the Barack Obama Democratic Nomination Watch party at Club Heat. He has also worked in more informal ways with Liberty City over the years.

Began a two-year term in 2009

SHERRIE COHEN is an attorney with a general practice, and has been active in electoral, neighborhood and issue-based progressive politics since childhood. She currently serves as a committeeperson, cochair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Civil Rights Committee, Center for Progressive Leadership Fellow, co-initiator of International Women's Day 2009, member of OnePhiladelphia and volunteer on the William Way Women's Programming Committee. Sherrie is proud of Liberty City's role in building our community's political power and looks forward to carrying on this great work

Began a two-year term in 2008

ERIC CHEUNG is the Senior Attorney at Clean Air Council, a nonprofit environmental group headquartered in Philadelphia. For the past 5 1/2 years at the Council Mr. Cheung has served as both legal counsel and project coordinator for a number of clean transportation programs. Prior to working at the Council, Mr. Cheung was an Associate in the environmental group of Drinker, Biddle and Reath, a Philadelphia-based law firm.

Mr. Cheung has volunteered extensively for both Liberty PA and Liberty City, in particular the 2004 and 2006 elections. For the 2004 and 2005 elections, Mr. Cheung also volunteered for the Delaware County Democrats as its attorney coordinator for Election Day monitoring. Mr. Cheung received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 2000 and is barred in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Began a two-year term in 2008

Casey Cook began volunteering for Liberty City in GOTV and voter registration efforts in 2000. She has been a member of Liberty City since 2001, on the endorsement committee since 2002 and has served on the board of directors since 2004. Casey first became interested in electoral politics when she volunteered for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign in 1992. She has volunteered for several local and national campaigns since then.

Casey is currently the executive director for a community-based foundation that provides grants to local grassroots organizations committed to advancing social justice through progressive community organizing and activism. Prior to that she served six years as the executive director for a local public health organization providing prevention services and advocacy for people at-risk for HIV. In addition to Liberty City, she has served on the boards

of PennPIRG, Funding Exchange and Center for Responsible Funding.

Casey currently co-chairs Liberty City and is committed to progressive reform through grassroots movements and electoral politics.

Began a two-year term in 2009

MICHAEL HINSON

Michael is the Founder and Executive Director of The COLOURS Organization, Inc., a Philadelphia based non-profit social service organization targeting sexual and gender minority people of color. He is also the Co-Founder of Philadelphia Black Gay Pride, Inc. He has served on the Transition Teams for both Ed Rendell (Governor) and John Street (Mayor).

As an appointee of Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, he served as an Assistant Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia and the Mayor's Liaison to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities for seven years. In this capacity, he was responsible for LGBT policy and program development for the Administration and its' Operating Departments. He Chaired the Sexual and Gender Minority Sub-Committee of the Mayor's Homeless Task Force.

He considers the addition of the "Gender Identity" protection to the City's Fair Practices Ordinance a major accomplish of his work along with securing funding of the LGBT health clinic at the Mazzone Health and Wellness Center. Additionally, his work on the major policy changes instituted by the Department of Human Services (DHS) led to the funding of The Bethel Community, a LGBT housing facility for LGBT youth in the care of DHS.

As an appointee of former Health Commissioner, Estelle Richman, Michael served as a member and elected Co-Chair of the very first Philadelphia HIV Community Planning Group and the Philadelphia EMA HIV Commission, leading a body of fifty with the responsibility of disseminated over \$30 million dollars in critical AIDS funding. Recently, he helped to initiate the Independence Business Alliance (Philly's LGBT Chamber of Commerce) and served as an early supporter of the Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus. He holds memberships in the NAACP, where he has also served as the Treasurer of the Philadelphia chapter, Liberty City Democratic Club, Stonewall Democrats, the ACLU and OUTFRONT on whose Board of Directors he serves and is a founding member. He also serves on the Boards and/or Advisory Boards of The ELEONE Dance Theater, The Smoke, Lilies And Jade Arts Initiative, The Light Brigade Color Guard, The Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, and The Black Gay Men's Leadership Council of which he is a co-founder.

Began a two-year term in 2008

Micah Mahjoubian has over 17 years of political experience having worked on dozens of campaigns in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1999, he was the first openly gay employee hired to work on the mayoral campaign of John F. Street where he served as the Deputy Finance Director. The following January, Micah began working for the Street Administration in the Mayor's Office of External Affairs. In 2003, he left city government to work as the Operations Director of the Mayor's re-election campaign. The following year he returned to the administration as Deputy Secretary of

External Affairs where he managed the City's affairs at the state level. Additionally, he served as the Operations Director of the Mayor's Gaming Advisory Task Force in 2005. After leaving city government in January, Micah founded a political consulting firm called Soapbox Solutions from which he advises various candidates for local and statewide office.

Micah has been an active member of Liberty City since 1998. He has participated on the endorsement committee since 2000 and has served on the board of directors in 2003, 2007, and 2008.

Began a two-year term in 2009

Howard Moseley, Deputy Director of Manayunk Development Corporation, previously worked for the City of Philadelphia in various capacities including as Special Assistant to the Managing Director, Project Coordinator for the Philadelphia Gaming Advisory Task Force, and Project Manager for The Emergency Preparedness Review Committee and for the Education Advisory Task Force. Prior to serving the City, Howard developed technology solutions for the Franklin Mint. For the past 12 years, he has developed voter registration, voter contact, finance compliance and turnout tracking software for political campaigns. For many years, he has also encouraged teams of gay youth to volunteer on rainbow-friendly campaigns. A long-time member of Liberty City, Howard would like to see the organization continue to grow as a political voice for the community and believes that by engaging Philadelphia's growing population of out gay youth, we can increase the strength of our voice.

Appointed in 2009

Ray Murphy first volunteered for Liberty City during the 2003 Mayor's race and became a member of the Endorsement committee shortly thereafter. Ray has served as a member of the board since 2006.

Ray is a political and community organizer who has worked on various issue campaigns in the city and the state. Ray founded "Philadelphians Against Santorum," a grassroots political action committee in 2006, and most recently worked as national staff for MoveOn.org during the 2008 election. Ray also serves as the co-editor of youngphillypolitics.com.

Ray currently co-chairs Liberty City and would like to continue serving the membership in this role. In the next two years, Ray would like to help Liberty City continue to grow its membership and increase the group's representation of the diverse LGBTQ community.

Began a two-year term in 2009

Soda Nobuhle was appointed to the Liberty City Board of Directors in 2008. Soda Nobuhle serves on the Mayor's Advisory Board of LGBT Affairs, is co-initiator of the International Women's Day Philadelphia Coalition and is co-founder of the LGBT People of Color Coalition and the Womyn's Village, a womyn's organization targeting a black African heritage, Asian, Latina and Native American lesbian, bisexual, transgender and two-spirited constituency.

Together with fellow Board members Sherrie Cohen and Michael Hinson, Soda spearheaded numerous voter mobilization and outreach activities related to the presidential election that were jointly sponsored by Liberty City and member organizations of the LGBT People of

Color Coalition. Soda Nobuhle envisions Liberty City not only as a body which endorses candidates but rather a resource of political intelligence that serves the LGBT community.

Began a two-year term in 2009

Su Ming Yeh has been involved with Liberty City for the past two years. In addition to attending general membership meetings and other events, she has volunteered by tabling for LGBT festivals, and recently joining the Issues Committee. She views Liberty City as a critical organization in empowering the LGBT community of the Philadelphia area, particularly in the political process, and would like to work with Liberty City to be more inclusive of youth, people of color, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, and to build relationships with elected legislators who have sought Liberty City's endorsement.

Su Ming Yeh has been actively dedicated to social justice issues for the past sixteen years. She served on the Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation, which is based in New York City, has volunteered with Equality Advocates Pennsylvania (formerly the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights), run a mentoring organization for Asian American inner-city youth and advocated for the rights of Asian American children and families. Currently, she works as an attorney at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, where she represents prisoners on their civil rights claims.

Began a two-year term in 2009

Gregory Walker is a committeeperson in the Fifth Ward, a Board Member of the Washington Square West Civic Association and Chairman/Founder of The Brothers Network. After twenty years of community activism and political engagement in New York, San Francisco, Connecticut and Washington, D.C., Gregory brings the ability to conceptualize new ideas to expand the LGBT platform for parity, inclusion and visibility. As a gay African-American, Gregory brings an "in-depth understanding of the LGBT and ethnic minority community across the ranges of educational and socio-economic status." As a LCDC Board Member, Gregory would like to work towards building harmonious collaboration with our straight allies and expanding the involvement of new leaders in our community.

Matthew Woodcock has been a member of the Liberty City Board member since 2002 and has been a member of the endorsement committee since then. Matthew has co-chaired the committee with Ann Butchart for several years before taking the reigns as chair for the last few election cycles. He currently serves as the Board Secretary and in that capacity he keep the minutes of all meetings and maintains the Liberty City website.

Began a two-year term in 2008