

c. Design Review Board Appointment



Statement of Interest for the City of Chamblee Design Review Board

Name: Aileen de la Torre Date: 02/10/2025

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED] Zip code: [REDACTED]

What is your affiliation with the City of Chamblee (check all that apply)?

Resident Business Owner Property Owner

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Employer: City of Decatur Job Title: Planner

Please Describe Your Educational Background (School Name, Degree Name, Area of Study, etc.):

Bachelors in French, University of Colorado
Masters in Historic Preservation, University of Georgia

Please provide a brief statement about why, in general, you are interested in serving on a city appointed board along with a list of any prior volunteer or related service:

After having staffed preservation commissions in Mobile, AL, and Decatur, GA, as well as the architectural review board for the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office, I'm very much interested in serving in a similar capacity in my own community of Chamblee.

On the following page, please provide your response to the following question:

Please provide your general philosophy on development in the city. Also, how do you feel about past and current development? What would you change, if anything? Is the architectural design of buildings important to you? If so, how?



Response:

The built environment has a profound effect on the well-being of a community, and I believe good urban design can solve a lot of problems.

Past development in Chamblee (everywhere, really) has been focused on creating car dependency via a lack of infrastructure that provides connectivity and zoning that's unnecessarily restrictive. There's a lot more to do, but it's encouraging to see new projects in Chamblee require things like trails, green space, etc. I'm also glad to see higher density.

One thing I would change is having less parking and more public art incorporated into developments. Also, I have a real concern about gentrification along Buford Highway, so I would push development that doesn't displace current residents.

Architectural design is very important to me because the built environment guides the way we act and how we feel. It's why I studied Historic Preservation.



Aileen Alexis de la Torre

SUMMARY

- Experience in all aspects of planning to include plan review and long-range planning initiatives.
- Able to manage multiple projects independently and as part of a team.
- Extensive involvement in all levels of community relationship building.
- Spanish and English bilingual.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

City of Decatur

Decatur, GA

09/18–current

Planner

- Serve as primary staff to the Historic Preservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals as well as provide assistance to the Planning Commission as needed.
- Provide commercial and residential plan review for zoning and historic compliance, assist with the regulatory process, and resolve zoning code issues to include recommending amendments and improvements to the Unified Development Ordinance.
- Conduct post-construction site inspections for properties located in locally-designated historic districts.
- Draft and issue Zoning Verification Letters, Letters of Determination, and letters of support from the Historic Preservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals as needed.
- Assist with long-range planning initiatives, including a housing rehabilitation strategy resulting in the Decatur ReHAB program and the Historic Resources Survey portion of Decatur Town Center Plan 2.0.
- Partner with other departments and outside organizations on City projects and events, including 200 Stories, Agnes Scott's climate resilience plan, the façade improvement grant program, and Placita Latina cultural festival.
- Perform other duties as needed.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, DC

01/17–09/18

Historic Preservation Specialist, Environmental Historic Preservation Cadre

- Provided technical assistance to FEMA staff through all phases of a project, ensuring that historic preservation and environmental concerns were incorporated into the proposed work.
- Reviewed project worksheets and made determinations based on The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as well as all environmental laws and Executive Orders.
- Consulted with the SHPO, THPO and tribal leaders, and the Army Corps of Engineers, and other relevant agencies when concurrence was required.

RESOLUTION 2025 - _____

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF CHAMBLEE

**A RESOLUTION TO APPOINTING MEMBERS TO
THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Design Review Board (DRB) is comprised of at least six members and no more than seven members appointed by the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the DRB is responsible for reviewing and making a recommendation to Mayor and City Council, on all Development of Community Impact (DCI) applications.

WHEREAS, desirable special qualifications of the members would include an understanding of and skills in architectural design, landscape architecture, urban planning, real estate or engineering; and

WHEREAS, the term of appointment shall be two (2) years, staggered so as half of the members are appointed each year.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chamblee that the following appointments and designations are made:

SECTION 1. That Ashley Pecora is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2025; and,

SECTION 2. That Christine Simonton is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2025; and,

SECTION 3. That Joanna Gargiula is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2025; and,

SECTION 4. That Holly Jeffreys is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2026; and,

SECTION 5. That Joshua Word is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2026; and,

SECTION 6. That Kate Henry is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2026; and,

SECTION 7. That _____ is hereby appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any and all resolutions, or any part thereof, in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council, this 15th day of April 2025.

Attest:

Approved:

Cherron Bouie,
City Clerk (Seal)

Brian Mock,
Mayor

