

I have been living in the Los Feliz neighborhood since December 2008 and I am celebrating my tenth year of living in Los Angeles at the end of August 2009. When I moved to this city in 1999 to attend college at the University of Southern California ('03, BS in Business Administration) I would never have guessed that I would fall head over heels in love with this city. But here I am! Prior to living in Los Feliz I was in Culver City for two years, and before that I lived in Korea Town for three years, with four years in the University Park Campus neighborhood while in school. Each of these neighborhoods is as varied and unique as they can be, but all share the commonality of being in the middle of a large, bustling, urban area. Personally, Los Feliz is the first place that makes me truly feel like I've found "home" in this city.

Five years ago I joined a running club called the L.A. Leggers. The club's main mission is to train people to run the Los Angeles Marathon. I have since run the race twice (sat out two years due to injuries that allowed me to run shorter distances) and am gearing up for my third L.A. Marathon in 2010 (I am now injury free!). As a runner, I have seen great parts of this city from a very unique perspective – on foot! Running through Korea Town, Mid-City, Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, Culver City, West LA, Santa Monica, Malibu, the Marina and the various beaches south of the Marina, and now finally in Silverlake, Echo Park, Los Feliz and of course Griffith Park, I have been able to observe how people in this city recreate and interact with recreation on a wide and diverse level of scales. Running through these areas has opened my eyes up to the other types of recreation that people seek: bicycling, soccer, hiking, swimming, baseball, etc.

I do understand that recreation is not exclusively *active* and that *passive* recreation is also an important part of a recreational system. My professional position in the architectural/design community over the last six years has opened my eyes to the importance of having open space in communities. Having places available for passive recreation – for example – bake sales, farmer's markets, festivals, picnic areas, resting areas – builds community, creates a sense of vibrancy, and increases an individual's sense of overall well-being. In recognition of the need for passive recreational space, I have helped organize an event called PARK[ing] Day the last two years, and am currently helping to organize the 2009 PARK[ing] Day. PARK[ing] Day takes a unique approach to finding open space in one's community: take over a parking space, by paying the meter, and using that space for an activity of your choice. Whether sitting in a lawn chair, riding a bike to generate power, or making balloon animals for pedestrians, PARK[ing] Day Participants "take back" a portion of the street to create a temporary open space for themselves and others. Being part of this planning process has introduced me to many different types of stakeholders: to bicycle advocates, LA River advocates, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and yes, to other neighborhood councils, most significantly the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.

Professionally, I am in charge of business development and marketing for a medium-sized multi-disciplinary architectural design office. I am a member of the California State Parks Foundation, an Associate member of the American Institute of Architects, an active member of the Urban Land Institute (serving on the Young Leaders Group Steering Committee as the mentorship chair between 2007 – present, and as the social chair 2009 – 2010). I have just completed five years of service on the Board of the Society for Marketing Professional Services, serving in various positions (most recently as webmaster) and will now be a happy member for awhile.

After ten years of living in this city I am ready to become more involved and to start giving back. I would be honored to contribute my time so that the neighborhood I live in can grow in a positive direction that ensures a safe, lively and positive environment. As a runner, hiker, swimmer and fledgling cyclist my interest in recreational opportunities for the community is virtually guaranteed – I have signed myself up for too many races to stop enjoying the outdoors anytime soon!