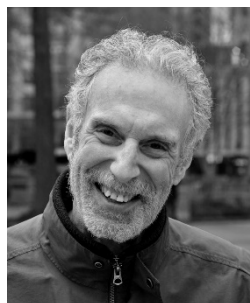


## CANDIDATE BIOS



**Jeff Braff (incumbent)** - Jeff first became active with CCRA shortly after moving into CCRAville in 1979, becoming Chair of the Streets Committee and a VP in the mid-80's. He then turned his attention to the Friends of Schuylkill River Park (eventually becoming President) and the creation of the original dog park (much smaller than today's version), as well as a youth soccer league, for which he was "the Commissioner." In the late 90's, Jeff returned to CCRA as a Director, and served as President from 2011 to 2015. Prior to revisions to CCRA's Bylaws in 2021, Past Presidents were entitled to serve as a Director for life. That privilege is now expiring, and Jeff has chosen to run for election. Jeff is an avid cyclist, and serves on the Board of the Bicycle Coalition. He recently moved into a hi-rise with his wife, Hope Comisky.



**Renee Jones** - Born in the United Kingdom, Renee moved to Philadelphia 37 years ago, first living in Queen Village and now on Rittenhouse Square. Former International Marketing Director in London, Paris and Mexico City, Renée was the founder and owner of a successful national advertising agency, Stratus Communications, located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. Renée has long-time experience working on Boards, including as President of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Women Impacting Policy, Washington DC, the Advisory Board of Fox School of Business at Temple University, and President of the Unitarian Universalist board in St. Augustine Florida. Renée and her late husband Tony DeCrosta have been consistent supporters of the Arts in the Philadelphia region and she is now working on marketing and development for non-profits in Camden NJ. She is committed to supporting the quality of life for Center City residents and enjoys living at the Rittenhouse Claridge with her King Charles Cavalier, Finnegan.



**Michael O'Brien** - Michael is a partner in the Philadelphia office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, a law firm with approximately 350 attorneys in 11 offices nationwide. Michael graduated from Scranton Prep, Georgetown University, and Temple University Law School. He focuses his legal practice representing businesses and individuals in complex litigation matters before Pennsylvania state and federal courts and advising for-profit and not-for-profit entities in governance matters. In addition to his civilian practice, Michael served as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 2007-2017. Michael lives in Rittenhouse Square. In his free time, he enjoys golf and tennis at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, running along the Schuylkill River Trail, and spending time with family and friends.



**Harvey Ostroff (Incumbent)** - A Rittenhouse Square-area resident, Harvey moved to “the city” three years ago with wife, Lisa, to join their three children and seven grandchildren and to enjoy the sights of Philly. A builder/developer, Harvey takes pride in creating residential environments by design. He has welcomed the opportunity to assist in preserving and enhancing the area’s beauty, vibrancy and energy. Among his many philanthropic endeavors, Harvey served as president of the Feasterville Rotary Club, was elected Small Business Person of

the Year from the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania Small Business Association, and served on the board of the Golden Slipper Club Charities Camp. He can be seen picking up debris in Rittenhouse Square on Sunday mornings, and likes to cook and drink great wine with family and friends.



**Irena Wight (Incumbent)** - Irena has lived in Philadelphia for eight years and is a Rittenhouse Square resident. Irena holds a dual master’s degree in architecture and historic preservation from the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania and currently works for Atkin Olshin Schade Architects. Irena has joined the CCRA because of her interest in the preservation of historic buildings in Center City and ensuring that the Center City neighbourhood retains its cultural and pedestrian-friendly character. Irena is honored to have been nominated to serve another term as

Director and is excited to be part of the CCRA’s mission to encourage responsible development while preserving the neighborhood’s historic heritage.



**Jasmine Williams (Incumbent)** - Jasmine lives, works, and plays in Center City. Originally from the Washington, DC area, she moved to Philadelphia in 2014 and has been here ever since. She is an attorney at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis and a real estate professional who wants to see Philadelphia flourish. She is on the CCRA Membership Committee.



**Benjamin Zuckerman (Incumbent)** - A Rittenhouse Square-area resident for almost two decades, Ben is a retired trial lawyer who specialized in complex commercial litigation matters. He and his wife relish the energy and variety of life in Center City, and he is eager to help sustain and improve it through his service on CCRA's Board. Over the years he has been active in a number of nonprofit and cultural organizations, including board service at JEVS Human Services and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Ben is also an accomplished photographer. He currently serves as Secretary to CCRA's Zoning Committee.



**Marc Werlinsky** - A proud and passionate native Philadelphian, Marc Werlinsky earned a journalism degree from Temple University and worked his way through Widener University School of Law as a newspaper reporter and editor. Marc's area of concentration as a former assistant counsel with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation was on vehicle and traffic safety law. In addition to being co-author of Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (Thomson Reuters), a consultant on vehicle law, arbitrator, lecturer and teacher, Marc is a professional boxing judge and a nationally ranked amateur boxing official. A former Jeopardy! contestant and stand-up comedian, Marc resides in CCRAville

with his wife, Nancy.