

## Board Selection

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Please refer to the [City of Clearwater Advisory Boards listing](#) for requirements.

You will need to upload at least one of the following:

- Current voter registration within city limits
- Valid current Florida Driver License issued to an address within city limits
- Declaration of Domicile filed with the city clerk affirming residency within city limits

## Select the Boards That You Would Like to Apply To

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Boards

Public Art & Design Advisory Board

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# Personal Info

First Name *	Gregory
Middle Initial	L
Last Name *	Byrd
Email Address *	drgregbyrd@gmail.com
Primary Phone *	727-415-9754 <small>(Example: (123) 456-7890)</small>
Length of Residency *	<small>If not a resident of Clearwater, select "Not a Resident"</small> 6+ Years
Business Owner? *	<small>Do You Own or Represent a Business in Clearwater?</small> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

# Home Address

Street Address *	1400 PINE BROOK DRIVE
City *	Clearwater
Zip Code *	33755

## Education & Work

Highest Level of Education     Doctorate degree

Occupation     If retired, enter former occupation  
Professor, writing, English and humanities

Employer     St. Petersburg College

Relevant Work Experience     Since 1990, I have taught English, Humanities and Creative Writing at St. Petersburg College. Doing so has allowed me to work with many Clearwater-area students, to help them understand the arts and to write powerfully but creatively and academically. As SPC is a community college, my experience at the Clearwater campus is strongly rooted to Clearwater itself. My students today are my neighbors tomorrow.

Community Activities     Most recently, I served as judge for the Clearwater poetry contest, "Etched in Stone" I think it was. Those on the board at the time might remember me reading a poem at the dedication of the SPC/Clearwater Community Library. Some might remember my 1966 red Ford pickup representing SPC in Clearwater's 100th anniversary parade. Much of my community service has been connected with the college, what I view as an epicenter of community needs. Most recently, I organized a group called Master Learners, a sort of Osher Lifelong Learning group at SPC-Clearwater for seniors who are already taking free classes there. Ten years ago, I founded the Student Veterans Association at SPC and have served as an advisor at my campus for much of that time. It's a testament to the people involved in those groups that they took what I helped start and ran with it, improving other lives as they went. I certainly don't deserve credit for their good work, but I like to think I helped get a couple good ideas off the ground. These duties and a heavy teaching load at SPC keep me from being more involved in the community, though I have volunteered at times with Academie Davinci, Clearwater Fundamental Middle School and Tarpon Springs High School when my daughter attended those schools.

Board Service <sup>\*</sup>     Have you served or do you serve on a board in Clearwater?  
☐ Yes ☒ No

# Attachments

Please refer to the [City of Clearwater Advisory Boards listing](#) for requirements and please attach a copy of one of the following documents:

- Current voter registration within city limits
- Valid current Florida Driver License issued to an address within city limits
- Declaration of Domicile filed with the city clerk affirming residency within city limits

Proof of Residency	GregDL.pdf	124.43KB
File types accepted: pdf, tif, tiff, jpeg, jpg, gif, doc, docx, rtf, png. 10 MB max file size.		

# Questionnaire

**Question 1.** What is your understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the Board(s)?

Answer 1. \*

As stated on the City of Clearwater website, the Public Art and Advisory Board "Develops guidelines, procedures and policies to administer the Public Art & Design Program & recommends Public Art to City Council." This seems appropriately broad-reaching as "public art" may be manifest in multiple forms such as murals, architecture, landscape, performance, writing or music either consumed or created by citizens, visitors, children, youth, adults or seniors. As we have seen in the renaissance of St. Petersburg and Dunedin, the arts work hand-in-hand with other parts of city government and culture in creating a vital city, culturally, psychologically and economically. Look at the most vibrant cities and you'll find an energetic arts scene. The Public Art and Advisory Board should give the government of the City of Clearwater good insight on how different types of art might help the city and its citizens. Artists understand art, businesspeople understand business and city officials understand government. Working together, these three groups can make magic.

**Question 2.** Have you ever observed a board meeting either in person or on C-View, the City's TV station?

Answer 2. \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Question 3.** What background, experience, or education qualifies you to serve on the Board(s)?

Answer 3. \*

As a professor of creative writing, literature and humanities at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus, I have a deep understanding of how different forms of art affect and improve people's lives, especially those of my students. My work at SPC has allowed to work successfully with many groups, from students to faculty in other divisions, to administrators. My specific background includes many publications in prose and poetry including the Robert Phillips Prize from Texas Review Press and a Fulbright Fellowship to teach poetry in Albania in 2011. An extensive resume is available on my website, <http://www.gregorybyrd.org>. Through my wife's connections in theatre, I have met and connected with many theatre professionals in the area, including those at Francis Wilson Playhouse, and have seen how theatre can connect people. At SPC, I've experienced the amazing work displayed by students and faculty at our Crossroads Gallery. In supporting my daughter through her education as a cellist in Clearwater and Pinellas county, I have seen how vital music is to students and the community. As one of the first Creative Pinellas Rapid Returns Grantees, I have been well-connected with Creative Pinellas and their local contributions. In short, I have a deep educational background in some art (poetry and literature especially) and extensive connections to other types of art and artists. This gives me a perspective that may help Clearwater to thrive, not just in the arts but as a city overall.

**Question 4.** Why do you want to serve on the Board(s)?

Answer 4. \*

I would like to use my insight and background to help my city grow into the best Clearwater it can. I recall a recent discussion on Nextdoor about the Clearwater Airpark vote. I found myself educating my fellow citizens on the use of public parks, especially at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The work of Frederick Law Olmstead and other landscape architects helped to make NYC and Boston (with its Emerald Necklace series of parks) into cities that were more than just places to live, and which increased revenue and property values.

Public poetry readings are valuable both as expression (I need to be heard) as well as for understanding (I have heard something that helps me understand). Art, whether architectural, landscape, sculptural or visual, helps define a city and helps create a feeling that increases the quality of life. I live in a very mixed neighborhood. Across the street is an African American family. One of their kids grew up here and helped me in my yard; another was one of my students at SPC. We sometimes attend their Christmas breakfasts. Across the other street is another former student of mine, a Marine who served in Iraq. Another neighbor is a Scientologist who is a carpenter and who watches my house when I travel. I know many different types of people who make up Clearwater. That understanding, plus my understanding of all the arts, will help me to offer direction that can help Clearwater grow into its best self.

Date \*

2/4/2021

Signature\*

Gregory Byrd

Checkbox

- ☐ choice 1
- ☐ choice 2
- ☐ choice 3

Checkbox

- ☐ choice 1
- ☐ choice 2
- ☐ choice 3

Drop-down

Radio Button

- ☐ choice 1
- ☐ choice 2
- ☐ choice 3