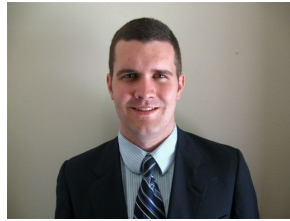




INLAND EMPIRE

2011 USGBC-Inland Empire Chapter Board of Directors Candidates



Michael Peel
Development and Green Jobs Director
Uncommon Good
Membership Category: Non-Profit

Why do you wish to be a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors?

I wish to be a member of the Board of Directors to further my experience and knowledge in the green sector, on both a personal and professional interest level.

I had the excellent opportunity to attend the 2010 Chapter Leadership Retreat in June of this year and that experience provided me with an understanding of the challenges, the wide variety of approaches, and best practices of chapters. I am eager to utilize that knowledge to further expand upon the strengths of our Board while also finding ways to build our capacity through committees, cultivate a variety of funding avenues, and increase our presence in the community.

Please provide a summary of your relevant experience, expertise relationships and resources that you can bring that will benefit the Chapter.

I am the Development and Green Jobs Director for the community based organization Uncommon Good is a respected and well known entity working in the Inland Empire area for a decade, serving environmental and social needs. The organization has a distinguished 23 member Board of Directors composed of leaders in business, law, education, and medicine.

I am the Founder and Chair of the Emerging Professionals committee and internship program for students and recent graduates in the green-related and building trades, to share knowledge and information, educate the public about green building, and encourage students to pursue careers in this field.

This is an internship and networking program focused on the following four areas: green jobs training, educational events, green tours, and urban agriculture. I shifted the Emerging Professionals to an internship focus based on the feedback from existing members that students and young professionals were looking for more extensive work experience outside of events such as networking mixers, LEED tours, and green topic and film presentations.

The four internship areas that were created include the following:

Area #1 - Green Jobs Training Initiatives

Interns assist in green jobs training programs in a variety of career building ways.

Area #2 - Campus Initiatives: Interns implement USGBC activities and events on campus, including speakers and mixers.

Area #3 - Education and National Chapter Initiatives: Interns work with the USGBC natural talent design contest and more.

Area #4 - Frontier Project: Interns work with the innovative Frontier Project as a tour guide and educator.

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Inland Empire Chapter**

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In the two months of promoting the EGB internship program to area colleges and universities in December 2009-January 2010, there were over 150 inquiries. The applicants came from the following: The University of California, Riverside; University of Redlands, Cal Poly Pomona, Crafton Hills College; University of California, Irvine; California State University, San Bernardino; and Riverside Community College.

For the first time for our chapter, interns helped organize for the 2010 National Design Competition for the Inland Empire, in partnership with Salvation Army's EnviRenew Initiative, which focused its sights on the rebuilding effort in New Orleans, Louisiana. Other National Chapter Initiatives that interns will work on include LEED study groups and LEED informational sessions for young professionals and students.

The national U.S. Green Building Council recently did a story on our program, as it is the first model in the entire chapter to create an internship approach for the Emerging Professionals. You can view the article here: <https://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=7729#4>

My nonprofit Uncommon Good has begun an innovative green jobs initiative focused on creating workforce development opportunities for recently trained, certified individuals in the energy efficiency sector who are currently unemployed or underemployed and to create demand for business and home energy audits and retrofits.

Uncommon Good's Green Jobs Initiative places workers who have received training through the California Energy Commission's Clean Energy Workforce Training Program. Workers have earned certification from the Building Performance Institute (BPI). In addition, some have contractor's licenses and other qualifications for performing energy audits and retrofits. Others have prior experience in the energy efficiency field.

Please describe your experience serving other volunteer / non-profit /trade organization and identify any leadership positions held.

I was the founder and director of SOURCE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using the college's resources and students to helping other community nonprofits build their infrastructure. SOURCE worked with a variety of nonprofits, including Uncommon Good, and was responsible for Uncommon Good doubling its mentoring program for disadvantaged children and teens. I was able to win the financial support of the Kravis Leadership Institute for SOURCE, and as a result, it continues serving the community to this day. I am currently on the Board of Directors for SOURCE.

I am also on the Board of Directors for the nonprofit organization OPARC. OPARC is a non-profit organization located in the "Inland Empire" region of Southern California and dedicated to helping people with disabilities and their families. More than 700 adults with developmental and vocational disabilities utilize OPARC's programs.

I have also supervised Uncommon Good's Teen Green, a youth environmental leadership program. Teen Green has garnered widespread publicity, from as far away as Europe, for its innovative programs involving young people and the environment. Teen Green has been involved in promoting the Superadobe project, noted above, has started a green business program in the community, has a demonstration organic "no till" soil conservation school garden, has helped organize a tree reseeded campaign in the local wilderness park, and has built a demonstration Superadobe greenhouse, among other projects.

Identify you areas that you would like to see the chapter grow and better accomplish its vision and how you could assist in that effort.

I would like to work on areas such as expanding the funding opportunities through our green jobs training involvement, as well as to focus on the topics that I learned about at the leadership retreat, including:

1. Developing a Diversified Fundraising Plan
2. Transitioning from a Working Board to a Strategic Board: Exceptional Board Governance – The Source of Power for Nonprofit Organizations
3. Vital Facilitation Techniques

Through my work with the Board on our green jobs training grants, I think that the chapter can grow by forging strong partnerships with Inland Empire cities, businesses, and entities to implement a long-term program that can place the individuals currently being trained through our grant programs in immediate employment opportunities and be replicated as a way to create training classes for our chapter to focus on and generate further revenue. Both the U.S. Green Building Council-Inland Empire and my nonprofit Uncommon Good are

heading up the Green Employer Advisory Council (GEAC) for the purposes of placing the graduates of the green jobs training grants we are a part of into apprenticeships, jobs or internships. My goal is to ensure that we leverage our existing grant efforts and resources for future grants and program development, especially for our education committee.