

Eric Hutchison Bio

I chose the Near East Side and Bronzeville King Lincoln District for my residence in 2015. I was attracted to the community, neighbors, historical homes, affordability at the time, and neighborhood activities such as The Historic House Tour, Cocktail Rovings, etc. As an amateur historian, I am fascinated by the area's history. I also have a great respect for the history of Bronzeville and the diversity that we have on the Near East Side. I am very thankful for generational neighbors that have volunteered and invested their time to teach people like me this history. Through them, I've learned about the highly successful and independent black community despite the barriers of the time. Knowing the true history of the neighborhood, the origins of the highway system and how this affected the community and the neighborhood taught me how "progress and development" has many times and still can displace our neighbors. This helps to inform my contribution to the Near East Area Commission and positions on development, as well as my volunteerism.

I have a Master of Business Administration degree in Engineering Management. In my private career, I have managed several engineering teams that through team development and organizational development led by me, have become extremely successful and productive teams. I have attended city provided training in Racial Equity Foundations and Applications, Population Growth and the Impacts to our Region's Future, Zoning, Housing Policy and Redlining, Zoning Code, Commissions, and more. I attended the Near East Area Commission's History Tour and Retreat. I regularly attend the Bronzeville Neighborhood Association and PACT Safety meetings. Lastly, I have volunteered and contributed to:

- The Bronzeville Growers Market Community Gardens
- Growing Hearts and Hands Community Gardens
- The Bethany Presbyterian Church Community Lunch Program
- The Maroon Arts Group
- The James Preston Poindexter Foundation and The Poindexter Village Museum

I have been active on the Near East Area Commission since 2019. At first, as a community member on the zoning committee, I helped provide transparency, accountability, and representation for my neighbors who felt underrepresented. I enjoyed representing the community so thoroughly, I successfully ran and was elected as a District 1 Commissioner in 2020. As a District 1 Commissioner, I've utilized my skills for organizing and process, while serving two years on the executive committee as Commission Secretary. I have also served one year as Zoning Vice Chair. During this time:

- We have transformed the Commission to attract new and diverse members
- I supported and we have added The Community Engagement Committee to help us fulfill an important part of the Commission's mission
- I volunteered hundreds of hours to The Commission
- I supported efforts to improve traffic safety
- I supported efforts to improve Short Term Rental regulations
- I supported improvements to projects, such as the temporary Nationwide Children's Hospital parking lot and objection to the demolition of the Henderson House
- I provided transparency:
 - By expanding the use of our website
 - Adding Social Media
 - Adding video recording to stream our meetings