

AREA COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

The Department of Neighborhoods maintains the database for the Area Commission members in the City of Columbus. The information on this form is used to process the Mayor's appointment and ensure timely and accurate distribution of meeting notices, training opportunities, and other City activities. **Please complete all sections of the form with information about your recently elected/appointed commissioner within seven (7) days of the election/appointment. After completing and signing this form, please return it, along with the appointees resume and/or biography to your Neighborhood Liaison via email.** Please contact your Neighborhood Liaison with any questions or comments.

Please Type

Area Commission Name	Insert AC Name Area Commission <i>University</i>	
Please check appropriate box	New appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are there changes to this information? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
First Name	<i>Brian</i>	
Last Name	<i>Williams</i>	
Title (i.e. officer / commissioner)	<i>commissioner</i>	
Address	<i>409 E. Chittenden</i>	
City	<i>Columbus</i>	
State	<i>Ohio</i>	
Zip Code	<i>43201</i>	
Home Telephone	<i>614-560-5785</i>	
Work Telephone	<i>614-233-4187</i>	
Email Address	<i>bwilli910@gmail.com</i>	
District/Designation	<i>3</i>	
Term Start Date	<i>1-1-20</i> <i>1/15/20</i>	
Term Expiration	<i>12-31-23</i> <i>1/20/21</i>	
Seat Succession	<i>Brian Williams</i> <i>Susan Keeny</i>	

Area Commission Chair Signature _____

Sh. D. Williams

*****ALL SECTIONS OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED*****



Brian Williams

LOCAL NEXUS LLC

PLANNING EXPERIENCE

SENIOR PLANNER/AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission May 2009-present

- Coordinated and wrote the 12-county *Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan* and laid groundwork for implementation of the plan.
- Researched and wrote *Dense by Design: A Compact Guide to Compact Development*, a booklet to redefine density and show its value in revitalizing cities and preserving farmland.
- Conducted workshops around the state to promote agricultural planning and the economic development value of local food.
- Served on the Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board and Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council.

OHIO STATE DIRECTOR

American Farmland Trust October 2005 to October 2008

- Promoted state and local policies to preserve farmland and encourage smart growth.
- Served on a coalition to get Clean Ohio Bond renewal on 2008 ballot.
- Advocated for, and was named to, the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council to promote local-foods initiatives.
- Wrote *Ohio Agricultural Landowners Guide to Conservation and Sustainability*.

CONSULTANT/WRITER

February 2004 to October 2005

- Greater Ohio, All Aboard Ohio (Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers), National Association of Railroad Passengers, Ohio Association of Regional Councils, 1,000 Friends of Central Ohio, Central Ohio Transit Authority, Columbus Landmarks Foundation, American Planning Association (*Planning* magazine)
- *New York Daily News, Miami Herald, Ohio Farmer, Columbus Business First*

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE WRITER

2008-Present

- *NBC News Digital; Our Ohio; Strong Towns website; 614 Magazine; Edible Columbus; Columbus Business First; Planning Magazine; and Ohio Farmer*

REPORTER

The Columbus Dispatch

1995 to 2004

- Covered agriculture trends and issues, and wrote thrice-weekly ag news column, 1995 through 1999.
- Covered regional transit, highway projects, urban redevelopment, historic preservation, and county government, 2000 to 2004

About

Brian worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for 25 years before entering the non-profit world to work on the things he had been writing about: local food, local economies, agriculture, farmland preservation, land use planning, urban revitalization, and alternative transportation.

Honors

OHIO DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

- Ambassador of Ohio Agriculture award, 2008

OHIO SPJ

- 1st Place, Best Local Government Reporting, *The Price of Progress*, Columbus Dispatch, 1997

KIPLINGER FELLOWSHIP

- One-year Public Affairs Reporting Master's program at Ohio State University
- Completed in August 1989

MONDALE FELLOW

- Mondale Policy Forum, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 1991-92
- Forums and group discussions on American politics with academics and politicians

CONTACT

- bwilliams@local-nexus.com
- 614-560-5785
- <https://local-nexus.com/>

EDITORIAL WRITER, COLUMNIST, SPECIAL-PROJECTS WRITER

Post-Bulletin, Rochester, Minn. 1990 to 1995

- Wrote editorials on local, state, national, and international issues.
- Wrote a weekly, general-interest editorial-page column.
- Wrote frequent articles on planning and transportation, politics, and government efficiency and effectiveness.

REPORTER

Springfield (Ohio) News-Sun 1989 to 1990

- County government beat reporter.
- Wrote about regional planning, transportation, and environment.

COPY EDITOR, COLUMNIST

The Nation, Bangkok, Thailand 1987 to 1988

- Wrote about Indochina and refugee affairs.
- Wrote feature stories and occasional editorial columns.
- Produced English-language stylebook for, and served as a writing coach to, Thai journalists writing in English

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- News and broadcast desks, United Press International, Chicago, 1985-87
- Staff writer/columnist, Lerner Newspapers, Skokie and Chicago, 1982-85
- Street Reporter, City News Bureau of Chicago, 1982
- Reporter: newspapers in Dover, Lake County and Bucyrus, Ohio, 1977-81
- Freelance writing: *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit Free Press*, *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, (Minneapolis) *Star Tribune*, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, *Ohio Magazine*, *Columbus Monthly*

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS

Journalism; secondary focus on Urban Geography
Ohio State University, August 1989

BACHELOR OF ARTS

English; secondary focus on Journalism
Ohio State University, August 1978

PUBLICATIONS

GREENS TO GREENBACKS: An Agricultural Economic Development Toolkit

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, 2013

DENSE BY DESIGN: A Compact Guide to Compact Development

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, 2011

Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, 2010

Ohio Agricultural Landowners Guide to Conservation and Sustainability

American Farmland Trust, 2006

Presentations

CONFERENCES

- Ohio Freight Conference 2017
- National Association of Development Organizations 2015
- New Partners for Smart Growth Conference 2014
- Ohio Planning Conference 2013
- National Rural Economic Development Association 2011
- National Preservation Conference 2007
- Ohio Planning Conference 2007
- MN Planning Conference 1993

NATIONAL WEBINARS

- American Farmland Trust 2011
- Centers for Disease Control 2012

Public Involvement

- **APPOINTEE** Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, 2005-present
- **SECRETARY** Canal Market District Board of Directors, Newark, Ohio, 2015-present
- **RECORDING SECRETARY** University Area Commission, Columbus, Ohio, 2016-present
- **PROGRAM COMMITTEE** Columbus Metropolitan Club, 2003-2011
- **APPOINTEE** Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council, 2007-2010
- **BOARD MEMBER** Earth Share of Ohio, 2007- 2011
- **BOARD MEMBER** Clintonville, Incorporated, 2005-2011
- **BOARD MEMBER** Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resource Center, 1997-2000