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2019 Candidate Info Sheet ~ Ryan Karlsgodt

I am a fourth-generation San Diegan with deep roots in the architectural history of the city. My great grandfather, Pear Pearson designed and built homes and commercial buildings from Point Loma to La Mesa beginning around 1920. Most were homes in the communities surrounding Balboa park, though he also oversaw the renovation of the ground floor of the U.S. Grant and built what is currently the Ace Hardware in Hillcrest. He is listed as a “Master Builder” by the Historical Resources Board and has several buildings in San Diego’s registry of historic places.

I like to think some of my great-grandfather’s passion for architecture and design passed down to me. After graduating from college in 2008, I returned to San Diego and began applying for entry-level city planning jobs from with the City of San Diego.

I detoured to Washington, D.C. and took an unpaid internship at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. I embarked on an eight-year journey in Democratic politics that took me to a successful Presidential Campaign, the White House and to France where I supported the U.S. Government’s efforts to finalize the Paris Agreement as a political appointee of President Barack Obama. As my appointment to the U.S. Agency for International Development ended in January 2017, I knew it was time to come back home to San Diego.

I currently work as a research analyst with UNITEHERE! Local 30, a hotel and hospitality workers union. Our union believes in unfettered public access to our shared natural resources, a state-of-the art public transit system, environmental justice for historically polluted and disadvantaged communities, and smart city planning that promotes walkable, bikeable communities. Among other duties I track new hotel development in the region, advocate for a wide array of policies and land use decisions that affect hotel workers and influence local and regional planning to improve the lives of the hotel workers we represent.

Through both my personal interest and my role at UNITEHERE! Local 30, I spearheaded our involvement in the C-3 Audubon ReWild Coalition. I am also a member of the San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action and sit on the San Diego Green New Deal Advisory Committee.

I would like to serve on the Board of Directors of C-3 because I believe I can help the organization reach new heights. I’m passionate about smart city planning that does the greatest good for the greater number; open space and parks that are accessible to all and more widely available; and architecture and design that reflects our highest ideals. I bring knowledge, tools, and connections that may be of use to C-3 as it seeks to broaden its impact and raise its voice.