

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH VENICE AREA BEAUTIFICATION, INC.

Who we are:

Venice Area Beautification, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to make the Venice area a more beautiful place to live, work, and play. We accomplish our mission through creating public-private partnerships to create ways that Venice area visitors and residents can enjoy our beautiful outdoor public spaces. We are a volunteer organization and rely on the help of many people.

What we do:

Our signature project is the Venetian Waterway Park, which extends on both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway. Venice Area Beautification, Inc. also is responsible for creating the Arboretum at West Blalock Park in the heart of Venice's cultural community. We have made improvements to John Nolen Park and Prentiss French park for neighborhood residents and the entire community to enjoy. We sponsored local artists to provide murals on the side of several downtown Venice buildings. Through our public art program we also have commissioned and installed beautiful animal sculptures at the Arboretum.

Venice Area Beautification, Inc. is the sponsor of the Bike/Walk Friendly Initiative to achieve national recognition of Venice as a Bike Friendly community and to promote pedestrian and cycling safety and knowledge of the many non-vehicular ways to enjoy our natural wonders. We are the organization whose Ribbons of Venice project seeks to tie our public spaces from the beach to the eastern parks and greenspaces with bicycle and pedestrian pathways. We are sponsoring a demonstration hanging flower basket project in downtown Venice. We are initiating a Friends of Venice Parks program to involve neighbors in decisions about the use of their park and encourage their participation in keeping it beautiful.

How you can join us:

Venice Area Beautification, Inc. Enthusiasts are members of our organization. For a \$25 annual fee, our organization includes you in our activities, keeps you posted on our programs and solicits your feedback on them, and provides you with other benefits.

Additionally you can join our committees.

With or without becoming an Enthusiast, we invite you to participate in our activities as a volunteer, as described on the next page.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP MAKE THE VENICE AREA A MORE BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

Outdoors volunteer opportunities:

The Pepper Patrol: Join this group of fearless warriors as they battle invasive species, clear brush, plant and water trees, and generally keep our Venice public areas looking great.

Trailblazers: Help be the eyes and ears of law enforcement and trail maintenance governmental organizations by keeping alert for potential problems. Be a traveling visitor center, helping new pedestrians and cyclists with information about how to get around without a car, including which are the safest routes to travel.

Bike/Walk Friendly Venice: Help to identify existing and needed cycling and pedestrian paths in order to create maps for users; be a volunteer staff person for special events like the Mayor's Bike Run, Cyclovia, and other events that encourage people to leave their cars and see Venice's beauty close up.

Friends of Venice City Parks: Live near one of the City of Venice's pocket or larger parks? Step up and be an organizer of your neighbors to make that park a better resource for your neighbors and the community with additional amenities, "watch" groups, and the like. Have a dog? Sign up for the Friends of Dog Friendly Parks initiative.

Indoor volunteer opportunities:

Historians: Help preserve the history of Venice Area Beautification, Inc. by collecting articles, photos, memorabilia, for our archives. Assist us in preserving our history by scanning documents into a computerized database and creating a system to access that data.

Reception and Visitor Center staff: Be a public face and voice for Venice Area Beautification, Inc. by greeting visitors to our office, providing them the information they are seeking, selling them VABI merchandise, keeping track of who they are, stocking our amenities. Add your organizing talents to our volunteer organization through paper and virtual filing, tracking, and the like.

Special events:

Fund-raisers: Help us staff our fun events, like the Holiday Boat Bash.

Friend-raisers: Participate with us in free public events we sponsor like the Holiday Tree Lighting at the Arboretum.

Exhibit booths: Help promote us at arts and crafts fairs.