

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 8:24 AM
To: COB; Heitz, Ryan; GoHumCo@ca.humboldt.ca.us
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Headwaters Fund Board Member Application

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Headwaters Fund Board Member Application

Instructions

Individuals interested in serving as a Headwater Fund Board Member must complete this application form. Please be concise.

For additional questions regarding board membership, please email COB@co.humboldt.ca.us or call 707-445-7745.

To learn more about the Headwaters Fund, please visit: gohumco.com/157/Headwaters-Fund

Please note that your application is subject to the California Public Records Act and disclosure requirements.

(Section Break)

Name	Rusty Hicks
Email Address	rustyhicks@gmail.com
Mailing Address	[REDACTED]
City	Arcata
State	California
Zip Code	95521
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Fax Number	Field not completed.

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What would you like to accomplish on the Headwaters Fund Board?

I am seeking to bring my background and experience as an executive-level organizational leader, classroom educator, and military veteran to the Board to help advance the economic development of Humboldt County. Our County has no shortage of challenges and opportunities. The Fund can play a key role in strategically fostering important projects that improve the economic prospects and long-term outlook of our community. I hope to use my broad experience and commitment to public service to advance that important work.

Employment and Experience

I am the current Chair of the California Democratic Party (2019 to President), which the largest State Party in the Nation representing 10 million California Democrats. I am the former President and Political Director (2006 to 2019) of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor representing 300 local unions and 800,000 workers.

With over 10 years of executive-level experience, I have a deep understanding of the skillset required to manage both large and small organizations. Further, in both leadership roles, I have focused on uplifting and improving communities by creating opportunities for good jobs, quality education, healthcare access and civic engagement - particularly in historically under-resourced communities. Virtually all of the successful economic development efforts of which I have been a part have centered on deep collaboration between government, business, labor and philanthropic sectors.

In addition, I have engaged in workforce development and education programs that create new opportunities for disadvantaged workers - specifically women, the formerly incarcerated and veterans. As President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, I helped establish a pre-apprenticeship program to transition these populations into the construction trades. As a current Associate Professor at College of the Redwoods, I teach Political Science to incarcerated students at Pelican Bay State Prison.

Finally, I am a Member of the California State Bar. While I am not a practicing attorney, this training and license provides me with a general awareness of the legalities related to the work of bodies like the Fund. In addition, I am a current Member of the 2024 Class of Leadership Redwood Coast, which provides an additional level of knowledge and awareness of the biggest issues, deep history and key players/organizations in Humboldt County.

In summary, my substantive leadership experience and

dedicated community service would be a value add to the Board.

Previous Board (Or Comparable) Experience

I currently serve on the Board of Coro Southern California (2016 to Present) which is a public affairs leadership non-profit established in 1942. I served as Board Chair (2019 to 2023) and Board Member (2016 to 2019, 2023 to Present). The organization currently has an annual budget of an estimated \$2M.

I formerly served on the Board of the Miguel Contreras Foundation (2017 to 2022) which is a service and advocacy non-profit dedicated to civic engagement and economic empowerment in underserved communities. I served as Board President (2015 to 2019) and Board Member (2019 to 2022). The organization currently has an annual budget of an estimated \$1M.

Vision

My vision for the Headwaters Fund Board is to be a strategic catalyst for economic development in Humboldt County. The need for local support is likely to always outweigh the Fund's relatively modest resources. However, given the Board's public process and countywide purview, the Fund's support can be an important indicator of viable projects and incentivize collaboration with other funding sources. In short, the Fund won't be able to do it all, but the Fund and its Board can play an important role in advancing key projects further and faster.

Collaboration

My leadership style is centered on collaboration. This requires an intentional effort to understand the viewpoints - informed by one's background, experience, and vision - of other Board Members and then a desire to uplift those areas of common purpose. I have more than 20 years of experience with coalitions and collective efforts that has helped hone a useful skillset I can employ in working collaboratively with other Members of the Board.

Contributions

I can contribute in the areas of (1) workforce development opportunities, (2) strategic government engagement, (3) the expansion of educational opportunities and (4) public-private partnerships.

Your Role on the Headwaters Board

I would first listen and learn the processes and practices of the Board and assess where and how I could be of highest and best use to advance its work. I would then proactively engage with other Board Members and Staff to ensure I am doing my part to uplift the Board's mission of economic development in Humboldt County. If appointed, I would strive to be an

engaged, prepared, and collaborative Member throughout my tenure on the Board.

Time Commitment	I am prepared to dedicate up to 10 hours per month to the work of the Board.
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References	Gregg Foster Executive Director Redwood Region Economic Development Corporation Friend [REDACTED] (cell) gregg@rredc.com
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	Nancy Olson Executive Director Eureka Chamber of Commerce Friend [REDACTED] (cell) nancy@eurekachamber.com
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	Connie Stewart Executive Director of Initiatives Cal Poly Humboldt Friend [REDACTED] (cell) connie.stewart@humboldt.edu
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Acknowledgement	Confirm
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Type or Sign Your Name	Rusty Hicks
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Date	25/26/2024
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