

## **SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MMRB Liaison: DJ Culberson, (407) 247-0389**

### **MISSION**

Reviews Business Development Division reports and recommends implementation strategies related to small business enterprise goals; advocates for qualified businesses by encouraging certification through the Business Development Division; reviews and recommends improvements to communication between small business enterprises and county government to promote participation in county procurement activities; studies and recommends policies and strategies to the Board of County Commissioners to improve the availability, participation, and use of small business enterprises in county procurements.

### **STATUS OF VACANCIES**

There are seven vacancies on this newly created seven-member board in the at large representative category.

### **THE MMRB RECOMMENDS:**

Consideration of the appointment of Donovan L. Gardner, Katie J. Donzanti, Lyndell L. Mims, and Nicholas Grassi in the at large representative category with terms expiring June 30, 2028 and the appointment of Dr. Melissa S. Johnson, Loren Maggio, and Candice Simmons in the at large representative category with terms expiring June 30, 2029.

<b><u>APPLICANT</u></b>	<b><u>OCCUPATION</u></b>	<b><u>DISTRICT</u></b>
Donovan L. Gardner	Discover After School/Chief Executive Officer	1
Katie J. Donzanti	The Peaceful Peacock/Chief Executive Officer/Owner/Founder	3
Lyndell L. Mims	Mims Construction/President	6
Nicholas Grassi	Self-employed	1
Melissa S. Johnson, Ph.D.	Mission Recruiting/Senior Legal Recruiter	2
Loren Maggio	The Everyday Edit/Founder and President	1
Candice Simmons	Enterprising Black Orlando/Founder and Chief Executive Officer	5

## **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Donovan L. Gardner:** Mr. Gardner is the chief executive officer of Discover After School, where he has been employed for seven years. He is a member of the National After School Association.

**Katie J. Donzanti:** Ms. Donzanti is the chief executive officer, owner, and founder of The Peaceful Peacock, where she has been employed for 10 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from the University of Central Florida.

**Lyndell L. Mims:** Ms. Mims is the president of Mims Construction, where she has been employed for 36 years. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida. She is a member of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. She previously served on the M/WBE Advisory Committee, Code Enforcement Board, and the Citizens' Review Panel for Human Services. She currently serves on the Affordable Housing Advisory Board.

**Nicholas Grassi:** Mr. Grassi is a self-employed entrepreneur and has owned and operated his business for 15 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Italian language and literature from Villanova University. He is a member of the National Police Defense Foundation.

**Melissa S. Johnson, Ph.D.:** Dr. Johnson is a senior legal recruiter with Mission Recruiting, where she has been employed for one year. She holds a doctoral degree in Christian counseling from the International College of Ministry. She previously served on the M/WBE Advisory Committee.

**Loren Maggio:** Ms. Maggio is the founder and president of The Everyday Edit, where she has been employed for one year. She is a member of the Waterleigh Phase 2 Homeowner's Association Architectural Review Committee.

**Candice Simmons:** Ms. Simmons is the founder and chief executive officer of Enterprising Black Orlando, where she has been employed for one year. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of West Florida. She previously served on the Orange County Housing for All Taskforce.

## Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 4/20/2026

**Application Number:** 98122

**Application Expires:** 4/20/2028

**Name:** Mr. Donovan Larry Gardner

**Business Address:**

504 Plant Street  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

**Home Address:**

11324 Shandon Park Way  
Windermere, FL 34786

**Mail Address:**

11324 Shandon Park Way  
Windermere, FL 34786

**Email Address:** donovan@discoverafterschool.com

**Home Telephone Number:**

(352) 255-3828

**Work Telephone Number:**

Not Listed

**Employer:** Discover After School

**Job Title:** CEO

**Years Employed:** 7

**Education:** Not Listed

**Boards of Interest:**

Citizens' Commission for Children  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I am the Founder and CEO of Discover After School, an organization dedicated to providing high-quality out-of-school-time programming that supports the academic, social, and emotional development of youth. With over 19 years of experience in youth development and after-school programming, I have led the growth and operations of multi-site programs serving families across Florida and Georgia, partnering closely with school districts and community stakeholders. My professional experience has equipped me with a strong understanding of program development, strategic planning, staff leadership, and community engagement. I have managed multimillion-dollar program operations, developed curriculum aligned with educational standards, and implemented systems that prioritize safety, quality, and measurable outcomes for students. Beyond my professional work, I am deeply committed to strengthening communities by investing in children and families. As a husband, father, and youth pastor, I bring a personal passion for mentorship, leadership development, and creating environments where young people can thrive. I understand firsthand the importance of access to safe, enriching spaces for youth, particularly during out-of-school hours. I am particularly interested in serving on boards that focus on youth development, education, and community advancement. I believe my combination of operational leadership, community insight, and mission-driven perspective would allow me to contribute meaningfully to board discussions, support strategic initiatives, and help organizations expand their impact. I am eager to lend my experience, perspective, and passion to help advance the mission and goals of the board.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Tekoa Puerie

**Phone Number:** (407) 529-7894

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Business Colleague

**Reference:** Samuel Danner

**Phone Number:** (407) 230-8675

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Business Colleague

**Reference:** Daniel Starks

**Phone Number:** (407) 394-6334

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Friend

**Professional Organizations:** National After School Association

**From:** 2021

**To:** Current

**Professional Organizations:** Acceleration Church

**From:** 2017

**To:** Current

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**Previously Served On:** Unlisted

**Year Previously Served:** Unlisted

**Gender:** Male

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Resident Since:** 2005

**District:** Orange County District 1

**Disabled:** No

**Race:** African American

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 4/21/2026

**Application Number:** 98144

**Application Expires:** 4/21/2028

**Name:** Ms. Katie J. Donzanti

**Business Address:**

1700 S. Bumby Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32806

**Home Address:**

4631 N. Saint Brides Circle  
Orlando, FL 32812

**Mail Address:**

4631 N. Saint Brides Circle  
Orlando, FL 32812

**Email Address:** katie@peacefulpeacockorlando.com

**Home Telephone Number:**

(407) 579-6646

**Work Telephone Number:**

(407) 317-6805

**Employer:** The Peaceful Peacock

**Job Title:** CEO, Owner, Founder

**Years Employed:** 10

**Education:**

**School:** UCF

**Degree:** BA Organizational Communication

**Boards of Interest:**

Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I founded a start up small business, in OC, in 2017. I own an accessible Yoga studio. My small business has a12 employees, all local clients, and straddles coverage in Orange County and City of Orlando. I am deeply passionate about the sustainability, infrastructure, policies, and access that allow Small Businesses in our county to thrive. I am connected daily, to the challenges of keeping a small business open. I have a decade of success, growth, management and networking that allows me a ground-level perspective. I spend frequent time in community other small business owners, locally and nationally. I sit on a Mainstreet District board as the Economic Vitality Chairperson. I also serve on the City of Orlando Chapter 57 board. I am a resident, mother, former marketing executive, and ally to humans within Orlando's growing population.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Brooke Armstrong

**Phone Number:** (704) 550-7558

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Employee, 10 years

**Reference:** Stephanie Ziglar

**Phone Number:** (407) 970-9817

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Executive Director of Curry Ford W

**Reference:** Tom Schroder

**Phone Number:** (407) 832-0109

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Formercoworker,Yoga student, friend

**Professional Organization Information:** Not Listed

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Resident Since:** 1999

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**District:** Orange County District 3

**Previously Served On:** Unlisted

**Year Previously Served:** Unlisted

**Gender:** Female

**Disabled:** No

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Race:** Caucasian

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 4/28/2026

**Application Number:** 98242

**Application Expires:** 4/28/2028

**Name:** Ms. Lyndell L. Mims

**Business Address:**  
PO Box 681554

Orlando, FL 32868

**Home Address:**  
1818 Mulberrywood Court  
Orlando, FL 32818

**Mail Address:**  
Not Listed

**Email Address:** LyndellIII@cs.com

**Home Telephone Number:**  
(407) 592-0707

**Work Telephone Number:**  
(407) 298-6926

**Employer:** Mims Construction

**Job Title:** President

**Years Employed:** 36

**Education:**  
**School:** University of Florida  
**Degree:** BS

**Boards of Interest:**  
Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licenses and Certificates:** Local Business Tax  
**Issue Date:** 7/1/2025  
**Issuing Authority:** Orange County  
**Disciplinary Action:** n/a  
**From:** Not Listed  
**To:** Not Listed

**Licenses and Certificates:** General Contractors Licences  
**Issue Date:** 8/30/2024  
**Issuing Authority:** State of Florida  
**Disciplinary Action:** n/a  
**From:** Not Listed  
**To:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** Mims Construction has been in business for 36 years and as the President, I have been involved in all aspects of construction as well as working on projects within the county which has allowed me to utilize my experience and understand the importance of being a small business and working with the certifying agency to embrace the program.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Jim Easton  
**Phone Number:** (407) 575-6590  
**Capacity/ Relationship:** professional associate

**Reference:** Ed Varnes  
**Phone Number:** (904) 945-2915  
**Capacity/ Relationship:** professional associate

**Reference:** mark Lewis  
**Phone Number:** (407) 463-4693  
**Capacity/ Relationship:** professional associate

**Professional Organizations:** Tuskegee Airmen

**From:** 2005

**To:** present

**Professional Organizations:** BWOEE

**From:** 1995

**To:** present

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**Previously Served On:** AHAB, MWBE, CEB, CRPHS

**Year Previously Served:** 2024

**Gender:** Female

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Resident Since:** 1977

**District:** Orange County District 6

**Disabled:** No

**Race:** African American

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 5/6/2026

**Application Number:** 98582

**Application Expires:** 5/6/2028

**Name:** Mr. Nicholas Grassi

**Business Address:**

Not Listed

**Home Address:**

11565 Mizzon Drive

Windermere, FL 34786

**Mail Address:**

3065 Daniels Road

PMB 1479

Winter Garden, FL 34787

**Email Address:** ItalianWithNick@gmail.com

**Home Telephone Number:**

(929) 400-7139

**Work Telephone Number:**

Not Listed

**Employer:** Self Employed

**Job Title:** Entrepreneur

**Years Employed:** 15

**Education:**

**School:** Villanova University

**Degree:** B.A. Italian Language & Literature

**School:** University of Perugia (Italy)

**Degree:** Not Listed

**Boards of Interest:**

Orange County Research and Development Authority

Tourist Development Council

Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licenses and Certificates:** Professional Administrative Certificatio

**Issue Date:** Not Listed

**Issuing Authority:** American Society of Administrative Profe

**Disciplinary Action:** Not Listed

**From:** Not Listed

**To:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** Having become a permanent resident in Orange County as well as a small business owner, I bring a combination of hands-on operational experience, community engagement, hospitality knowledge, and international business perspective that I believe would make me a strong contributor to these advisory boards. I have a passion for our community and am always looking for ways to improve our quality of life. I currently operate a Florida-based small business focused on hospitality, real estate investment, and tourism-related services in the area. Through this work, I have firsthand experience navigating the challenges and opportunities faced by small businesses. I understand how important tourism, innovation, and local economic development are to the success of Orange County businesses and residents alike. Professionally, I have worked in both the public and private sectors, including roles supporting international trade, executive operations, event coordination, and guest relations to name a few. My previous experience includes serving as Executive Assistant to the Director of the Department for International Trade for the United Kingdom in the USA, as well as leadership and guest service roles with Walt Disney World and operating my hospitality business. These positions strengthened my skills in communication, problem-solving, cross-cultural collaboration, operations management, and stakeholder engagement. I am particularly interested in supporting Orange County's continued growth as a globally recognized tourism and business destination while ensuring opportunities remain accessible to local entrepreneurs and emerging businesses. As someone who has personally built and managed a small business, I understand the importance of practical solutions, strategic planning, and community-focused decision-making. Additionally, my international background and experience working with vibrant diverse communities have given me a broader perspective on these vital topics.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Trudi Kessler

**Phone Number:** (484) 294-7152

**Capacity/ Relationship:** University mentor

**Reference:** Lianne Robinson

**Phone Number:** (321) 202-7673

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Co-manager of Airbnb property

**Reference:** Ross Allen

**Phone Number:** (372) 539-80886

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Former boss/director

**Professional Organizations:** National Police Defense Foundation

**From:** 2019

**To:** Present

**Professional Organizations:** Orlando Pride Chamber

**From:** 2024

**To:** 2025

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Resident Since:** 2023

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**District:** Orange County District 1

**Previously Served On:** Unlisted

**Year Previously Served:** Unlisted

**Gender:** Male

**Disabled:** Yes

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Race:** Other

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 4/30/2026

**Application Number:** 98382

**Application Expires:** 4/30/2028

**Name:** Melissa S. Johnson

**Business Address:**

Not Listed

**Home Address:**

3409 Meadow Breeze Loop  
Ocoee, FL 34761

**Mail Address:**

3409 Meadow Breeze Loop  
Ocoee, FL 34761

**Email Address:** melissamyers@justwriteconsulting.org

**Home Telephone Number:**

(407) 457-8199

**Work Telephone Number:**

Not Listed

**Employer:** Mission Recruiting

**Job Title:** Senior Legal Recruiter

**Years Employed:** 1

**Education:**

**School:** International College of Ministry

**Degree:** PhD Christian Counseling

**Boards of Interest:**

Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I bring over 20 years of experience in workforce development, talent acquisition, and business consulting, with a strong emphasis on supporting small, minority, and disadvantaged businesses in navigating government contracting and procurement processes. As the Founder of Just Write Inc. (JW Staffing) and Just Write Consulting Inc. (JWC), I have worked extensively with local businesses to strengthen their operational capacity, access workforce talent, and compete effectively for public and private sector opportunities. My previous service on the MWBE Advisory Board provided me with direct insight into policy development, certification challenges, and the practical barriers small businesses face in accessing equitable contracting opportunities. I have actively engaged with business owners, community leaders, and government stakeholders to advocate for transparency, inclusion, and sustainable economic growth. In addition, my work with programs such as Vocational Rehabilitation and Ticket to Work has allowed me to build pipelines that connect underserved populations to employment, further strengthening the small business ecosystem. I am deeply committed to ensuring that SBE programs are structured in a way that is both accessible and impactful, with measurable outcomes for the local business community. My interest in serving on the SBE Advisory Board is rooted in my commitment to economic equity, community development, and policy accountability. I aim to contribute a practical, solutions-oriented perspective that bridges the gap between policy and real-world implementation, ensuring that small businesses in our community have the resources, support, and opportunities needed to thrive.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** George Oliver

**Phone Number:** (407) 756-8313

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Community Advocacy

**Reference:** Paul Knight

**Phone Number:** (407) 288-4773

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Community Advocacy

**Reference:** Dwylett Chambers

**Phone Number:** (678) 733-4173

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Community Advocacy/Youth Program Dev

**Professional Organization Information:** Not Listed

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**Previously Served On:** MWBE Advisory Board

**Year Previously Served:** 1.5

**Gender:** Female

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Resident Since:** 1982

**District:** Orange County District 2

**Disabled:** No

**Race:** African American

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 4/29/2026

**Application Number:** 98323

**Application Expires:** 4/29/2028

**Name:** Ms. Loren Maggio

**Business Address:**

Not Listed

**Home Address:**

16085 Ridge Haven Aly  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

**Mail Address:**

16085 Ridge Haven Aly  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

**Email Address:** Lorin@theeverydayeditLC.com

**Home Telephone Number:**

(949) 751-7110

**Work Telephone Number:**

(689) 444-7208

**Employer:** The Everyday Edit

**Job Title:** Founder/President

**Years Employed:** 1

**Education:** Not Listed

**Boards of Interest:**

Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I bring over 20 years of experience in hospitality, sales, and business development, including nearly a decade in senior leadership roles responsible for revenue growth, contract negotiation, and operational strategy. My background has given me a strong understanding of what it takes to build, scale, and sustain successful businesses. As a small business owner, I currently operate multiple service-based brands focused on event services, organization, and concierge support. I am actively involved in all aspects of business operations, including marketing, pricing strategy, vendor management, financial oversight, and customer experience. This hands-on experience allows me to understand both the opportunities and challenges small business owners face daily, from cash flow and staffing to growth and positioning in competitive markets. I am especially passionate about supporting local entrepreneurs and helping small businesses access the tools, resources, and visibility they need to succeed. I bring a practical, solutions-oriented mindset and a strong ability to connect strategy with execution. As a single mother and community member, I am also deeply invested in economic growth that supports families and creates sustainable opportunities. I am collaborative, accountable, and committed to contributing thoughtful, real-world insight to support the success of Orange County's small business community.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Jim Kusek

**Phone Number:** (402) 415-1396

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Friend

**Reference:** Josh Horowitz

**Phone Number:** (732) 882-9133

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Past Employee

**Reference:** Gary Morocco walsh

**Phone Number:** (407) 625-1998

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Neighbor

**Professional Organizations:** Waterleigh PH2 HOA ARC Committee

**From:** 3/2026

**To:** Present

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Resident Since:** 2011

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**Previously Served On:** Unlisted

**Year Previously Served:** Unlisted

**Gender:** Female

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**District:** Orange County District 1

**Disabled:** No

**Race:** Caucasian

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 4/29/2026

**Application Number:** 98282

**Application Expires:** 4/29/2028

**Name:** Ms. Candice Simmons

**Business Address:**

16877 E. Colonial Drive  
PMB 168  
Orlando, FL 32820

**Home Address:**

3102 San Leo Drive  
Orlando, FL 32820

**Mail Address:**

3102 San Leo Drive  
Orlando, FL 32820

**Email Address:** candice@eborlando.org

**Home Telephone Number:**

(850) 341-3171

**Work Telephone Number:**

Not Listed

**Employer:** Enterprising Black Orlando

**Job Title:** Founder/ CEO

**Years Employed:** 1

**Education:**

**School:** University of West Florida

**Degree:** Bachelor of Business Administration

**Boards of Interest:**

Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I bring over 25 years of experience in banking, community development, and small business ecosystem building, including 15 years with Wells Fargo where I led efforts in community investment, small business support, and strategic philanthropy. My work with national partners through the Wells Fargo Foundation has exposed me to a broader network of leaders and innovative models, allowing me to bring best practices back to strengthen our local community. Throughout my career, I have operated at the intersection of business, capital, and, communitydesigning solutions that expand access to resources and drive inclusive economic growth. As the Founder and CEO of Enterprising Black Orlando, I am building a regional initiative that aligns business-serving organizations, funders, and community leaders to better support entrepreneurs. Through this work, our coalition has soft-launched the Community Exchange, a shared platform that streamlines access to technical assistance, capital, and networks for small businesses, particularly those historically underserved. My experience is grounded in both strategy and execution working directly with small business owners, lenders, nonprofit partners, and policymakers to address real barriers to growth. I understand the challenges facing small businesses today, including access to capital, fragmented support systems, and the need for coordinated, ecosystem-based solutions. I am committed to helping Orange County strengthen a small business infrastructure that is inclusive, data-informed, and responsive to evolving needs. I bring a collaborative leadership style, a focus on equitable economic development, and a track record of building partnerships that drive measurable impact. I would be honored to contribute my experience and perspective to support the County's vision for a thriving and resilient small business community.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Brandon Johnson

**Phone Number:** (352) 222-4983

**Capacity/ Relationship:** colleague

**Reference:** Marilyn Drayton

**Phone Number:** (803) 609-3266

**Capacity/ Relationship:** EBO Board Member

**Reference:** William Jefferson  
**Phone Number:** (561) 236-2426  
**Capacity/ Relationship:** Peer

**Professional Organization Information:** Not Listed

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Resident Since:** 2013

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**District:** Orange County District 5

**Previously Served On:** Housing for All Taskforce

**Year Previously Served:** 2018

**Gender:** Female

**Disabled:** No

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Race:** African American

**Current Applicants for the Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee as of 5/11/2026**

<b>Name</b>	<b>District/County</b>	<b>Application Date</b>
Beasley, Ryan	Orange County District 4	4/27/2026
Donzanti, Katie J.	Orange County District 3	4/21/2026
Gardner, Donovan Larry	Orange County District 1	4/20/2026
Godoy, Alfredo Cristian	Orange County District 4	5/2/2026
Grassi, Nicholas	Orange County District 1	5/6/2026
Johnson, Melissa S.	Orange County District 2	4/30/2026
Lewis, Kimble	Other	5/6/2026
Maggio, Loren	Orange County District 1	4/29/2026
Mims, Lyndell L.	Orange County District 6	4/28/2026
Shahnam, Tony	Orange County District 5	4/29/2026
Simmons, Candice	Orange County District 5	4/29/2026
Taylor, Marcus	Other	4/29/2026
Thompson, Rod D.	Orange County District 2	5/1/2026
Thompson, Shakira Renee	Orange County District 4	4/29/2026
Walker, Lizbeth	Osceola County	4/28/2026
Woods, William T.	Orange County District 5	5/2/2026