




**CANDIDATES
for election to the board
September 2023**

	<p>Benny Cartwright</p> <p>I am seeking a seat on the Uptown Planners to be able to share my unique voice as our wonderful Uptown communities experience a tremendous amount of growth. A lifelong San Diegan, University Heights resident and a part of the Hillcrest community for 25 years, I have lived through much change in the Uptown area. These neighborhoods are dynamic and will continue to grow and change, but it's important that the community's voices are included - and those voices are diverse with different needs. I want to ensure that all of us can work together to find the best version of Uptown into the future. We also need to ensure that our housing is affordable so that those who have been a part of the community can stay here, and those who want to live here can!</p> <p>I've served in numerous capacities in the community, including chair of Hillcrest Town Council, University Heights Community Association volunteer, Hillcrest Business Association volunteer and committee member, organized litter cleanups, co-founder of the Hillcrest Honors Awards ceremony, previously served as a community rep for the District 3 council office, and much more. I look forward to serving the Uptown Planners so that all can be heard.</p>
	<p>Mat Wahlstrom</p> <p>I am a 23-year resident of Hillcrest and the former chair of Uptown Planners. And like you, I care about where we live and work, and concerned about our place in the big picture of what's happening in the world.</p> <p>Practical solutions to the impacts of climate change need to be addressed by our Community Planning Groups. This means preserving existing affordable housing, ensuring new housing is actually affordable, and advocating for development that is sustainable. It requires questioning the rampant real estate speculation we see driving our neighbors from their homes and businesses.</p> <p>I support new construction in scale to existing buildings and sensitive to the environment, land use and urban planning for density appropriate to infrastructure and facilities, mobility that is about choices not mandates, and community development responsive to community input.</p> <p>I hope you will allow me the opportunity once again to serve for you.</p>
	<p>Troy Weber</p> <p>Empowering Uptown: Preserving our Community, Building for the future, Creative Solutions for the Homeless</p> <p>As a deeply invested resident of Uptown, I am running for a position on San Diego's Uptown Planning Committee to address critical issues like homelessness while preserving our cherished local community feel. Serving on this committee is a chance to bring positive change and ensure that Uptown remains a thriving, inclusive, and compassionate neighborhood.</p> <p>With my background in urban planning and sustainable development working for a City Land Bank and County Brownfield Sustainability Program, I possess the knowledge and expertise needed to make informed decisions. I believe in engaging the community through town halls, workshops, and surveys to gather diverse perspectives and ideas. By involving residents, businesses, and organizations in the decision-making process, we can create a collective vision that reflects our shared values and aspirations.</p> <p>Together, we can shape a brighter future for Uptown—one that addresses our challenges head-on while maintaining the essence of our unique community. As a member of the Uptown Planning Committee, I promise to be the voice of the people, a champion for positive transformation, and an advocate for a neighborhood we can all be proud to call home.</p>

For election information, including dates, times, locations, and voting requirements, visit <https://uptownplannerssd.org>
 If questions, contact the Election Committee Chair: elections@uptownplannerssd.org