

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 12:04 pm, Oct 16, 2020

Planning Commission Applicant

Mr. Samuel M. Tolkin

Application Date: 10/16/20

Reside in Santa Monica: yes

If yes, number of years: 38years

Hold an elected position: no

If yes, please specify:

INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:

N/A

Community activities:

Member of SM a.r.t. Architects, I have been writing extensively in local publications on the quality of life in this city and the need for thoughtful planning, balanced development in it's future.

I am also continuing my practice as architect and planner.

Qualifications, experience, education, and technical or professional requirements:

Samuel M. Tolkin has over 45 years of experience as a practicing architect. He received a Master of Architecture in Urban Design degree from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Columbia University.

Early on in his career he designed an award winning nuclear power plant in conjunction with the nuclear engineers at General Electric for a potential Long island, New York location. He worked for I. M. Pei and Associates, Victor Gruen Associates as well as the Bechtel Corporation, before establishing his independent practice in 1974 and creating the firm of Earth-Eco Systems as principal architect in 1978. The later was to address by design the environmental and energy problems which he envisioned would challenge man and the architectural professional in particular.

Samuel has been involved in numerous development feasibility studies and a new town location analysis for the Ontario Government.

In California he helped master plan and did development analysis for a portion of Catalina Island, including a study for prefabricated housing for the same project. Other work includes a master plan for

the combined Loyola-Marymount University campus in Los Angeles, studies involving central business district revitalization, and comprehensive community plans for Menasha, Wisconsin and Huntington Park, California.

Samuel has designed numerous office, commercial and institutional buildings and planning projects. Designs of his have received awards and citations from among others the Long Beach Historical Society, City of Los Angeles, the AIA and from the Beverly Hills Architectural Commission.

Samuel has been widely recognized and has had works published in the fields of architecture and industrial design. Most notably, he was nominated for a Fellowship by the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and his industrial design work has been accepted into the permanent collection of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum at the Smithsonian Institution.

In 2010 he served on a National Science Foundation panel reviewing grant proposals for the development of revolutionary architectural materials and processes with the aim of creating buildings with net zero energy consumption.

His current work includes a visionary series of prefabricated multi-use sustainable high-rise buildings to replace and respond to the pressures on existing urban areas and their structures by the rise in sea levels globally.

Over the last few years he has authored and published op-ed pieces in the Santa Monica, California newspapers on planning and architecture to critique and perhaps influence that city's decisions makers.

He maintains licenses to practice architecture in the states of New York, California, and Washington.

Areas of demonstrated expertise:

I have had 50 years of experience in architecture, urban design and planning. I have planned new towns, downtown areas in small towns across the country. I have been involved in the development of large and small scale projects in many urban areas. I have lived abroad and traveled extensively. This background gives me a unique perspective on the developmental forms which could benefit this community. Some of this work was government funded and some was privately funded.

Goals:

My main goal is to see that projects get approved that maintain the quality of life in this city that we as residents have come to enjoy and expect. Further, that the need for thoughtful planning, balanced and environmentally sound development is not just a right but a fundamental need. That will be my yardstick in assessing all future projects that may come before the commission. I hope also to bring to the board a

level of expertise based on my age and experience. If approved I may be the oldest serving commissioner and intend giving those duties my fullest attention.

Vision:

We need to set an example for all beach front communities to follow, regarding housing, homelessness and development standards that will make this community an example that other communities in the region can in the region can follow.

Personal Qualities:

I have had my own firm for over 45 years in which I pioneered using environmentally efficient methods involving solar and wind energy. For example, I was the first to get permits for wind generators in a coastal part Los Angeles county. I am currently working on a project which envisions new urban development in areas of the world severely effected by global warming and the rising sea levels.

Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?

yes

How did you learn about the vacancy in this board or commission? (select all that apply)

Word of Mouth- Council or Board/Commission member, City Staff, neighborhood groups, etc.

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Occupation: Architect, Urban Planner

Business name: Tolkin Architects & Earth- Eco Systems

Business address: 850 2nd. Street, Unit 315

Santa Monica, CA 90403

Business phone: 310-451-5497