

# VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD APPLICATION

BOARD(S) APPLYING FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Advisory Board</li><li>• Community Redevelopment Agency</li><li>• Education Task Force</li></ul>
NAME	Jose Fernandez
ADDRESS	101 S eastcoast st apt 403 lake worth beach, FL 33460 United States
UPLOAD PROOF OF RESIDENCY	• <a href="#">IMG_2291.JPG</a>
DO YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT MAILING ADDRESS?	No
PHONE	(561) 377-9455
BUSINESS PHONE	(561) 740-6018
CELL PHONE	(561) 377-9455
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:blacklotusgym@gmail.com">blacklotusgym@gmail.com</a>
LIST ALL PROPERTIES OWNED AND/OR BUSINESS INTERESTS IN LAKE WORTH BEACH	Black Lotus Gym / Training Center 709 Lucerne Ave
WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?	Coach/ Instructor / Trainer
EMPLOYER?	Black Lotus Gym / Self
ARE YOU CURRENTLY SERVING ON ANY CITY ADVISORY BOARD?	No
HAVE YOU EVER SERVED ON A CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH ADVISORY BOARD?	No

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

I am the owner and head coach of Black Lotus Gym in downtown Lake Worth Beach, where I work directly with local residents, families, youth, employees, and small business owners every day. Running a gym has given me hands-on experience in small business operations, staff leadership, customer service, scheduling, budgeting, marketing, community outreach, and creating programs that serve both adults and children.

My background also includes youth development and educational programming. I previously worked with Teachers Without Borders and developed an anti-bullying and youth empowerment program that was later purchased by the YMCA of Miami. That experience helped shape my belief that strong communities are built by investing in young people and giving them confidence, discipline, leadership skills, and positive adult mentorship.

Through Black Lotus Gym, I provide Muay Thai, kickboxing, fitness, youth development, homeschool, and character-building programs. This gives me a strong connection to the needs of families, students, parents, and working professionals in our community.

In addition to my martial arts and youth development background, I am a USCCA Training Counselor, authorized to train and certify firearms instructors and range safety officers. I am one of the few USCCA Training Counselors in the State of Florida. My work focuses not only on firearms safety, but also on responsible education, risk awareness, and empowering vulnerable citizens with the knowledge and confidence to protect themselves and their families.

I believe my experience as a downtown business owner, instructor, parent, mentor, youth program developer, and community safety educator would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the Business Advisory Board, Education Task Force, and Community Redevelopment Agency.

## INTEREST/ACTIVITIES

Outside of my business and professional work, I enjoy spending quality time with my wife, children, nephews, parents, students, and close friends. Family is very important to me, and as my parents and kids get older, I appreciate that time with them more than ever. It has reminded me how valuable time truly is and how important it is to stay connected to the people who matter most.

My gym is also a very large part of my life. Many of my students have gone from training partners to close friends and now family. We have shared, victories, tragedies, babies being born, kids growing into adults, challenges, highs, and lows together. Black Lotus Gym is more than a business to me; it is a community. My own children took their first steps on the mats, and some of their first friendships were made on those very mats. Because of that, the gym has been deeply connected to both my family life and my purpose in serving others.

I love taking my kids and family on adventures, going to the beach, traveling together, camping, hiking, and spending time outdoors. I also enjoy off-roading in my truck as a way to get outside, explore, and disconnect from city life.

Travel is a big part of my life. Over time, I have become somewhat of a foodie and enjoy experiencing local food, traditions, and culture wherever I go.

Staying active and continuing to grow are also important parts of my life. I continue to train in Muay Thai and travel to places like Thailand and Costa Rica to sharpen my skills as an instructor, maintain my own health and discipline, and continue learning from different cultures and training environments.

These activities reflect my values of family, discipline, hard work, sustainability, community, and lifelong learning.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Through Black Lotus Gym, I serve the Lake Worth Beach community by offering youth martial arts, adult fitness, Muay Thai, kickboxing, homeschool programs, character-development training, and community-based personal safety education.

One of our biggest priorities is making our programs accessible and affordable for all families. We work closely with parents because we believe every child deserves a chance, and that no child should be left behind because of finances, family circumstances, or lack of access to positive programs.

We have also recently teamed up with Adopt-A-Family of Lake Worth Beach to help offer our youth programs to even more children and families in need. This partnership reflects our commitment to using Black Lotus Gym as more than just a training facility — we want it to be a place where young people can build confidence, discipline, respect, fitness, and community support.

Our gym regularly works with local families, students, parents, business owners, and downtown employees. We provide a positive place for people to train, build confidence, relieve stress, develop discipline, and connect with others. For many of our students and families, Black Lotus Gym becomes more than a place to exercise; it becomes a supportive community.

During the summer, we also organize beach cleanups through the gym, either with our summer camp students or adult volunteers. These cleanups give our students and members an opportunity to give back, take pride in Lake Worth Beach, and learn the importance of civic responsibility.

We are also direct providers for the Step Up program and work to provide scholarship opportunities for families whenever possible. In addition, we support efforts such as summer meal programs for children, including programs like the Summer Food Service Program or SUN Meals, which help ensure children have access to meals during the summer months.

I am committed to being an active downtown business owner who contributes to the growth, safety, cleanliness, youth development, and culture of Lake Worth Beach.

## WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THIS BOARD (FIRST PREFERENCE)

I would like to serve on the Business Advisory Board because I am a downtown Lake Worth Beach business owner who understands both the challenges and opportunities facing local businesses. I work with residents, families, employees, and other small business owners every day, and I believe I can bring a practical, community-focused perspective to the board.

My goal would be to help support small business growth, improve communication between business owners and the City, encourage more local engagement, and help create more collaboration between businesses. I believe that when local businesses work together, the entire community benefits.

Lake Worth Beach is already such a beautiful, creative, and dynamic city. It would be an honor to be part of giving back and helping strengthen it even more as a destination for residents, visitors, families, and entrepreneurs.

I believe healthy local businesses help create a healthier city, and I would be honored to contribute to that work.

**WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THIS BOARD (SECOND PREFERENCE)**

I would like to serve on the Education Task Force because I have spent many years working with children, parents, homeschool families, schools, and youth development programs.

I have been a Level 2 background-checked and cleared vendor with Palm Beach County Schools for over a decade, and I have run camps, workshops, and youth programs at both public and private schools. I am also proud to say that I have been the martial arts provider for all summer camps at Saint Paul Lutheran School in Boca Raton for over 13 years.

Education is also very personal to my family. Since our children are homeschooled, my wife and I are directly involved in their education, development, character formation, and day-to-day learning. That has given me an even deeper appreciation for the role that parents, teachers, mentors, and community programs play in a child's growth.

Through Black Lotus Gym, my school-based programs, and my previous work with Teachers Without Borders, I have seen firsthand how important mentorship, discipline, confidence-building, and positive leadership are in a young person's life. I developed an anti-bullying and youth empowerment program that was later purchased by the YMCA of Miami. That experience continues to shape how I approach youth development today.

I believe education is not limited to academics. It also includes character, confidence, physical wellness, emotional resilience, discipline, leadership, and community connection. I would be honored to help support students, families, teachers, and schools in Lake Worth Beach in any way I can.

**WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THIS BOARD (THIRD PREFERENCE)**

I would like to serve on the Community Redevelopment Agency because I care deeply about the future of downtown Lake Worth Beach. My family and I are approaching nine years since moving here from Fort Lauderdale, and Lake Worth Beach is where my wife and I opened our dream business, Black Lotus Gym.

When my wife and I found out we were going to have a child, we made a decision about the kind of life we wanted to build and the kind of community we wanted to raise our family in. We wanted to be our own bosses, raise our children with purpose, and plant roots somewhere that felt real, creative, diverse, and community-driven. We chose Lake Worth Beach, and we have been raising our children here ever since.

As a local business owner and parent, I see firsthand how redevelopment, walkability, safety, parking, events, public spaces, cleanliness, and business support affect residents, families, and small businesses. I would like to contribute to thoughtful redevelopment that protects the city's unique character while helping businesses grow, improving quality of life, and making downtown Lake Worth Beach more active, welcoming, and economically strong.

I believe redevelopment should support both economic opportunity and the people who live, work, visit, and raise families here. After nearly a decade in Lake Worth Beach, my family and I feel deeply connected to this community and are continuing to look for ways to grow, contribute, and deepen our roots here. Serving on this board would be an opportunity to give back, be part of the city's future, and help strengthen a community that has become such an important part of our lives.

**FOR EDUCATION TASK FORCE, WHICH SCHOOL DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH?**

Our children are homeschooled, so we are not currently tied to one specific school. However, I would be honored to work with any school in Lake Worth Beach that needs support. My background is in youth development, anti-bullying education, character building, fitness, mentorship, and family engagement, and I would be happy to contribute wherever I can be most useful.

**CONSENT**

✓ I agree to the privacy policy.

I understand the responsibilities associated with being a board/committee member, and I have adequate time to serve if appointed.

I have read the attached Ordinance No. 2010-29 and Article XIII (Palm Beach County) Code of Ethics and understand the policy on the City of Lake Worth Beach Code of Ethics. Within 30 days after appointment, I

understand that I am required to participate in Ethics Training and submit an Acknowledgement of Receipt form to the City Clerk's Office in order to continue to serve on my appointed board.

\*THIS APPLICATION IS VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE SIGNED.

\*THIS APPLICATION IS NOT VALID WITHOUT APPLICANT'S PROOF OF RESIDENCY.

**TODAY'S DATE**

04/27/2026

**SIGNATURE**

Jose A. Fernandez