

Office Use Only:

Council District: 19    New Appointment  Reappointment    Attendance Record:

### Library Board of Trustees Commission

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 12:00 Noon on the 4th Monday of each month at the Main Library- 25 Heritage Green Plaza, Greenville.

Name: **Shelby Cohen**

Occupation: **Communications  
Consultant & Graphic  
Designer**

Employer: **Self-employed;  
Shelby Cohen Design  
LLC**

Highest Degree Earned: **Masters**

School Attended: **University of South  
Florida**

Year of Graduation: **MA – 2015; BA – 2012**

Field of Study: **MA Global  
Sustainability; BA  
International Studies**

Linked In Profile:

Social Media Profile:

#### Military Experience:

N/A

#### Certifications:

N/A

#### Civic Organizations / Other Affiliations:

League of Women Voters of Greenville County – Board Member 2019-2023

Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC) – Greenville Advisory Committee

Slow Food Upstate – Board Member

#### Volunteer Experience (Please List & Describe):

Bio-Way Organic Farm – 150+ hours as farm & market volunteer

**My interest in serving on the Library Board of Trustees Commission:**

My interest in serving on the Library Board of Trustees stems from a program I created in 2019 in partnership with the Library – the Seed Library. For four years, I worked as the community outreach and education coordinator for the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District. It was in that position that I had the privilege of working alongside library leadership and staff to bring the Seed Library to life – a program that distributed more than 30,000 seed packets in its first year, includes monthly workshops on gardening and backyard conservation practices, and reaches every library branch – including rural bookmobile stops – thanks to pop-up events.

It was through the Seed Library that I learned just how meaningful library systems are. While books play a huge role in what they offer, they're so much more than that. They help create thriving communities – granting the people who live here access to new ideas, opportunities, and resources that otherwise may be unattainable. In a time when every dollar seems to get you less and less, and there are fewer spaces you can enjoy without spending money, libraries increasingly prove their worth.

**Describe your understanding of the position for which you are applying:**

The powers and duties of someone on the library board encompass a range of responsibilities. They include hiring a qualified chief librarian, managing property for the county library system with council approval, acquiring library materials, accepting donations, marking facilities in honor of donors, collaborating with agencies for improved services, and entering into contracts with other counties for joint libraries, all while utilizing grants and donations for library operations. The board must also establish an effective library system within approved budgets, provide materials to residents, adopt security regulations, submit annual budgets and operation reports to the County Council, adhere to personnel policies, and seek financial aid from various sources. Additionally, they are responsible for ensuring the annual audit of the library system's finances.

**Describe your strengths or skills that would positively contribute to the Library Board of Trustees Commission:**

In addition to my direct programmatic experience working with the library, I also have a background in education, marketing, and communications. I taught English in China for three years before moving to Greenville, have served as a director of strategic communications for a local education non-profit, and currently work as a freelance graphic designer and communications consultant. I have and continue to work with non-profits such as the Greenville Homeless Alliance, LiveWell Greenville, and Communities In Schools of South Carolina.

I am invested in serving this community, and know that I would be an informed and engaged addition to the Library Board.

**My community topics of concern that relate to the Library Board of Trustees Commission:**

My overarching area of concern is making sure the library continues to be a place where every member of the community has access to free resources that enhance the quality of their lives.

**Do you currently hold an elected or appointed office or commission?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list:

**Have you previously held an elected or appointed office or commission?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list:

Have you ever been fined for an ethics violation?

- Yes  No

If yes, please explain:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation?

- Yes  No

If yes, please give details:

Are you currently, or have ever been, a part or party to any litigation with or against Greenville County?

- Yes  No

If yes, please give details:

Would you be willing to submit to a criminal background check and/or credit check?

- Yes  No

Are you aware of the meeting schedule and time commitment for the Library Board of Trustees Commission

- Yes  No

Have you attended a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees Commission

- Yes  No

Are you aware of the County's attendance policy as it relates to County boards and commissions?

- Yes  No

Are you aware this is not a compensated position?

- Yes  No

*It is the policy of Greenville County to require disclosure of any personal or financial interest that may be influenced by decisions of the Committee, Board or Commission for which any citizen applies for membership.*

Do you or a member of your immediate family provide goods and/or services to this board?

- Yes  No

Do you or a member of your immediate family benefit from the action of this board?

Yes  No

Does your employer provide goods and/or services to this board?

Yes  No

Does your employer receive direct services from this board?

Yes  No

Does your employer financially benefit from the actions of this board?

Yes  No

By signing your name and turning in your application, you agree to and attest to the following:

*All information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*

*I understand it is my responsibility to insure my application is submitted within the application period and that it has been received by the Clerk to Council's office.*

*I have read the Greenville County Board and Commission Policy and I understand the rules of conduct for the position for which I am applying.*

*I understand my lack of attendance for three (3) consecutive meetings or 25% of all regular scheduled meetings within a 12-month period may result in my removal from the board.*

*I understand that I serve at the pleasure of County Council and all appointments are subject to the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act, S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-100 et. seq. Any member appointed to a board or commission whose action is inconsistent or may be perceived to be inconsistent with the spirit or intent of the Act, may be subject for removal.*

*I understand that information provided in this application may be subject to South Carolina Freedom of Information disclosure.*

Applicant Signature:

---

Date:

---

*Applicants are encouraged to notify their representing Council Member of their interest to be considered for a desired board seat.*