

Name: Becky Thatcher

Area: Central Lawrenceville/ 9th Ward

How long have you lived in Lawrenceville? 5 years

Why did you move to/ stay in Lawrenceville? Looking for more of a neighborhood-oriented community after grad school

Current Employer/ Job Title: Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, Business Development and Research Manager

Please list Community Service, Non-Profit, or Board Experience: Community Program Coordinator/Manager for LU for 4 years which included the planning of 4 annually recurring community events, creating and establishing 2 new community gardens, maintaining 3 existing community gardens, coordinating over 300 volunteers annually for community clean-ups, flower and tree planting, and tree pit cleaning and mulching. Secured support and coordinated logistics to erect the fence for the Bernard Dog run, launched pilot annual fundraiser for Lawrenceville United, coordinated the launch and creation of the Lawrenceville Farmers Market. Trained dog-walker for Animal Friends for 2 years. Active Tree Tender for 4 years.

What makes Lawrenceville unique? Why? Lawrenceville is a swiftly-growing and evolving neighborhood that is reclaiming its community-oriented practices and learning to balance the charm and strong foundation of the old roots of Lawrenceville with the new residents and family choosing to make Lawrenceville home. Despite the fast growth, Lawrenceville residents still know one another and fight for their people and their community. It is a beautifully gritty small-town community, in the center of a growing metropolis.

What is was one thing you would like to work on within the neighborhood? Why? In a dream world, I would really like to reactivate Lawrenceville's riverfront and its accessibility for the community. Given some of the political and large-scale parameters that come with that sort of initiative, I would also like to work short term on better education, infrastructure, and relations between pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

What LU program or project most interests you? Why? I am very interested in the progression and strategic plans for the vacant lot and vacant home programs, as well as the responsible growth practices in the community. I also have a passion and still assist with some of the work with the Lawrenceville Farmers Market, as well as several of the community events LU hosts.

What is one fun fact that others might be surprised to know about you? Prior to my community development work, I produced theatre all over the country for almost 10 years, including some Off-Broadway work...and I can whistle like a bird.