



Dear OFN Members,

Greetings. My name is Derric Hicks, CEO of Texas Mezzanine Fund, a statewide community development financial institution headquartered in Dallas, TX. It is an honor to have been nominated as a candidate for the OFN Board of Directors, and I would like to share a bit about who I am and why I am seeking this opportunity.

At TMF, we provide loan capital to small businesses, affordable housing developments, and community facility projects across Texas. As a Community Development Entity, we also deploy New Market Tax Credit allocations into high-impact projects—focusing on job retention, job growth, and providing livable wages to strengthen the communities we serve.

I have spent more than 25 years in the financial services industry, with over a decade dedicated to building community-focused lending programs that expand access to capital for historically underserved and undercapitalized communities. As both a graduate and faculty member of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University, I work to ensure that industry leaders understand the tools available to serve communities in need—and to encourage them to go beyond the minimum.

In addition, I serve on several boards that reflect my commitment to economic development and inclusion: the Dallas Entrepreneur Center, the advisory board of the Texas Association of Community Development Corporations, the Texas Community Capital Board, the CRA Market Advisory Council for Key Bank, and NonPareil, an agency supporting educational access and job creation for the neurodivergent community.

I believe each of us must be a *“pebble in the pond”* creating ripple effects of education, advocacy, and capital access that help communities flourish. As a candidate, my goal is to amplify the value of the CDFI movement, advocate for the resources and programs that sustain our work and challenge us to remain bold change-makers. Growth stops when we sit still; sometimes, as the late **John Lewis** reminded us, we must stir up *“good trouble”* in pursuit of justice and progress.

I stand among outstanding candidates, each of whom would serve OFN with pride and dedication. Should my efforts fall short, they will have my full support. However, I hope you find in me a kindred spirit and deem me worthy of yours.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With respect,

Derric Hicks

CEO, Texas Mezzanine Fund

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