

OPEN SIGNAL BOARD APPOINTMENT

Karim Hassanein

Bio:

Karim Hassanein is a multidisciplinary designer and artist who has served on the board of Open Signal since 2018. He spent his formative years outside the US, living in Egypt before moving to Oregon in 2007 to study Landscape Architecture. Since then, he has worked as a landscape designer, architectural marketing professional, and freelance creative consultant.

Karim is passionate about amplifying civic engagement, particularly in the urban environment. He loves cities and believes in the power of community media to positively impact Portland's social, political, and physical landscape. Karim is motivated to serve the Open Signal community, supporting citizenship as a visible, vocal, active process.

Statement of Interest:

Serving on the board of Open Signal is a true privilege. As someone committed to addressing the root causes of systemic injustice and oppression in our society, I believe that organizations like Open Signal serve a critical role as catalysts of profound systemic change. But building equitable access to communications and information infrastructure in the 21st Century requires hard work -- sustained work. It requires a willingness to challenge the dominant cultural paradigms that strip agency from both staff and community members. Without this willingness, organizations like Open Signal simply cannot do the transformative work of centering disinherited and marginalized communities in the media landscape.

My work as board chair has been focused on exploring and supporting systems change within Open Signal, cheering on the victories and commiserating with the disappointments of staff as they build a more equitable structure for themselves, and in turn are able to align around the needs of communities that have been chronically underserved. It is the learning experience of a lifetime, and I am committed to working alongside this incredible team for as long as they want me around.

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Jonathan Jenkins

Bio:

Jonathan Jenkins is an award-winning filmmaker, commercial producer and business owner. Born and raised in Europe, Jonathan studied Classics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford. He found his calling in the field of observational documentaries before adapting himself to the world of TV and large-scale broadcast productions prior to raising a family in Oregon. With almost 20 years of production experience under his belt, JJ has worked on major sporting events, network tv shows, independent movies and advertising campaigns. Having worked up the production ladder to executive status, JJ now trains and educates the next generation of filmmakers in his community as a Career and Technical Education Digital Arts instructor teaching mixed grades.

Statement of Interest:

It is important for our city to nurture and support communities like Open Signal which provide valuable resources and training for its members. By encouraging the voices that reflect the culture of our community to create and share fresh content we become better informed and stronger in the face of adversity. In widening the lens of our perspective and diversifying representation we immediately improve the health of our community and neighborhoods. These hubs are crucial to the empowerment of our members to speak up and express themselves creatively and develop their storytelling skills.