

Lawrence Schechter

2026-27 Board Candidate



I grew up in Chicago. Although I wasn't aware of it in my youth, the innovative spirit of its world class architecture inspired me to follow its lead when I later decided to enroll in the curriculum of architecture at the University of Illinois. Five grueling years later, I graduated with the Degree of Bachelor of Architecture. Little did I know how that step would shape my world, but my new wife and I were drawn to find out as we traveled to San Francisco to set the roots of our life together. By good fortune, I landed a job with a prominent young architectural firm where I learned to

work as team member on the design of several large projects. I was later promoted as an Associate of the firm with direct interaction with our clients. Well beyond my academic training, I learned to transform their goals and resources into functional, attractive buildings. It took imagination, wisdom and discernment to manage their accounts with a higher order of leadership and design intelligence. That discipline required personal as well as professional maturity, spread over years of development.

There was, however, an essential missing link from my perspective. No matter how professional the project management and design excellence, the low priority given in that era to ecological balance in the built environment represented a fundamental dysfunction. Corporate architecture was largely blind to priorities that would inevitably discount ecological balance in the equation. After 8 years in the firm, I chose to resign my affiliation with the firm to pursue the development of my skills as a visionary and designer of architectural environments dedicated to healing, renewal and holistic innovation.

My architectural career spanned over 50 years starting in San Francisco, later in Ashland and Bend, Oregon. I was the principal of my own firm and with others—all focused on environmentally sound architecture. My laser focus was aligned with the advancement of human consciousness as the principal purpose of architecture—from the inside-out—from our raised perspective to its reflection around us.

That process was illustrated in my book, *LENS: in the Blink of an Eye*, which is now published after three years of preparation. Its primary development evolved after I was drawn from the West coast, past Chicago, to the birthplace of this nation. Soon after my relocation to Richmond, VA in 2024, I was led to research the replacement of the Unity Community of Bend, OR as my spiritual community. By “coincidence” my arrival at the door of the Unity Church of Bon Air was met by three lovely ladies, including Rev. Patty Bittner. They greeted me with open arms as I shared my reason for relocating to this area. I was looking for a spiritual community based upon the universal principles of Love as articulated by its founders, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. I mentioned that I had served as member of the Board of the new branch of the Unity Community in Bend, and that I had been an active member of its congregation which has prospered to this date.

Now, 21/2 years after relocation, I’ve enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere of this community and the fellowship of its remarkable diversification. When a request was made to invite candidates for new members of the board, I felt drawn to serve the advancement of this remarkable community. This would expand upon my participation as a member of the choir and the Men’s Group.

Perhaps my background as a visionary, with discernment and wisdom, I may serve this community with commitment to provide governance and leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of my offer to serve with love and gratitude.

Lawrence M. Schechter