

## **BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE (BATF) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

The BART Accessibility Task Force advises the BART Board of Directors and staff on disability-related issues and advocates on behalf of people with disabilities and seniors to make the BART system accessible to all.

Individuals applying for membership to the BART Accessibility Task Force must fill out an application form. Applicants must be endorsed by the members of the BATF through a majority vote after attending two out of three consecutive months. Their names are submitted by the BATF staff liaison to the BART Board of Directors for final approval.

### **1. APPLICANT BACKGROUND**

**Name:** Joshua Saunders

**Address:** [REDACTED]

### **3. EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS**

**3.a.** Names and purposes of boards, commissions, or task forces you currently serve on or have served on and its relevancy to serving on BART's Task Force (BATF). Please indicate dates of service and the positions you held, if any:

For the past two years I have cochaired the California Council of the Blind of San Francisco's advocacy committee. After a bad experience with signing up for East Bay Paratransit, I advocated for an accessible application. With the help of Ryan Greene-Roesel, the application has been created. This is an example of my persistence in achieving advocacy goals.

**3.b.** Why do you want to serve on and what skills do you bring to the BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF):

I am persistent in my advocacy as I have previously mentioned. I am a legally blind attorney. It's important to me that BART is both safe and accessible for the disabled community. In addition to my vision loss, I also have some dexterity issues and an epilepsy condition. This helps me understand that people's lives are complicated and that BART need to be aware of the complexity and needs of BART's riders.

**3.c.** How would your membership assist in establishing communication with the disability community:

I am a member of the California Council of the Blind where I'm cochair of their governmental affairs committee. We advocate for the needs of blind individuals with the state government. This may provide me contacts that will be helpful when dealing with issues that the disability committee has concerns about regarding BART.

**Signature of Applicant:** Joshua Saunders

**Date:** 11/19/2024