

S K Lee

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am writing this personal statement to stand as a candidate for the Volunteer Coordinator position in the BIEN Executive Committee Election 2024.

As an active volunteer for BIEN, I am well-versed on the mantle of the Volunteer Coordinator position, and seek your support for me to take the step up from my current role.

My professional background is in architecture. Understanding how social trust is affected by the built environment was my chief investigation during my Master of Architecture at Plymouth University. With years of work experience in the architecture industry and contending with the idea of Basic Income, I eventually came to terms that the impact on social capital I strive for in my work cannot truly be realised without Basic Income.

Prior to my career in architecture, I worked for Malaysian members of parliament - Wong Chen and Rafizi Ramli, before the 2018 general election. During which, I gained experience coordinating with dozens of political campaigns throughout Malaysia, and mobilising tens of thousands of volunteers as polling and counting agents. I was also involved in policy discussions, speech-writing, and constituency service. The experience culminated in the first ever change of government in Malaysia.

One year later in 2019, the 'Freedom Dividend' policy proposed by Andrew Yang would upend my worldview, and turn me a Basic Income advocate. I believe it's vital to the Basic Income movement for BIEN to continue playing its role in defining Basic Income and promote its research and dissemination.

As Volunteer Coordinator, I would harness the bipartisan nature of Basic Income, and help BIEN remain a broad church. I also recognise the variation of talents, resources, and initiative from our volunteers, and would work closely with the Executive Committee to ensure we are able to harness volunteers' potential in driving the Basic Income movement forward. I would also continue the efforts of my predecessors in streamlining the recruitment of volunteers.

Once again I seek your support in this election and I look forward to meeting you at the 2024 General Assembly.