

Fellow GANYC Members,

My name is Kyle Atkins, and I'm truly honored to be nominated for the position of Member-at-Large on our Board of Directors.

This past year, becoming part of the GANYC community has been one of my top professional priorities and it has also been one of the most rewarding experiences. From the first social I attended at Nier's, I was struck by the open arms of everyone, the knowledge, generosity, and passion that every member brings to this organization. It's clear that GANYC isn't just a professional network; it's a family of storytellers, historians, and ambassadors for the greatest city in the world. I'm deeply grateful to now call myself part of that family.

At the heart of what we do as guides is connection. Connecting visitors to the city's history, culture, and hidden corners; connecting past and present; and connecting with one another as professionals who are always learning and growing. That same spirit of connection is what I hope to bring to the GANYC Board if elected.

As a Member-at-Large, my goal would be to advocate for all members with energy, transparency, and collaboration. I want to help build on the environment where every member feels seen, heard, and supported. I believe our greatest strength lies in our diversity—of backgrounds, tour styles, and ideas—and that diversity should continue to be reflected in how we make decisions, plan events, and represent GANYC publicly.

I'm also committed to supporting the amazing work already being done by our committees. There's so much talent and initiative within GANYC, and I see a great opportunity to encourage even more collaboration. Creating new chances for members to learn from one another, sharing the stories of the city, and showcasing what we do best. Whether it's helping expand mentorship for new guides, increasing GANYC's online presence, supporting professional development events, or simply volunteering wherever I can be useful, I want to do my part to keep this momentum going.

I take this nomination seriously and view it as an opportunity to begin giving back to an organization that has already given me so much. I'm committed to showing up, getting involved, and doing the work consistently. I want to be the kind of board member who not only brings new ideas to the table but also follows through on them.

Most importantly, I want to help nurture the sense of community that makes GANYC special—the camaraderie, mutual respect, and shared pride we all feel when we represent this city and this organization. Whether it's through volunteering, attending meetings or FAM tours, socials, or simply encouraging one another in our daily work, I want to help keep that sense of belonging strong.

I believe that together, we can continue to grow GANYC's impact and visibility, support our members' success, and ensure that New York City's guiding community remains a model for professionalism and passion worldwide.

Thank you for considering me for your vote. I'm excited about the future of GANYC and the opportunity to help "guide" us forward—together.

— **Kyle Atkins**
GANYC Member