

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Gordon

First Name

Chen

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

Please note, applications are continuously accepted to the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. The Board or Commission you select may or may not indicate there is a vacancy. Your application will remain on file for one year from the date of submission. During the year, your application may be considered for unanticipated vacancies.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 1

[Redacted]

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95129

Postal Code

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

N/A

Employer

N/A

Job Title

Current Employer Address

N/A

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

September 4, 2005

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

The Harker Upper School.

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

Languages Spoken

Spanish, English, Mandarin

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

1. Broadcom Master 300 in 2019 2. Harker Mission of the School Award 2019 3. Harker Honor Roll for Academics, Effort, and Citizenship 2019

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scopr of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

Reference 1 Name

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

Please list your community involvement, including jobs and volunteer work.

1. Harker Quiz Bowl – Director of Public Relations, Underclassmen Team Captain (2018 – Present) * Directly recruited 11 key players to upper school team) * Placed 21st nationally in middle school division * Lead practice, mentor younger players, and recruit new players * Manage all internal and external communications of the team 2. Felidae Conservation Fund – Volunteer (June 2020 – Present) * Utilize Atrium Biodiversity’s software CameraBase to categorize images taken by field cameras * Push categorized data into Excel spreadsheets 3. Starbird Youth Center – San Jose, CA, Volunteer Tutor (August 2019 – December 2019) * Assisted students with homework, studying, and co-curricular assignments prior to Starbird’s closure in December 2019 * Organized social and bonding after-school activities, such as basketball scrimmages and snacks 4. Harker Public Forum Debate Team – Varsity Competitor (2018 – Present) * Compete in regional, national, and international tournaments * Build team cases with argumentation, analysis, and data-driven empirics 5. Harker Historical Review – Editor, Board Member (2020 – Present) * Co-founded student-run program highlighting student work in history and social sciences * Edit student-produced research papers on historical topics

Question applies to Youth Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

I firmly believe in education equity and climate action. The Starbird Youth Center was a location where students would gather after school to hang out, get some food, and finish their homework with the aid of tutors. There, I saw how struggling students would grow frustrated with their homework and oftentimes give up; my job was to help them understand what they failed to learn at school. However, Starbird was eventually closed down due to lack of funding. I witnessed firsthand how desperately Starbird is needed in our community; tutors provided invaluable aid to those lagging behind, and without tutors, those students would simply fall further behind. I also believe that the city is not doing enough in the battle against climate change and the destruction of our wildlife. After the citywide climate change event earlier this year at City Hall, I noticed there was very little that the city did to address the issue. The city should spread information on what individual residents can do to mitigate their eco footprint and provide more funding for safe and reliable public transportation that would decrease the number of cars on the road. Sustainable initiatives, such as planting trees and starting community or neighborhood gardens, can be taken on by the Youth Commission. The Youth Commission could also help with messaging through social media campaigns for reusable straws, decreasing shower times, and proper recycling etiquette. A recent example of the city’s inaction on wildlife conservation is Point Reyes, where the Point Reyes National Seashore is allowing private livestock operations to shoot herds of elk to clear out space. I hope I can be one of the advocates to help solve problems such as these.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel are some of the problems facing the youth of San Jose?

I believe that not enough is being done for struggling students, especially those without English skills. At Starbird, I remember helping a student who could barely speak any English but was still assigned homework that far exceeded his capabilities. I was shocked; how could the school expect him to understand prepositional phrases and appositives when he could hardly put together a sentence? When I asked him (in Spanish) why the school seemingly did not care about his English experience, I learned that the school had already taken into consideration his dearth of expertise, yet they were still unable to match him with the resources that he required. While the high school tutors at Starbird weren't the most qualified to help him, Starbird was still the one place he could find any real assistance. When the center was shut down, he and many other students lost the wonderful afterschool program that had helped them get through their schoolwork. Furthermore, the students who benefit from programs such as Starbird often come from underrepresented or minoritized communities—to solve the problem at its root, we must commit ourselves to education equity initiatives focused on underserved locales and vulnerable populations. The problem of underserved youth is the problem of all youth.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel the priorities of the Youth Commission should be?

Education equity - making sure that nobody is left behind without any guidance. I believe that the Starbird Youth Center accomplished exactly that service, but it was unfortunately shut down. Diversity - Helping ensure that the voices of youth from underrepresented backgrounds are fully represented in every issue. Political issues like equitable housing, climate justice, and healthcare often fail to account for how these issues (and their proposed solutions) deliver unequal impacts to different communities.

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

As the captain of my school's underclassmen quiz bowl team and our public relations officer, I am responsible for running practices and managing all internal and external communication with the school and quiz bowl communities. As a varsity competitor of the speech and debate team, I've done extensive research on the various public policy issues and have discovered that many are pertinent to our local community's scale. For example, climate change is one issue that the local government can at least partially tackle to increase awareness and commitment to climate justice on a civilian level. At the Harker Historical Review, we solicit, edit, and publish student papers on historical topics; I'm responsible for curating our issues and closely collaborating with a student contributor each round to ready their papers for publication.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

To advise the mayor and other boards and commissions on the concerns and wishes of the youth in our community.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

1. Inadequate community engagement 2. Lack of funding for community centers such as Starbird. 3. Lack of education on urgent local issues within the community

I would like to say . . .

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Amelia

First Name

Uytingco

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 4

[Redacted]

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95132

Postal Code

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

N/A

Employer

N/A

Job Title

Current Employer Address

N/A

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

N/A

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

September 23, 2004

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

Independence High School, 2018-Present (Class of 2022)

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

N/A

Languages Spoken

English-Fluent, Spanish-Conversational

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

Special Congressional Recognition, California State Legislature Assembly Recognition, and Santa Clara Board of Supervisors Commendation for learning about gender equity and creating resources for youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

Seeing terrible acts of racism, hatred, and violence on the news, I realized I needed to step up and do something. I believe the government has incredible responsibility and power to reverse the effects of resentment, and I see the Youth Commission as a valuable platform to advocate for unlearning hatred, starting with San Jose's future. One of my initiatives as Youth Commissioner is to increase youth civic engagement by making resources more available to schools offered by the City of San Jose or Santa Clara County Offices, to strengthen the promise of the Youth Bill of Rights to ensure individuals feel valued by their community. I want to extend support to our LGBTQ+ community and connect them with the Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs, link passionate social justice activists with the SJ Office of Racial Equity, and provide opportunities for our peers to network and familiarize themselves with local legislature.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

I participated on the 2019-2020 cohort of the San Jose District 4 Youth in Government (YIG) program, and met with officials such as the City Manager David Sykes, City Planning Director Rosalynn Hughey, and Former District 4 Councilmember Lan Diep, to learn about the role elected officials have in the running the City.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

N/A

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

N/A

Reference 1 Name

N/A

Reference 1 Address

N/A

Reference 1 Phone

N/A

Reference 2 Name

N/A

Reference 2 Address

N/A

Reference 2 Phone

N/A

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

Please list your community involvement, including jobs and volunteer work.

Member of SJ District 4 Youth Advisory Council, Member Santa Clara Girls Advisory Team, Volunteer at Luv Michael, Catechist at St. Victor's Church.

Question applies to Youth Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

San Jose's initiative to create a brighter City for tomorrow starts with today's Youth, who I hope to equip with the knowledge and tools to shape San Jose to be an inclusive, diverse, and positive community. As a Youth Commissioner, my goal is to uphold the articles of the Youth Bill of Rights, and increase civic and political participation by making programs, workshops, and resources promised by the Bill and developed by San Jose departments available to my peers.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel are some of the problems facing the youth of San Jose?

With the current political and social climate concerning the BLM and Stop AAPI Hate Movements, the responsibility of unlearning racial prejudice and hate is placed onto our youth. This passion for social justice is an interest I want to represent on the Youth Commission, and provide resources and opportunities for civic and political participation. Other issues, such as financial anxiety amongst young adults and teens and the growing concern of climate change are also important problems Youth face, and struggle with creating clear solutions for.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel the priorities of the Youth Commission should be?

The Youth Commission should prioritize making items on the Youth Bill of Rights more accessible to the general public. Public schools, especially in District 4, lack the programs promised and developed by previous Youth Commissions and Offices, and many students still aren't aware of the existence of the Bill.

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

N/A

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

Through my roles in the Santa Clara Girl's Advisory Team and District 4 Youth Advisory Council, I've developed the skill of adapting to high pressure environments, and efficiently conducting community outreach.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Youth Commission is purposed to represent the Youth of San Jose and serve as the official youth advisory council to the Mayor's Council.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

1. With City Council's initiative to urbanize San Jose, how is the Council addressing the complaints of citizens who are against gentrification efforts? 2. How is the City addressing the growing financial anxiety amongst teenagers and young adults with rising prices of rent, education, etc.? 3. Santa Clara County recently approved a bill that hopes to eradicate period poverty. How is the San Jose government upholding this promise?

I would like to say . . .

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Nicole
First Name

Hoang
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

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Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 3

[Redacted]
Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95112
Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Alternate Phone

City of San Jose
Employer

District 3 Youth Commissioner
Job Title

Current Employer Address

N/A

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

N/A

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

2/15/2004

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

Horace Mann Elementary: August 2009 - June 2015, Burnett Middle School: August 2015 - June 2018, San Jose High School: August 2018 - June 2019, Gunderson High School: August 2019 - Now

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

San Jose Youth Internship, Civic Engagement Group: June 2018, Civic Engagement Ad Hoc: November 2018 - February 2019, YAC Vice-Chair for District 3: December 2018 - June 2019 President and Secretary of Class of 2022 at San Jose High: 2018 - 2019 School Year, Founder and President of San Jose High Speech and Debate Club: 2018 - 2019, A Founder and Vice President of FBLA: 2018 - 2019, Secretary and Captain of Badminton: 2019 - 2020, School Site Council Leadership Student Representative: 2018 - 2019 District 3 Youth Commissioner: 2019 - 2021 San Jose Youth Commission Vice-Chair: August 2020 - 2021

Languages Spoken

English, Spanish (passed the AP exam in 2020), Vietnamese (elementary proficiency)

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

Top 10 Impromptu Speakers - Speech and Debate Tournament at Santa Clara University, San Jose High School Student of the Month, Valedictorian of Burnett Middle School, Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award in 2018 under the San Jose Youth Commission's Summer Internship, Three-time Student of the Year winner, SJUSD Pursuit of Bi-literacy Award (Spanish), Principal's Award (4.0 GPA) for San Jose High School, Certificate of Excellency for Delivering Quality Results from San Jose Youth Commission in 2019, AP Scholar as of 2020, Superintendent's Award for a 4.0 GPA from Gunderson High School, Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award for 2019 under the San Jose Youth Commission.

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

I want to become a member to better the lives of youth through policy development. Objectives that I would work towards are policy recommendations regarding the environment, San Jose's "Climate Smart" plan, the economy and economic equity, police reform, and civic engagement. In my years as a Commissioner, I have written seven policy proposals regarding such topics: requiring sustainable architecture, strategic deconstruction of buildings, wood recycling, brick-and-mortar businesses accepting cash, and a recommendation to implement San Francisco's C.A.R.E.N. Act are a few. I would also continue to write correspondence to the Honorable Mayor and City Council regarding stances on upcoming policies and new offices, such as the Office of Racial Equity and the proposal for housing developers to pay less for parks. Additionally, I would represent youth by speaking up in local meetings, such as County meetings and neighborhood town halls. I have attended such meetings in the past, including the Mayor's Budget Town Hall pre-pandemic.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

I first applied and got accepted into the San Jose Youth Commission's Summer Internship in 2018, and my group and I created a curriculum to propose to the San Jose Youth Commission regarding voter pre-registration. I joined the YAC in 8th grade to help the past D3 Youth Commissioner Maren to plan a College and Career fair, attend policy ad-hocs, and spread awareness of the Youth Commission through social media. In 2019, I attended the YAC Budget Summit and was appointed as vice-chair of the YAC. This year as a Commissioner, I have created seven policy proposals with my YAC. In chronological order, they are: requiring sustainable architecture to be utilized in high-rise and large scale construction projects, requiring leftover wood to be recycled as soon as construction projects are finished, requiring deconstruction instead of demolition in order to reduce landfill waste, providing free menstrual products in all public bathrooms owned by the City of San Jose for gender equity, requiring brick-and-mortar businesses to accept cash to maintain an open economy for lower-income people, criminalizing racially-biased or mal-intended and unconstitutional 911 calls by bringing San Francisco's C.A.R.E.N. Act to San Jose, and with the District 8 Youth Commissioner, my YAC and I wrote a policy to require police go through mental health check-ups every two years. As Vice-Chair and member of the Youth Commission, I have collaborated and planned Town Halls on police brutality, recycling, and the Youth Bill of Rights with the other Commissioners. We have hosted citywide events such as the YAC Orientation to increase youth interest in the Youth Commission, as well as the YAC Budget Summit in order to gather youth opinions on the department priorities for the next fiscal year. I represented youth at County meetings and local meetings, such as the Alliance for Girls' meeting on public transportation and safety. I also recently ran our special meeting on planning the next Town Hall on the Youth Bill of Rights. I hope my values and morals shine through my work as a Commissioner: I believe in an equitable, equal, and sustainable society and will push for that through policy change in local government. I want the best for youth of all backgrounds and will continue to advocate for disadvantaged and marginalized youth, such as LGBTQ+ youth, youth in low-income families, and youth of color. It's been an honor serving, and I hope to continue for another term.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

N/A

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

N/A

Reference 1 Name

Maren Bick-Maurischat

Reference 1 Address

N/A

Reference 1 Phone

██████████

Reference 2 Name

Betty Ramirez

Reference 2 Address

N/A

Reference 2 Phone

██████████

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

Please list your community involvement, including jobs and volunteer work.

Attended monthly YAC meetings in order to advocate for youth from 2018 to the present, Attended Youth Commission meetings to engage myself through youth government while I wasn't a Commissioner, Volunteered at the Youth Internship in Summer of 2018 to raise awareness to Youth Commission of issues youth face, Volunteered with City Events such as Pumpkins in the Park and Viva CalleSJ (which was an amazing event), Community Service in my high school by raising student morale and helping assemble school events, Appointed as D3 Youth Commissioner in August of 2019 and I haven't missed a meeting since, Elected Vice-Chair of the Youth Commission in August 2020, Planned and facilitated Town Halls on the environment, youth bill of rights, and police brutality, as well as one YAC Orientation, two YAC Budget Summits, and one YAC Recognition Ceremony.

Question applies to Youth Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

I want to help create a more equitable and sustainable San Jose that youth can prosper in with bright hopes for the future. I want equal opportunity for all regardless of background, and I want more policies addressing the needs of the marginalized communities in San Jose. My brick-and-mortar businesses policy was meant to make sure homeless people were still able to purchase items from stores without fearing "digital-only" situations. I'd host more events with the Youth Commission in order to help youth find opportunities to get involved in their local government through their YACs and policy proposals. I'd advocate for all youth, focusing on youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth, through my policies and by engaging them whenever I can in my YAC and any other local events. I'd love to help my peers to have better relations with local politicians and their councilmember.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel are some of the problems facing the youth of San Jose?

Some problems would be economic inequality, police brutality, the environment, mental health, and the housing crisis. It's clear that youth that are in lower socioeconomic families have fewer educational opportunities as a result: the standardized tests that colleges use, such as the SAT and ACT, all require books, tutoring, and other materials in order for students to excel and succeed. Additionally, as seen in the Black Lives Matter protests throughout the summer, we have seen that the San Jose Police Department, although better than some other cities', still needs improvement. Community members got shot with rubber bullets while the police were in full armor, and youth felt endangered just by going to peaceful protests and practicing their first amendment rights. The environment also plays a large role in the stressors that my peers face. As a generation, I've noticed that youth in my age group all care and are concerned about the environment. There are petitions everywhere regarding it, such as the matter of Arctic drilling a few months ago. We all have this sense of fear regarding the future because there are numbers everywhere saying that the world only has a few years left before the climate damage done is irreversible. This all leads to worsened mental health and a lack of motivation, impacting our educational careers. With so many stressors and schools being online, it is hard for us to focus on our education and our mental health. School has turned into a 7-hour Zoom meeting, and a lot of my peers are losing motivation to continue. Although the city has no jurisdiction over schools, we can still host mental health fairs and resources for people that need them. We could also host more job fairs and resume how-to's so that youth feel more confident when they have to apply for jobs. When I was still at San Jose High, a lot of my classmates did not know how to build their resumes and I had to teach them individually what they should put on them, and how. The issue of housing and youth homelessness also is important to youth in my district. It is nearly impossible to tell when a young person is homeless as they will typically carry a backpack and a laptop, passing as any other college student. The issue is still present, and I want to help the Commission aim for more creative solutions for the housing crisis.

What do you feel the priorities of the Youth Commission should be?

The priorities should be to create a more sustainable and equal city for youth. As a Commission, we need to aim our work plan more towards helping marginalized youth and serving all youth equitably. Some issues that the Commission should focus on are the environment, youth homelessness, and economic development.

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

I have served in boards in both my school and the Youth Commission. At school, I was a student representative for School Site Council where we discussed ways to better student life in San Jose High. In the YAC, I was Vice-Chair and we contacted organizations, conducted outreach at a local high school, and wrote policy proposals for civic engagement. In the Youth Commission, I have planned and coordinated citywide events for youth, such as environment town halls, a youth bill of rights town hall, YAC Orientations, and summits for youth to learn more about the city budget. Additionally, I have written policy proposals for the Youth Commission, and have made spreadsheets, and organized my fellow Commissioners' roles while we were planning all of our events. The boards and commissions I've participated in ultimately had a good sense of teamwork, flowing communication, and an ability to agree to disagree.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

In my prior years, my experience as the YAC Vice-Chair has helped me understand the role the San Jose Youth Commission plays. We cannot mandate education or control transportation, but we have a different role through community programs and city policies. This experience has helped me grow my passion for politics, and though it is a bit early, I know I'll run for office sometime in the future once I am of age. To continue, I know the general setup of the Youth Commission's meetings, the way the work plan is created and executed, how to create policy proposals, draft letters and memos, and to advocate and represent in a professional and well thought out manner because of my experience as a Commissioner. I have experience in an office setting due to the summer internship under the Youth Commission, and already know the various processes and rules that the Youth Commission has to abide by, such as the Brown Act. My experience in Speech and Debate has taught me better speaking skills, and my experience in Mock Trial has bettered my ability to argue for policy change and programs. I have a genuine passion for public policy if that counts as an ability and can organize Q2Q's and event schedules for the Youth Commission.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Youth Commission's purpose is to represent youth in local politics through communication with the City Council and Mayor, as well as through policy proposals that would serve the youth in San Jose. They advise and give feedback on local political actions, such as tiny homes, new offices opening, and new staff entering. The Commission essentially is the pipeline for youth to get involved in local politics and to advocate for their passions.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

Three issues facing the City that the Commission should address are the environment as we cannot have a city without it, economic equity as youth of color typically are disadvantaged due to their socioeconomic status, and anti-discrimination policies to ensure that police brutality and hate crimes come to an end.

I would like to say . . .

Thank you for reading this long application again. I'm honored to have served for these past two years, and I hope that I can continue to in the following term cycle so that I can continue my policy proposals for the youth in my district as well as my city. It's been a wonderful two years. Thank you again, and hope to see you soon!

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Anaiy
First Name

Somalwar
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

Please note, applications are continuously accepted to the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. The Board or Commission you select may or may not indicate there is a vacancy. Your application will remain on file for one year from the date of submission. During the year, your application may be considered for unanticipated vacancies.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 6

[Redacted]
Street Address

[Redacted]
Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95126
Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Alternate Phone

Student- Not Applicable
Employer

Student - not applicable
Job Title

Current Employer Address

Not applicable

Current Employer of Spouse

Not applicable

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Not applicable

Spouse's Job Title

Not applicable

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

09/04/2004

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

I am a high school junior at BASIS Independent Silicon Valley (BISV), which is in District 6. I began studying at BISV in 8th grade in 2017, and will graduate in 2022.

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

I was a summer intern with the Youth Commission during my freshman summer (2018), and immediately after served in the District 1 Youth Advisory Council (YAC). During the beginning of 2020, I joined the District 6 Youth Advisory Council (YAC), where I currently serve as Vice Chair. I am also a founding member and vice president of the nonprofit StartOnAI (founded in 2018), which is an educational organization that aims to make artificial intelligence and other computer skills approachable and affordable to all, while also reaching out to the growing community of computer science enthusiasts. We have impacted over 70,000 students through our website (startonai.com), and regularly host workshops with over 100 attendees. I also currently run the BISV book exchange program (since 2019), where we help recycle and sell used textbooks. We usually raise around \$4000 every year, which we donate to Mathson Middle School to help them buy supplies for their students.

Languages Spoken

English, Spanish, Hindi

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

1) School's Student Ambassador (2019-20) 2) Selected to Julian C. Stanley Study of Exceptional Talent (SET) at Johns Hopkins University (2017) 3) Selected to Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) program (2017) 4) College Board's National AP Scholar 5) Department Chair Award, Computer Science and Engineering for the Outstanding Contribution to the Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program (ASDRP) during my summer internship in 2020.

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

I would like to become a youth commissioner as I believe that it is important to represent the views of the Youth of San Jose in an inclusive and bipartisan manner. I would work towards addressing the challenges San Jose faces such as vaping and homelessness through policy and events and also drive increased participation from the diverse youth of San Jose. I have much experience writing policy proposals during my years at the YACs, and I hope I have the opportunity to further serve our city.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scopr of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

Reference 1 Name

Ms. Betty Ramirez (betty.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov)

Reference 1 Address

200 E Santa Clara St, San Jose, CA 95113

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Principal Vince Iwasaki [REDACTED]

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

Please list your community involvement, including jobs and volunteer work.

1) I have been running my school's book exchange club every summer (for the past 3 years) and all the proceeds raised from this program is used to buy school supplies for Chavez Elementary and Mathson Middle in the Alum Rock School District. I have been working with the Principal Vince Iwasaki of Mathson Middle School to start an online tutoring program where students from my high school would be tutoring the middle school students, and we have 15 student tutors signed up so far. 2) I have volunteered through the YAC at many city wide events such as voter registrations campaigns, Viva Calle in San Jose, and the mental health fair. I have also worked on writing multiple policy proposals, including a transportation bill intended to create shared bus and bike lanes. 3) I am the vice president and founding member of the nonprofit organization StartOnAI, which is an educational nonprofit with the goal of making artificial intelligence education affordable and approachable. We have impacted over 70,000 students from our website, published a book endorsed by world-renowned professors, and regularly hold AI workshops with 100+ attendees. 3) I have volunteered with the non-profit "Bay Area Chess" to help organize, and execute local chess tournaments that are certified by the US Chess Federation. 9) I participated in the election campaigns for Ro Khanna (Senator), Kathy Watanabe, and Raj Chahal (Santa Clara City Council members).

Question applies to Youth Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

It is important to me that people are able to feel safe and comfortable enough to voice their opinions and share their perspectives, which is what I believe makes San Jose such a great city. This sharing of knowledge comes with an inviting environment, which I believe is created by education, opportunities, and openness to new ideas. I feel very strongly about improving education (although it is largely under the state's jurisdiction), ending homelessness, preventing vaping, smoking, and gangs, as well as bridging the digital divide to ensure equal opportunities, which is what I have been working at doing at StartOnAI and during my time in the YAC.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel are some of the problems facing the youth of San Jose?

Some problems facing the youth of San Jose include mental health, social toleration, homelessness, vape/drug use, and gangs. Although I know that efforts to fix these problems are taking place (we are working towards fixing these problems in the D6 YAC), I think that there are still ways we can improve fighting against these problems.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel the priorities of the Youth Commission should be?

I believe that the priorities of the Youth Commission should align with the priorities of San Jose City Council to address the most critical problems challenging the youth of San Jose and to make a plan and execute the plans that will solve those problems. I believe that the youth commission should suggest youth-related policies, create educational campaigns, organize conferences, and plan community events to engage youth participation around topical issues.

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

I am highlighting some of my skills which will help in Youth Commission: 1. Ability to engage and involve others in decision-making processes 2. Successful track record in fund raising and organizing large scale events 3. Strong analytic and presentation skills 4. Strong work ethics- I will work as hard as I need to to make sure a job gets done 5. Experience: I have worked as a YAC member and now as a vice chair for over two years, and I understand the goals of the youth commission and have experience working towards achieving them.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The youth commission serves to represent and serve the youth of San Jose and address the problems that they face.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

I would like to say . . .

I have had much experience serving the city as a summer intern and as a YAC member and have been working closely with the current youth commissioner of District 6, Sebastian Estrella. I truly believe that as a youth commissioner, I would be able to make great improvements to my city and drive youth engagement, and I really hope that I will have the opportunity to do so!

Anaiy Somalwar

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Alexander

First Name

Lee

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

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Youth Commission: Submitted

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Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 10

[Redacted]

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95120

Postal Code

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

n/a

Employer

n/a

Job Title

Current Employer Address

n/a

Current Employer of Spouse

n/a

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

n/a

Spouse's Job Title

n/a

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

January 6, 2005

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

Leland High School

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

• Field Team Lead, Councilmember Matt Mahan — October 2020 - Present • Youth Advisor, Relay for Life of Greater San Jose — April 2017 - Present

Languages Spoken

English, Mandarin, Taiwanese

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

n/a

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

In all the organizations, events, and schools that I attend, it's apparent that the San Jose youth is full of so many people with so many awesome ideas—and I think they need just the right environment to be comfortable with those ideas and to bring them to action. I believe we can create that kind of environment if we put our hearts in it. For the Youth Commission, that means creating a system where the youth can easily inform themselves about what's going on in the city government, and a system where we can easily hear their feedback on what we try to do for them. Very quickly, the young residents in San Jose today are going to make up the majority of the people who are able to make big decisions in the future, which means we need to start teaching them to be involved now, as soon as we can. Anyone is more willing to listen to you after you listen to them—after they *know* you have listened to them—and serving on the Youth Commission is, for me, the best way to make sure this happens.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

All of my skills and insight on issues come from my experience with seemingly unrelated things. My stage presence comes from my last 13 years of playing the piano, performing in front of audiences in San Francisco and at Carnegie Hall. My ability to communicate my ideas clearly comes from my time on the Speech and Debate team for Leland High School, where I placed 1st in my speaking event at the California state tournament just a few years ago. I learned to collaborate with large teams while being the Class President for the third year in a row at my high school, and my knowledge on public issues come from my time as a Youth Advisor for the American Cancer Society and as a Team Officer for Councilmember Matt Mahan's District 10 office. Along with other skills picked up from volunteering and from the creative writing club I started and maintained from middle school, the different things I learn and develop from the variety of things that I do are best put to use when I take them and use them at once—something I am super excited to get to do on the Youth Commission.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

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Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

Reference 1 Name

Meg Walsh

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Jessica Ruiz

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

Please list your community involvement, including jobs and volunteer work.

I am an intern for District Councilmember Matt Mahan, working as an executive intern that leads a team of interns who create databanks of the local district. I volunteer for the American Cancer Society as well, acting as a youth advisor for the local team, where I give the opening speech at local American Cancer Society events as well as at the annual American Cancer Society California Leadership Conference.

Alexander Lee

Question applies to Youth Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

I would like to see more communication between the city government and the youth. Especially to high school students in a political climate that is changing faster than ever, we need to involve our youth more to build off of their new ideas and perspective.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel are some of the problems facing the youth of San Jose?

Aside from a lack of presence in the political world, the youth in much of San Jose grow up with a culture of intense competition, affecting both their relations with one another as well as their mental health. If we are to build a future where our youth can work together to create a more cohesive San Jose, we need to start creating a sense of community within the younger generation in the city.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel the priorities of the Youth Commission should be?

Our first priority should be communication. Everything else springs from there: we need to have good communication with our youth. The more we know their thoughts and the more they know ours, the better our city government will run—because these will be the people making big decisions in the near future. While reading emails sent from families to the District 10 office, it's apparent that adults are more than interested in helping out with the decisions we make as a city: I think it's time to involve the general youth more as well. Having a youth commission that represents the younger generation can give us an opportunity to come up with new and diverse ideas, but when we fully involve the general public as well we can be sure that those amazing ideas stay.

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

I have worked extensively on the leadership committee for the local Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society. As the youth advisor there, I collaborate with my fellow adult board-members to organize city-wide annual fundraiser for cancer research. We write many emails to residents in the area to ask for their input, before creating plans for the main event, as well as multiple side-events—including ones hosted at middle and high schools in the area. I am also on a board of interns with Councilmember Matt Mahan, working as a team officer where I lead a group of interns with information tracking in the local area. We work together to find out valuable information on resident issues and public locations of interest, before I bring the things we find to the table with the general board with Councilmember Mahan.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

What I might bring to the team is a perspective based on experience. I feel like my experience comes from learning to create projects in completely different, unrelated environments. Being on the Youth Commission makes me more able to share what I have to offer. From my work organizing events as both student body president at Leland High to my work as a youth advisor for the American Cancer Society, I can contribute my strengths in facilitating creativity—getting from idea to product, show, or experience.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Youth Commission serves as a bridge between the frequently "adult" world of city government and the general youth. With our adolescence comes a different point of view on things, where we can provide the Mayor and the City Council with unique ideas that are outside the box, and that can bring in the strengths of the current youth in San Jose.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

• Lack of youth involvement in city politics • Mental health issues from stress caused by competition in school • Funding for schools in San Jose, especially to the arts

I would like to say . . .

All of the experience I gather from the different things that I do revolve around the same thing: helping others maximize what they are able to do with their skill sets. While each of the committees that I lead, or teams that I am a part of, are diverse in environment, they are still a means to garner the support of the general public. With the Youth Committee, I hope to bring to the table this knowledge and skillset, to better represent and elevate the presence of the youth in San Jose.

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

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Verification

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I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *