

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Julian

First Name

Lake

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95112

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 3**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Airport Commission: Submitted

Bay Area Council
Employer

Policy Advisor for Climate
and Energy
Job Title

Current Employer Address



Current Employer of Spouse

None

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

None

Spouse's Job Title

None

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Chicago, IL Master of Public Policy Fall 2017- June 2019 ■ Relevant Coursework: Microeconomics and Public Policy II; Statistics and Data Analysis II; Analytical Politics II, South Asian Politics, Environmental Economics, Strategies and Regulation of Firms ■ Relevant Skills: R; MS Word; MS Excel; MS PowerPoint
University of California, Berkeley Berkeley, CA Fall 2013- May 2015 ■ Bachelor of Arts in Political Science ■ Relevant Coursework: Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods; African Politics; Korean Politics; South East Asian Politics; Environmental Energy Policy; Japanese Politics; The Welfare State in Perspective, Political Psychology
Gavilan Community College Gilroy, CA Fall 2011- Spring 2013 ■ Associate's degree in Global Studies ■ Relevant Coursework: Intro to American Politics; Intro to Comparative Politics; Intro to International Relations

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Bay Area Council Policy Director for Climate and Energy June 2023 - Present ■ Partner with business leaders and policymakers to advance climate and energy initiatives that foster a more sustainable, affordable, and competitive business environment in the Bay Area. ■ Led coalition efforts with airlines and airports to develop and advocate for state legislation streamlining the permitting of sustainable aviation fuels. ■ Organized high-level delegations, including visits to Vancouver and Diablo Canyon Power Plant, convening senior executives and elected officials such as PG&E CEO Patti Poppe and San José Mayor Matt Mahan to drive dialogue on clean energy solutions.
Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo, City of San Jose Policy Advisor for Transportation and Environment November 2019 - December 2022 ■ Tracked and analyzed VTA, MTC, and City of San Jose legislation and policy proposals, evaluated their environmental, equity, and transportation impacts, and wrote and designed advocacy materials used to advance transportation budget priorities with state and federal leadership. ■ Participated in advocacy efforts with regional, state, and federal leaders on BART Silicon Valley Phase II and other critical transportation projects such as the San Jose Airport Connector Project. ■ Communicated policy positions and priorities with lead staff in the City of San Jose, elected officials' staff, VTA, MTC, CalTrans, and other external partners, including through the writing and editing of letters, council memos, and other methods. ■ Explored opportunities and proposed policy options that the Office of the Mayor could use to advance an ambitious climate agenda, through engaging with external experts, collaborating with City staff, and conducting independent research. ■ Supported the presentation of the Mayor's Budget Message through community outreach and education on the budget, editing the mayor's budget presentation, analyzing data on the community feedback, directing the use of the San Jose Balancing Act Budget simulation tool, and answering resident questions at community budget meetings.

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

None

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I want to work towards making and maintaining SCJ as the premier gateway to the City of San Jose. I am currently proud of how seamless, clean, and future-facing SJC is, and I want to work to build upon that reputation. My priorities as an Airport Commissioner would be: - To make the user experience of SJC as comfortable, reliable, affordable, and stress-free for visitors as possible. - To make sure that SJC is a driver of economic opportunity for San Jose residents and businesses, and that economic benefits to the city translate equitably to the San Jose population - To expand access to plane flights and aviation opportunities at SJC so that San Jose is seen as a world-class destination with myriad flight options - To work towards sustainable long-term solutions at the airport for both airlines and travelers.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

I previously worked in city government for three years, working on transportation policy under Mayor Sam Liccardo, and I have also worked for a public policy non-profit called the Bay Area Council for over two years, where I have at times needed to work with airlines and airports to accomplish policy goals.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Adrian Covert

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Scott Green

Julian Lake

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

scott.green@sanjoseca.gov

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 not served on a Commission or Board before, but I have watched many hours of municipal board meetings during the course of my career, following transportation policy.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring over six years of professional experience in climate, energy, and transportation policy, as well as an academic background in public policy and governance, which together qualify me for this appointment. As Policy Director for Climate and Energy at the Bay Area Council, I work directly with business leaders and policymakers to advance sustainable and affordable energy solutions, including working with airlines and airports. My prior role as Policy Advisor to the Mayor of San José honed my expertise in analyzing and advancing complex transportation and environmental initiatives in collaboration with regional, state, and federal partners. In addition, I have experience in academic and international policy research, including work with the University of Chicago's Policy Lab on equitable education funding and with the World Resources Institute in Brazil on implementing the Paris Climate Agreement. I hold a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Political Science from UC Berkeley, with a focus on quantitative methods and environmental policy.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The purpose of the commission is to provide recommendations on policy proposals to committees and the City Council so that they can make more informed decisions and so that City Staff can flesh out more information on each topic before it appears before the Council.

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

-The ongoing housing and homelessness crisis in San Jose and California is the number one priority of the City Council. Tackling this problem requires faster building of housing and finding quick, affordable housing solutions for the unhoused. - San Jose faces ongoing concerns about public safety, which threatens business development and urban vibrancy. The City has struggled to get staffing for public safety to the necessary levels due to systemic budget deficits. These issues will need to be fixed to improve San Jose's sustained economic improvement. - Lastly, major public transportation projects like BART to San Jose and California High Speed Rail continue to face fiscal challenges to their project success. If completed, these projects could provide huge benefit to the City, but maintaining public support in the wake of cost overruns has proven difficult.

Question applies to Airport Commission

What are the three most critical challenges facing Mineta San Jose International Airport in the next five years? What do you bring to the table in terms of experience, expertise, or perspective to help address these challenges

San Jose Airport's three biggest challenges are: - Recovering from a post-COVID travel environment and adjusting to the new normal for business travel, with a smaller percentage of trips taken. - Dealing with competition from other regional airports such as SFO and OAK. - Addressing environmental impacts to the surrounding community, such as airport noise and particulate matter emissions. I have experience working as a public policy professional who has convened and listened to stakeholders to build consensus around solutions to big public policy issues. With a background of working in government and working with private sector partners, I believe that I am well-positioned to understand how to balance the needs of the airport and the surrounding community.

Question applies to Airport Commission

What can the Airport do to balance its obligations as a “good neighbor” and as a world-class international airport for Silicon Valley? If there is a conflict in achieving an appropriate balance, how would you resolve it?

San José Mineta International Airport has a dual responsibility. To serve as a world-class gateway for Silicon Valley and to minimize its impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. Balancing these roles requires strategies that strengthen the airport’s competitiveness while respecting community concerns about noise, traffic, and environmental impacts. To tackle these issues, I would approach each conflict with a perspective of trying to answer the question, "How do we make sure that the things which benefit the airport, benefit the surrounding community as well, and vice versa?"

Question applies to Airport Commission

What can the City of San José and the Airport do to engage Silicon Valley business leaders and other communities to support the Airport’s efforts to increase air service and add routes to SJC? What can you do personally to help achieve this goal?

The City of San José and Mineta San José International Airport can engage Silicon Valley business leaders and communities by positioning air service as a critical driver of the region’s economic competitiveness and quality of life. Business leaders rely on efficient international and domestic connections to grow markets, attract investment, and recruit talent. By making the case that expanding service at SJC strengthens the entire innovation ecosystem, the City and Airport can build broad-based support.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

The purpose of historic preservation in San José is to protect and celebrate the city’s architectural, cultural, and social heritage while guiding growth in a way that strengthens neighborhood identity and civic pride. Preservation ensures that as San José evolves, it does not lose the historic places that connect residents to the city’s past, attract visitors, and contribute to a unique sense of place. It also supports sustainability by encouraging the adaptive reuse of existing buildings rather than demolition and new construction.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

While I don't have direct experience in historic preservation. I have spent numerous work hours engaged with City staff on matters about Transportation, Energy, and the Environment. Some of these discussions involved preserving historic parts of San Jose, especially green spaces, which are an important part of our City's history.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

I was born and raised in San Jose, and for most of my life. San Jose has been my home. I'm happy to be an involved member of this community.

(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 *



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Mitchell

First Name

Ehrlich

Last Name


Email Address
Street Address
Suite or AptSan Jose

City

CA

State

95125

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 9Home: 

Primary Phone

Business: 

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Airport Commission: Submitted

Lonich Patton Ehrlich
PolICASTRI LLP

Employer

Managing Partner

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

JP Morgan Chase

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Financial Advisor

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Juris Doctor (JD) Pepperdine University School of Law, Cum Laude 1995-1998 Bachelors of Arts, Economics, UC Santa Barbara, 1989-1993 Pioneer High School, Class of 1989

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Willow Glen Neighborhood Association 2017 to present
Treasurer District 9, Leadership Group 2025 to present. Committee Member, Valley Water District, Environmental and Water Resources Committee 2025 to present Santa Clara County Bar Association Attorney Client Fee Arbitrator 2000 to present Judge Pro Tem Civil Traffic, Family Court 2000 to present Chair- San Jose Traffic Appeals Commission 2000-2004 Co-managed domestic violence clinic with Elevate Community Center 2023 to Present

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

Promoted to Managing Partner of my 17 lawyer law firm; Graduated Cum Laude in Law School Earned two scholarships in Law School; Made Deans List twice Won two CALI awards in law school

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I am seeking to serve on the San José Airport Commission because I believe San José Mineta International Airport is a critical asset to our region's economy, quality of life, and global connectivity. As a long-time San José resident, business owner, and community leader, I want to contribute my time and experience to help the airport continue to grow and thrive. If selected to serve as a Commission my specific objectives would include the following: Supporting policies that improve the traveler experience, particularly around access, affordability, and convenience for both passengers. Advocating for responsible, growth that balances regional development with noise, environmental, and neighborhood impacts. Encouraging economic development and business partnerships that benefit San José. Ensuring transparency and public accountability during Commission discussions and recommendations. I bring a deep familiarity with the concerns of local residents and businesses through my work as an attorney and involvement in civil organizations. I am excited to contribute to San José's future by helping the airport thrive and grow.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

I am bright, intuitive and can understand complex micro and macro economic issues. I am hard worker and prompt and will not miss meetings. I am an adept and confident public speaker and am confident that I will be a valuable addition to the committee.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Michael Lonich

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Pam Foley

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 been President, VP and Treasurer of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association. I was Chair of the San Jose Traffic Appeals Commission.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I have over 26 years of experience as a practicing attorney and am managing partner of a 17 law year well-established law firm in San Jose. My professional background has equipped me with skills in legal analysis, contract review, negotiation, and regulatory compliance — all of which are directly relevant to the work of the Airport Commission. In addition to my legal career, I have been civically active for decades. I served as Chair of the City of San Jose Traffic Appeals Commission and have been a long-standing board member — including roles as President, Vice President, and Treasurer — of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association, a nonprofit focused on community advocacy, quality of life, and beautification. Through these experiences, I've developed strong skills in public engagement, governmental process, and consensus building. I understand the importance of transparency, equitable development, and thoughtful long-range planning — qualities that I believe would serve the Airport Commission and the residents of San Jose well.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding is that Airport Commission is an advisory commission that provides recommendations about airport-related issues such as economic development, expansion, noise issues, long term planning etc. to the City Council and the Director of

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

Homelessness; Graffiti Need to increase SJPd force

Question applies to Airport Commission

What are the three most critical challenges facing Mineta San Jose International Airport in the next five years? What do you bring to the table in terms of experience, expertise, or perspective to help address these challenges

1. Expanding Air Service and Economic Growth 2. Infrastructure & Transit 3. Noise, Environmental Sustainability With my experience in the law and my economics background, I hope to be able to provide keen input on the airport's ongoing efforts to grow and thrive financially

Question applies to Airport Commission

What can the Airport do to balance its obligations as a “good neighbor” and as a world-class international airport for Silicon Valley? If there is a conflict in achieving an appropriate balance, how would you resolve it?

The Airport should strive to be both a good neighbor while continuing to grow as a leading a global first class airport. These two should not be the expense of one another. The airport must be responsive to the airlines and travelers and to the surrounding communities that feel the impacts of its operations. Transparent and honest communication that starts early and ongoing is important. Decisions around issues such as noise, traffic, etc. should be data-driven but which allow for community feedback. When conflicts arise — such as expanding air traffic versus limiting noise — the airport should strive for collaboration. With my experience leading community organizations and advising clients on complex legal issues, I am comfortable navigating tensions between conflicting goals and working towards a resolution.

Question applies to Airport Commission

What can the City of San José and the Airport do to engage Silicon Valley business leaders and other communities to support the Airport’s efforts to increase air service and add routes to SJC? What can you do personally to help achieve this goal?

San José and the Airport should take a active approach to engage business leaders, civic groups, and residents in expanding air service. Business travelers are vey important and can directly influence airline route development. To that end, the City and Airport should: Engage directly with leaders in tech, biotech, finance, and real estate development business leaders to gather data on travel needs and build support for new international and business-class routes; Partner with groups such as Silicon Valley Leadership Group, chambers of commerce, and regional organizations to support these efforts; Highlight the economic and social value of a well-connected airport to the community; Personally, I can help achieve this goal in several ways: As managing partner of a law firm serving high-net-worth professionals, business owners, and international clients, I can help to connect the Airport to community leaders who are invested in reliable, premium air service. Through my work on neighborhood and civil groups, I can serve as a bridge between the Airport's growth and community concerns.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

N/A

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

N/A

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

N/a

(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 *

Mitchell Ehrlich

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

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- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Minerva

First Name

Sarellano

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95111

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 2**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Submitted

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Employer

Director

Job Title

Current Employer Address

Current Employer of Spouse

Oakland ARTCC (FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center, ZOA)

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Spouse's Job Title

Air Traffic Controller

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

None

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Independence High School 2000, SJSU 2007: BA in Child and Adolescent Development.

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Currently on the Board of Parents Helping Parents

Minerva Sarellano

Languages Spoken

English and Spanish

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

None at the moment

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I want to join the Arts Commission to help expand access to the arts and ensure that District 2 is more intentionally included in San José's arts programming. My goal is to bring forward ideas for public art, performances, and partnerships with schools and local organizations that reflect the diversity of our community. I hope to advocate for inclusive and accessible opportunities that engage residents of all ages and make the arts a visible and celebrated part of everyday life in District 2.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

The arts are a true passion of mine and an area where I excelled in school, and they continue to be central in my personal and community life. Through my volunteer work, I always find ways to bring in the arts, whether by helping my children's elementary school expand arts in their celebrations as Parent President or by supporting opportunities that highlight our city's diversity. I also enjoy the performing arts personally as a member of a salsa performing team, and my children all participate in folklórico. In addition, I helped my oldest daughter start a dance company in Merced, where she is currently studying. These experiences reflect my belief that the arts are a powerful way to embrace culture, celebrate our unique identities, and teach youth about the richness of our diverse communities in San José.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Eddie Garcia

Minerva Sarellano

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Trena Hudson

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 currently serve on the Board of Directors for Parents Helping Parents, where I have been a member for over a year and now hold the role of Governance Co-Chair. In this role, I have gained direct experience in board responsibilities, including policy review, strategic planning, and ensuring accountability to the community we serve. This experience has given me a strong foundation in understanding how boards and commissions function, the importance of collaboration, and how to balance community needs with organizational goals. I believe these skills directly connect to serving on a commission, where thoughtful decision-making, inclusive representation, and a commitment to public service are essential.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring a combination of professional experience, community leadership, and a lifelong passion for the arts. I serve as a Director at First 5 Santa Clara County in the Early Learning and Care Department, where I co-chair community engagement initiatives as part of our strategic planning and am currently collaborating with the Children’s Discovery Museum on a spring cultural event. I also serve as Governance Co-Chair on the Board of Parents Helping Parents, gaining experience in policy oversight, accountability, and collaborative decision-making. In my personal and volunteer work, I focus on making the arts accessible and celebrating cultural diversity. As Parent President at my children’s elementary school, I have helped expand arts programming in school celebrations. I actively participate in performing arts as a member of a salsa team, and my children are engaged in folklórico dance, with my oldest having founded a dance company in Merced. I also immerse my family in local cultural events such as Lunar New Year, Autumn Festival, Diwali, and Día de los Muertos. These experiences give me the skills, perspective, and commitment to help the Arts Commission expand access to arts and cultural programs that reflect and engage the diverse communities of San José.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The purpose of a commission is to advise city officials, guide policies and programs, and ensure community needs are represented in decision-making. Commissions provide expertise, oversee initiatives, and engage residents to promote participation and awareness. For the Arts Commission specifically, its role is to support and advocate for the arts, provide recommendations on arts-related policies and programs, and ensure that all communities in the city have access to cultural opportunities.

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

Access to Arts and Cultural Programs: Ensuring all neighborhoods, including underserved areas like District 2, have opportunities to experience and participate in the arts, with programming that is inclusive of people with disabilities, can strengthen community engagement and celebrate cultural diversity. Equity in Early Childhood Education and Resources: Expanding access to quality early learning programs and family support services for all children, including those with disabilities, is essential for preparing youth for success and supporting families across San José. Community Engagement and Inclusion: Promoting participation in city programs and decision-making among diverse populations, including people with disabilities, helps ensure policies and initiatives reflect the needs and values of all residents.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

In the past year, I have participated in a variety of arts activities in San José that reflect my passion for exposing my children to the richness of our city's cultural offerings. I attended Macario at the Mexican Heritage Plaza to share with my children the depth of Mexican culture and storytelling. We have visited the Tech Museum multiple times, drawn by its creative and interactive exhibits that combine innovation and art. At the San José Museum of Art, we experienced the Alebrijes exhibit, which allowed us to explore vibrant cultural traditions and artistic expression. I also attended a performance at the San José Center for the Performing Arts to support my daughter in her Polynesian dance performance, which highlighted the importance of community and cultural pride. Most recently, I went to the Hammer Theatre in San José to watch mariachi performers, drawn by a love for live music and the way it connects us to heritage. Each of these experiences reflects my commitment to engaging with the arts both personally and as a way of immersing my children in the diversity and creativity that make San José unique.

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

I believe the arts bring great value to the community by creating spaces where people can connect, learn, and celebrate together. The arts highlight the richness of our diverse cultures, allowing us to share traditions and stories that build understanding and respect. They also inspire creativity and give children and youth opportunities to express themselves and grow with confidence. In addition, the arts support local businesses and attract visitors through events and performances, making our city a more vibrant and welcoming place to live.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

Yes, I believe the City of San José should have an active role in arts and cultural development because the arts are essential to building a strong, connected, and vibrant community. The City can play an important role by funding and supporting local artists and cultural organizations, creating more opportunities for public art in neighborhoods, and ensuring that arts programming is accessible to all residents, including children, youth, and people with disabilities. By actively investing in the arts, the City not only celebrates the diversity of its residents but also fosters community pride, supports local businesses, and creates spaces where people from all backgrounds can come together.

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

I can contribute to advising City Council by bringing both my professional expertise and my personal commitment to making the arts part of everyday life. In my role as a Director at First 5 Santa Clara County and as Governance Co-Chair on the Board of Parents Helping Parents, I have developed skills in strategic planning, community engagement, and policy oversight that prepare me to make thoughtful recommendations. Beyond these roles, I am always finding ways to incorporate the arts into what I do—whether it's using art as a tool for expression while teaching catechism, supporting local performing teams by attending community events, or helping bring arts programming into schools and neighborhoods. As a performer myself and as a parent raising children deeply involved in the arts, I understand firsthand how creativity builds confidence, inclusion, and cultural pride. These experiences give me the perspective to ensure cultural development policies and programs reflect the diverse voices and needs of San José's communities.

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

The purpose of historic preservation in San José is to make sure we hold on to the places and stories that show where we came from as a community. These buildings and landmarks remind us of our shared history, celebrate the cultures that built our city, and give future generations a chance to learn from them. The Historic Landmarks Commission helps by identifying and protecting these important sites, reviewing projects that might affect them, and advising City Council on how to keep San José's history alive while the city continues to grow.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

While I do not have prior experience specifically with historic preservation, I have extensive experience with San José's public planning processes and working with city and other public agency staff. In my personal time, I am collaborating with the City of San José Parks and Recreation team and Pamela Campo's team to help recreate a neighborhood association for our community. We recently held our first community listening session and are actively scheduling additional sessions while maintaining regular meetings and ongoing communication to move this work forward. Through my role at First 5 Santa Clara County, I have worked on collaborative projects with city, county, and state partners, including close collaboration with the Santa Clara County Office of Education on the Quality Matters Initiative. I also serve as co-chair of the Workforce Committee on the Local Planning Council, another initiative under the County Office of Education. These experiences have provided me with strong skills in public engagement, partnership-building, and navigating government processes at multiple levels.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

I've always had a passion for the arts and deeply appreciate the beauty it brings to enrich our communities. One of my favorite places to visit in San José is the Historic Park, where I love learning about our city's history and the preservation of its historic sites. I remember admiring the Victorian homes along 7th Street while attending SJSU, which sparked my appreciation for San José's architectural and cultural heritage. I am inspired by the opportunity to bring our different communities together through music, art, food, and cultural traditions, creating shared experiences that connect and strengthen our neighborhoods.

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Christine

First Name

Nguyen Vaeth

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95127

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***

☒ District 2

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

- ☒ Community Outreach
- ☒ Energy Advocate
- ☒ Other - Please explain in application

none

Employer

none

Job Title

Current Employer Address

none

Current Employer of Spouse

Therma Inc

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[Redacted Address]

Spouse's Job Title

Director, Process Engineering

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

N/A

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

-I am no longer employed with ChargePoint; however, I bring ~8 years of experience working in the transportation/EV charging/electrification industry as a global marketing professional. I have over 20 years of marketing and sales experience working across various tech companies headquartered in the Silicon Valley such as Workday, Cisco, and Poly. -I am currently taking a personal sabbatical in order to reset from burnout, take up volunteer opportunities, and spend time with my family. I am also in the process of setting up my marketing and business development consulting practice over the next few months. -I received a B.S. in Marketing from Santa Clara University in 2004, attended from '02-'04. Prior to that I went to USF and Santa Monica College before transferring to SCU.

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Parent volunteer at my son's middle school; participate in neighborhood association

Languages Spoken

English, Vietnamese

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I've lived in District 2 for almost 12 years, and I love my neighborhood and want to seek more ways to get the broader community educated and involved in sustainable living and practices whether that be driving an EV, understanding how charging works, induction cooking, recycling, composting, etc. There are so many little things that can be done in the home that can make a collective impact for generations to come. Over the past 8 years, I have worked in the EV charging industry helping to grow the nascent category through years of hyper growth. I would love to continue to bring my experience in marketing and the industry in a new capacity. Education delivered through engaging tactics is a way that I can add value quickly. Personally, I am a firm believer that we all play a part in helping to reduce our footprint in their own capacity. It starts with education and mobilizing the community towards action and small steps towards a greener future.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Christine Nguyen Vaeth

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Brian Vaeth

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Christine Nguyen Vaeth

Reference 2 Name

Vi Hua

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

20 years of business experience in tech companies

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

Advise and make recommendations to the City Council and the City Manager, or designee, on all aspects of San José Climate Smart plan, with a focus on the Pathway to Carbon Neutrality by 2030 and climate adaptation; and provide feedback on staff recommendations to the City Council, and Transportation and Environment Committee, when appropriate; serve as a community voice in matters related to San José’s Climate Smart initiatives. Advise and make recommendations to the City Council and the City Manager, or designee, on San José Clean Energy’s services and product offerings, Integrated Resource Plan, and programs.

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

-A plan to install more public EV charging stations that can bolster businesses in San Jose and increase adoption of EVs over the next few years -Identify areas that can benefit from more trees/shade, walkable areas or tree planting events so residents may benefit from shade and getting outside -Trash pickup events, how to properly recycle, compost, etc.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

The Historic Landmarks Commission has the responsibility of forwarding comments and recommendations to the Director of Planning and City Council on: City Landmark, City Landmark Historic District, and Conservation Area Nominations; Mills Act Historic Property Contracts; Historic Preservation Permits for work performed on a City Landmark or within a City Landmark Historic District; and, Preservation, exhibition, and protection of the History San Jose Historical Museum. The Historic Landmarks Commission also: Maintains the Historic Resources Inventory, utilizing the Inventory as a tool in recommendations and Inventory listings as appropriate, by: Providing comments on land use/development proposals with the potential to impact cultural resources; and, Where appropriate, adding properties identified through those proposals to the Historic Resources Inventory.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

N/A

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

I've lived in District 2 for almost 12 years, and I love my neighborhood and want to seek more ways to get the broader community educated and involved in sustainable living and practices whether that be driving an EV, understanding how charging works, induction cooking, recycling, composting, etc. There are so many little things that can be done in the home that can make a collective impact for generations to come. Over the past 8 years, I have worked in the EV charging industry helping to grow the nascent category through years of hyper growth. I would love to continue to bring my experience in marketing and the industry in a new capacity. Education delivered through engaging tactics is a way that I can add value quickly. Personally, I am a firm believer that we all play a part in helping to reduce our footprint in their own capacity. It starts with education and mobilizing the community towards action and small steps towards a greener future.

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

The cadence to meet works with my schedule (3rd Thursday of odd-numbered months, 6pm, City Hall, Room T-1753).

Anything else you would like us to know?

I am excited about the opportunity to be more involved in the future of this beautiful city and how we lead the way in a greener San Jose!

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Eric

First Name

Michaud

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95112

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 3**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 3-5 years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

☒ Education/Research Center

☒ Energy Advocate

☒ Low Income Advocate

Apple Inc.

Employer

Acoustics Development
Engineer

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Alpha Public Schools

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Managing Director of Special Education

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

N/A

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

• Apple Internal Training Programs (Acoustics / Engineering Development), (2020 - current) — Periodic coursework in experimental design, data analysis, compliance and specialized equipment training • Foothill College (2006) - Business Administration, Veterinary Technology • Santa Teresa High School (2000-2004) - General Education

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Treasurer & Lawn Sign Captain Neighbors for Matthew Quevedo for District 3 City Council 2025 December 2024 - June 2025 - Assisted with managing campaign finances, including budget planning, expense tracking, and financial reporting in compliance with local/state election regulations. - Oversaw contributions and donations, ensuring accurate documentation and timely deposits. - Prepared and submitted official financial disclosure forms and reports to election authorities. - Implemented cost-control measures to maximize campaign resources and efficiency. - Coordinated with campaign leadership to align spending with strategic priorities. • Organized and led distribution of campaign lawn signs across target neighborhoods. • Trained, and coordinated volunteers for sign placement and pickup. • Developed a system for tracking sign requests, locations, and inventory.

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I am deeply committed to advancing San José's climate and clean energy goals, and I believe my background, skills, and passion make me a strong contributor to the Climate Advisory Commission. • As a homeowner with solar panels and a self-described "gadget nerd" who loves and owns smart-home tech, I understand firsthand how renewable energy, distributed generation, and grid integration affect everyday residents. • Professionally, I'm an engineer with experience in data, automation, resource management, and compliance, which equips me to critically evaluate proposals, feasibility studies, and pilot programs. • I am passionate about sustainability, clean energy adoption, and helping communities lead in climate innovation. Being on this board would give me a platform to turn that passion into tangible outcomes. • I want to contribute by advising on programs, policies, and investments that align with the Climate Smart San José plan, especially in areas like Smart Energy, Electrification, equity, and community outreach. • I'm also committed to collaborating with staff, legal, and community stakeholders, ensuring recommendations are not only visionary but also actionable, equitable, and compliant with city requirements. In short: I want to offer my technical insight, energy conviction, and problem-solving mindset to help San José be a leader in sustainable energy and climate resilience.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

I bring a unique mix of technical expertise, business leadership, and civic engagement. At Apple, I've advanced to Development Engineer, collaborating across teams and with Apple Legal to ensure compliance on high-impact projects. I've also founded two businesses, gaining experience in finance, operations, and sustainable practices. In addition, I served as a Campaign Treasurer and Lawn Sign Captain for a district-wide election in San Jose, managing finances and volunteers while ensuring compliance with election laws.. My background in engineering, small business, and community work reflects my passion for sustainability and helping San José lead in clean energy.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

[REDACTED]

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring strong technical expertise as a Development Engineer at Apple, where I design and validate research systems while ensuring compliance with Apple Legal. My background includes data analysis, process automation, and lab resource management, skills directly relevant to energy and technology initiatives. In addition, I founded two businesses in telecommunications, gaining experience with sustainable operations and customer-focused innovation. These experiences equip me to contribute technical insight and problem-solving to the Commission's work on clean energy.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

I understand the Commission's purpose is to advise the City on the Climate Smart San José plan, particularly its pathway to carbon neutrality by 2030 and climate adaptation efforts. The Commission also serves as a community voice on sustainability and provides recommendations on San José Clean Energy's programs and resource planning.

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

1. Climate and Energy Transition — Accelerating the city's move toward carbon neutrality, expanding clean energy programs, and improving access to solar, electrification, and energy efficiency for all residents. 2. Affordable Housing and Equity — Balancing growth with equitable housing, ensuring vulnerable communities aren't left behind in sustainability and infrastructure improvements. 3. Infrastructure and Resilience — Modernizing infrastructure (grid, transportation, water systems) to withstand climate impacts, while promoting smart technology and innovation.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Historic preservation in San José safeguards the city's heritage while supporting thoughtful growth. The Historic Landmarks Commission advances this by reviewing landmark designations and permits, advising on preservation policy, and ensuring community input in decisions affecting historic resources.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

My experience with historic preservation began in 2021 when I explored purchasing a historic triplex in San José. That process required me to review city rules and guidelines for upgrading historic properties, giving me firsthand understanding of the requirements and challenges involved in preservation projects. In addition, while serving as a Campaign Treasurer, I attended community forums where business owners and residents—particularly in Japantown—raised concerns about the cost and complexity of permits and upgrades for historic buildings. These experiences gave me insight into both the regulatory framework and the real-world challenges property owners face in balancing preservation with affordability and business viability.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

Education / Research Center – As a Development Engineer at Apple, I design and validate research systems, analyze complex data, and collaborate with cross-functional teams. This background equips me to interpret technical material and contribute evidence-based insight to the Commission. Energy Advocate – I am a homeowner with solar, a strong interest in sustainable technology, and founder of two telecommunications businesses that focus on efficient, customer-centered services. I am passionate about expanding clean energy adoption and helping San José lead in sustainability. Low Income Advocate – Through civic engagement, including serving as a Campaign Treasurer, I have seen how regulatory costs and access barriers disproportionately affect small businesses and lower-income residents. I want to ensure clean energy programs are equitable and accessible to all communities.

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

I am fully committed to attending and actively contributing to all committee meetings. My professional role provides flexibility for evening commitments, and I have a strong track record of reliability in both work and civic responsibilities. Having served in leadership and volunteer positions, I understand the importance of quorum and consistent participation, and I will make this service a priority to ensure the committee's effectiveness.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I am passionate about helping San José lead in sustainability and clean energy adoption, and I bring a unique mix of technical expertise, small-business leadership, and civic engagement. Beyond my professional work as a Development Engineer at Apple and my entrepreneurial experience, I am also a homeowner with solar and a strong advocate for practical, community-focused solutions. I would be honored to contribute my skills and perspective to support the City's climate and energy goals.

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Glen

First Name

Garfunkel

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95125

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 9**Mobile**

Primary Phone

Home

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Appointed

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

- ☒ Community Outreach
- ☒ Electricity Field (e.g. Electrical Utilities, Energy Production, Efficiency, Demand Reduction, Technology, Financing, Policy)
- ☒ Energy Advocate

Retired

Employer

Retired

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Unemployed

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Environmental Education Manager

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

IBM

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

PhD in Physics from University of Illinois, 1982-88. BS in Physics from MIT, 1977-81.

Glen Garfunkel

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Co-founder of San Jose Community Energy Advocates Climate Reality Project: Silicon Valley Chapter (2025:currently Exec Team Lead, 2022-2024:Chair) Climate Action California (2025: board member, 2023-2025:energy policy group) Currently serving on San Jose Climate Advisory Commission (~Aug'21 - present)

Languages Spoken

english

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

-

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I have been deeply concerned about climate issues for several decades. I believe CCA's are a great mechanism for local communities to bring about meaningful substantial progress toward GHG reductions. A CCA's impact is just local, but it serves as a model for other communities, throughout the state and country. I started advocating for a CCA for San Jose in 2014. My objectives on the commission would be to provide community based feedback and input, help support SJCE's basic mission (lobby Sacramento, community outreach, etc) and its financial stability, and provide general critical review and input towards its operations and roadmap, where needed.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

[REDACTED]

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

none

Reference 1 Name

Ruth Merino

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

-

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Adam Sweeney

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

-

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Have been serving on CECAC Commission since about Aug.'21 The experience has been very positive; have learned a great deal in the past few months about California energy sector, San Jose City, SJCE, and CECAC, and feel I am in a better position to contribute to the success of SJCE. Have also served on the special Ad Hoc Committee (within CECAC) which reviewed a range of SJCE issues.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

Experience managing engineering teams in a professional environment. Familiar with CCA history and community, numerous climate advocacy groups in California, EJ and equity concerns and a range of relevant legislative and policy issues. Some familiarity with the legislative process in Sacramento. Experience in environmental and community outreach (East Palo Alto).

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

SJ CAC provides advice to the City Council and Mayor, and key staff, about all aspects of city policy relating to climate issues (this includes SJCE operations and development.) It seeks to identify areas of concern including legislation and ordinances, best practices state wide and new opportunities for GHG reductions. It also serves as liaison channel to the San Jose community, including the DAC (community).

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

Affordable, pragmatic, and cost-effective policies enabling GHG emission reductions and the city's goal to be net zero. Assure the robust financial solvency of SJCE and affordable competitive rates for our ratepayers, while providing beneficial electrification programs for our residents. Facilitate transition to EV/clean transportation, and general electrification efforts; these provided the greatest opportunity for SJ GHG reductions. Develop roadmap for continuous and substantial GHG reductions and equity improvements.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

N/A

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

N/A

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

(Please see the other question entries.) Professional, technical, science and physics background, with a long standing concern about climate change, active for years on climate issues, SJCE Advocate cofounder, CRP-SiliconValley past Chair, Climate Action California Board member, active on various state policy issues & bills, lobbied Sacramento, input to some bills, strong believer in CCA model and the ability of local communities to have a big impact. and a commitment to the urgent need for GHG reductions. Some exposure to SJ PBCE.

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

As I am retired, I can attend any meetings at any time.

Anything else you would like us to know?

-

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Macwin Savio

First Name

Dsouza

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95112

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 3**Home:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 3-5 years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Appointed

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

☒ Electricity Field (e.g. Electrical Utilities, Energy Production, Efficiency, Demand Reduction, Technology, Financing, Policy)

QuantumScape Battery Inc.
Employer

Principal Engineer, Manager
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted Address]

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Master of Science in Data Science, Saint Peter’s University, Jersey City, September 2022 - May 2024; Master of Science in Materials Science and Engineering, University of California San Diego, September 2017 - August 2019; Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering, R. V. College of Engineering, Bangalore, August 2012 – May 2016;

Macwin Savio Dsouza

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Languages Spoken

English, Hindi, Kannada, Tulu, Konkani

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I am really excited about the chance to join the Climate Advisory Commission. San Jose has the goal of hitting carbon neutrality by 2030. That's the kind of big, important challenge I want to be a part of. Plus, with my background in engineering and energy storage, I feel like I can bring something useful to the table. As a member, I would prioritize the following objectives: (1) Optimizing Energy Storage Integration: I intend to leverage my knowledge to advise on effective strategies for integrating energy storage solutions into the city's grid. This includes recommending policies that promote the deployment of advanced energy storage systems to enhance grid stability and maximize renewable energy utilization. (2) Facilitating Electric Vehicle Adoption: I aim to support the city's efforts in accelerating the transition to electric vehicles by providing insights on charging infrastructure development, battery lifecycle management, and policies that encourage widespread EV adoption. (3) Promoting Sustainable Technology Innovation: I am committed to advocating for the adoption of cutting-edge clean energy technologies and practices across various sectors. I would seek to contribute to policy and pilot projects that foster innovation in sustainability. (4) Ensuring Equitable Access to Clean Energy Benefits: I am dedicated to ensuring that the transition to clean energy benefits all San Jose residents, particularly those in environmental justice communities. I will work towards policies that guarantee affordable access to clean energy technologies and equitable distribution of benefits.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

I work at a next-generation battery company that is located in the City of San Jose. I fully understand there could be some cases where there is a conflict of interest. Whenever there is a possibility of a conflict of interest, I will remove myself from those matters.

Reference 1 Name

Deepak Vidhani

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Jason Sanchez

Macwin Savio Dsouza

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 am a current member of the Climate Advisory Commission, City of San Jose, with term ending in December 2025

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

My qualifications for appointment to the Climate Advisory Commission stem from a strong foundation in engineering and materials science, coupled with professional experience in the clean energy sector and a personal commitment to environmental stewardship. My Master's degree in Materials Science and Engineering and my current role as Principal Engineer, have provided me with comprehensive knowledge of battery technology, manufacturing processes, and energy storage solutions. This expertise is directly relevant to San Jose's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, particularly in the areas of transportation electrification and grid modernization. My research experience at UC San Diego has further honed my skills in materials analysis, battery fabrication, and electrochemical testing, skills that are valuable for evaluating and recommending effective climate solutions. Beyond my professional qualifications, my personal activities demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and community well-being. As an avid cyclist, I understand the importance of promoting alternative transportation and creating bike-friendly infrastructure, which aligns with the city's efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Similarly, my passion for scuba diving has instilled in me a deep appreciation for ocean conservation and the need to protect our planet's ecosystems, reinforcing my dedication to environmental stewardship. I offer a combination of technical expertise in clean energy, a professional focus on developing sustainable technologies, and a personal commitment to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. I am confident that these experiences and skills would enable me to make significant contributions to the Climate Advisory Commission.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

San Jose has set an ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. This means the city is aiming to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across fuel use in buildings, transport, industry, grid-supplied energy, and waste treatment within its boundaries by that year. Furthermore, the city is committed to prioritising the equitable engagement of environmental justice communities who have traditionally borne the brunt of environmental degradation, ensuring that the transition and its benefits include and do not further disadvantage these communities. The commission is tasked with advising and making recommendations on policies, strategies, and initiatives to achieve this goal.

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

In my opinion, the City of San Jose should prioritize the following three critical issues to achieve San Jose's carbon neutrality goals: (1) Transportation Emissions and Widespread EV Adoption: Addressing the significant contribution of transportation to greenhouse gas emissions by rapidly expanding access to EV charging infrastructure and incentivizing the transition to zero-emission vehicles. (2) Urban Mobility and Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): Tackling traffic congestion and emissions through strategic investments in and promotion of sustainable transportation options, including walking, biking, and public transit, to significantly reduce VMT. (3) Building Electrification and Fossil Fuel Appliance Replacement: Accelerating the transition away from fossil fuel-based appliances in residential and commercial buildings by implementing policies and programs that incentivize the adoption of electric space and water heating.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

N/A

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

N/A

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

I possess a foundation in engineering and materials science, with a Master's degree in Materials Science and Engineering and experience as a Principal Engineer in the clean energy sector. My expertise in battery technology and energy storage is complemented by a commitment to environmental stewardship, reflected in my passion for sustainable transportation (as a cyclist) and ocean conservation (as a scuba diver). This combination of technical skills and a broad perspective on sustainability qualifies me to contribute effectively to the Climate Advisory Commission.

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

Based on the meeting schedule published, past and future, it appears the meetings take place at 6 pm. I can definitely make that time work.

Anything else you would like us to know?

(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 *

[Redacted Signature Area]

[Redacted]

- ✓ [Redacted]
- ✓ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- ✓ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Victor

First Name

Niemeyer

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95129

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 1**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Appointed

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

☒ Electricity Field (e.g. Electrical Utilities, Energy Production, Efficiency, Demand Reduction, Technology, Financing, Policy)

semi-retired from Electric
Power Research Inst

Employer

Senior Tech Exec, now part-
time independent consultant

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

retired from Live Oak Adult Day Services

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Program Director

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

* UC Berkeley, 1965-70, Economics, A.B., 1970; * UT Austin, 1970-76, Ph.D, Economics, 1976

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

* regular volunteer and BOD member of Santa Maria Urban Ministry (food bank on Almaden and Union) * formerly, Member, Environmental Advisory Council of the New York Independent System Operator * formerly, Volunteer, West Valley Community Services * long ago, Founding Board Member, Moreland Educational Foundation, representing Country Lane Elementary, for two year term when MEF was first founded. * In 1970's, Technical Consultant to Mayor's Commission on Electric Rates for City of Austin.

Languages Spoken

English, Spanish

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

none

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

Have enjoyed and benefited from living in San Jose since 1979. I am looking for opportunities to give back to my community. San Jose is a great city, but we can make it better and I want to help.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

none

Reference 1 Name

Tom Wilson

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Louis Powell

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Victor Niemeyer

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Served on CECAC (Clean Energy Community Advisory Commission) Sep 2022 to Dec 2023 (elected chair Mar 2023). Served on CAC Jan 2024 to present, term expires Dec 2025. Also, experience with the City of Austin's Mayor's Commission on Electric Rates, the Moreland Educational Foundation, and the New York System Operator's Environmental Advisory Council. All have all required active participation in meeting discussions, supporting "homework" in the forms of research

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

Spent professional life participating in the evolution of the U.S. electric power industry. Have strong understanding of the electricity business and climate policy.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

Advise Council on matters related to Climate Smart and to the SJ Electric Department.

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

The three most immediate priorities for the city have to be homelessness, blight, and housing costs. I fully support the council's prioritization of those issues. Important too are setting a good national and international example for fighting climate change at the city level, and managing the Electric Department to both support the city's climate goals and to benefit the city's rate payers.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

As a post-doc at UT Austin, a consultant at Charles River Associates, a project manager at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and as a part-time post-retirement independent consultant for EPRI, I have been working at the forefront of electricity planning, IRP planning, environmental risk management, power market design, power market trading and asset valuation, climate policy, and the challenges of integrating renewables and storage into the grid for 50 years. It's been fun.

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

Haven't missed a meeting since joining the CECAC 3 years ago.

Anything else you would like us to know?

Growing up in Latin America and the Philippines gave me an affection and respect for diverse cultures, as well as Spanish fluency. I enjoy using these attributes at the Santa Maria Urban Ministry food bank serving the Washington-Guadalupe neighborhood.

(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 *

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted City/State/Zip]

[Redacted Phone Number]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Karen

First Name

Nelson

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95125

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 6**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Home:

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Appointed

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

- ☒ Community Outreach
- ☒ Energy Advocate
- ☒ Environmental (Association, Advocacy, Justice)

semi-retired

Employer

volunteer: climate and
renewable energy activist

Job Title

Current Employer Address

NA

Current Employer of Spouse

retired

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

NA

Spouse's Job Title

NA

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

Robert Ruff, my spouse, receives pensions from: * City of San Jose, Department of Retirement Services * State of California, Public Employees Retirement System (work for Santa Clara County)

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

* Vicksburg High School, Michigan. Sept 1963 through June 1967 * Western Michigan University, Bachelor of Science with an environmental (biology & ecology) and physical science emphasis. Graduated with a secondary education Teachers Certificate, Sept 1967 through June 1971 (4.48 GPA) * University of Illinois, Master of Urban Planning with an Environmental Planning specialization. Sept 1972 to May 1974 * Recipient: Fellowship program National Association of Businesswomen (Duke University) 2002 * Ongoing climate and energy related webinars via Climate Reality, The Climate Center, PG&E, BayREN and other many other climate and clean energy organizations * Coursera clean energy courses.

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

* Current Chair of the San Jose Climate Advisory Commission for 2024 and 2025 * Served on the San Jose Clean Energy Commission for 2023 * Vice Chair: San Jose Community Energy Advocates term began in 2025 * Serves as Executive support/membership for Climate Reality: Silicon Valley 2024 and 2025 * Concierge for CA DEMS / BAC GOTV and ballot curing canvassing for the central valley, CA 2024 and 2025 * Climate Reality Project: Silicon Valley, Founder and Emerita Chair (chair from June 2018 to December 2022) * Santa Clara County Housing Authority, Avenida Espana Board Secretary (June 2020 - August 2022) * Silicon Valley Clean Energy: Worked as a contract project manager to produce a 5 hour video course for contractor and installer training on heat pump technology and all-electric appliances, entitled "FutureFit Fundamentals" (May 2020 - September 2021) * League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara, Development Director (April 2014 - 2018) * 350 Silicon Valley, Marketing Co-Director (February 2013 - December 2013) * National Association of Women Business Owners, Silicon Valley chapter, Development Chair (2002 to 2005) * Bay Area Video Production Association, Programs Co-Chair, 1990 -1994 * Environmental Planner for Santa Clara County, California (May 1979 to July 1980) (note that Layoffs related to prop 13 budget reductions). * Executive Director for an environmental non-profit, Little Miami Scenic River, Cincinnati Ohio. (1976 - 1978) * Environmental Planner for Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, Ohio (1974 - 1976)

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

* Sam Jose Clean Energy: Selected to as a community non-profit leader supportive of SJCE to represent SJCE in it's press announcement for the * * Kern County solar and battery storage project. 2022 * Media Awards: Pacific Media that I founded in 1990 was awarded over 23 industry awards across 25 years for excellence in video, education, and marketing communication. * General Aviation Aircraft Association: A 1.75 hour on-line interactive course for aviation fuel operators, that I designed and developed, was honored by an industry General Aviation Aircraft Association for excellence and was considered an industry model for best practice training. It incidentally included sections of environmental protection best practices that I worked hard to include in the course work. * Silicon Valley Business Journal: My business, Pacific Media was recognized as one of Silicon Valley Business Journal's Top 50 Women Owned Businesses in 2002 and 2003. * National Association of Women Business Owners: I received a Fellowship to Duke University's small business leader program through the National Association of Women Business Owners. * International Science Fair: As a high school science student I was a two time, 4th place International Science Fair winner for research (1) on human bio-rhythms and (2) common factors analysis between plant based and human cancer. in the late 1960's

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

My life, starting at age 13, has been devoted to caring about and actively working for a healthy environment. From study about and education directed to environmental protection which now is focused on reducing GHG emissions from our atmosphere including: building community support for climate protection, a wide array of building electrification actions, active efforts to support state-wide legislation and policy for climate protection, implementation of effective Reach Codes in San Jose, and active support to prevent implementation the CPUC NEM 3 rules that would negatively impact the energy producing role of rooftop solar among other activities. I have a special interest in the expansion of solar energy, having added rooftop solar to our home in 2007. And I've actively supported SJCE since its inception with early organization of tabling teams to promote SJCE, initiating the formation of the SJCE NGO partner committee that has now been merged into the Climate Smart community meeting. OBJECTIVES THAT I FEEL MOST QUALIFIED TO SUPPORT: PROGRAM STABILITY AND PROGRESS TO MEET THE MISSION This objective includes a number of components including: • Strategy Evaluation: Given my years of evaluation, support for and development of climate/environmental programs and policy, along with creating effective strategy for community climate advocacy, I feel that this is one of my strengths. Given my efforts have included renewable energy and building decarbonization, I want to continue working on the prioritization and implementation of community programs, engagement strategies, legislative evaluation, support and development that strengthens San Jose's capabilities to reduce emissions with a variety of policies focused on climate and to support the expansion of SJCE's renewable power portfolio. An aspect of strategy evaluation is RISK and OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT. Given my long-time business background that included overseeing all Pacific Media's business relationships and financial activities, I feel competent to support the evaluation of the risks and opportunities associated with various climate, energy and related community programs. This includes providing feedback on the success of the program's operational objectives and opportunities to enhance the program's operational success. I believe that my background gives me the tools to ask pertinent questions and work with others to evaluate on reported data. • Program Monitoring: Effective and detailed program monitoring is required. This includes requests for relevant data that is easy to access and to understand regarding San Jose's climate program changes over time, along with data for SJCE energy purchasing (procurement process/costs/reliability of supply, etc.), rate setting, and financing indicators all which will permit effective decision-making about the program's effectiveness, impact on San Jose and our community. • Outcome Evaluation: Assure that we can successfully evaluate our climate actions success. OUTREACH and EDUCATION: Given my non-profit and media communications background I want to increase my support of our staff's outreach to our rate-payers and residents our climate programs, purpose, and the many benefits SJCE provides the community including expanded renewable energy, reduced carbon emissions, long-term rate stabilization including the potential for lower rates (in the long term). My background also lends itself to supporting the evaluation of the two-way conversation with residents that Climate Smart and SJCE have already initiated with messaging and community input meetings. Climate Smart is doing an admirable job of building effective channels of communication that encourage more empowerment to participate by recognizing each segment of the community plays a role in our local energy governance. Staff recognize that being heard also generates greater connection to supporting emission reduction with shifts in personal behavior, to electric vehicles and building electrification. BUILDING COMMUNITY is one objective of outreach. Given my environmental background, active participation in climate change education and environmental committees on State and Local levels, I have the background to support staff's work in this area.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Please review my bio that has extensive detail regarding my qualifications and experience.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Ruth Merino

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Kate Ziemba

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

kate.ziemba@sanjoseca.gov

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Currently Chair of the San Jose Climate Advisory Commission, since March 2024. Prior to my two years as Chair, I served as a commissioner when the Commission was named the San Jose Clean Energy Advisory Commission. Chair and Member of the Board for Climate Reality: Silicon Valley from June 2018 through December 2022. Recently served on the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, Avenida Espana HDC Board as Board Secretary from early 2020 through August of 2022. The board's focus is to review the operations of the housing projects it oversees and to accept the financial reporting, both audits and tax returns for each project. As board members we can question and ask for clarification regarding all aspects of all projects operations. I reviewed and commented on the operation of 9 distinct housing projects. On the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara and in that capacity served as Development Director. As Director of funding I was charged with the acquisition of donations and in that role also collaborated with the other directors to oversee all aspects of the League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara operation. Board member on the Santa Clara County Sister County Commission (Moscow) in the 1980's. Member of the Board and Executive staff to the Board for the Little Miami Scenic River non-profit. I oversaw all aspects of the non-profit's operation during my tenure as Executive Director.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

There are a number of factors that qualify me for the San Jose Climate Advisory Commission including:

- The breadth of professional and volunteer experience in climate and environmental subjects.
- Focus on environmental and climate related specialties in my education and work.
- Active connection with a wide array of community organizations focused on climate and clean energy issues and policy.
- Founding, owning and managing a media communication firm for 25 years, starting in 1990, that worked with Silicon Valley's large high-tech firms and received numerous industry awards.

My background spans a wide array of credentials from business to government to non-profit and has been further expanded by working for a very wide range of clients from technology to higher education and environmental topics. This broad experience gives me the ability to understand climate issues and policy from an ecosystem perspective. Taking into account a variety of perspectives, needs and goals is essential to developing the best solutions from both a short term and long-term perspective. And with my years of work in communication, both for adult education and marketing, I have applied the principals of effective communication to transfer climate information into effectively shared messages to build awareness and understanding to help change behavior. I've responded to client's needs quickly with creative communication solutions that could be implemented within tight budgets. I've had a wide array of roles and experience including as an award winning local business owner that included media based promotion of climate solutions, leadership on local board and commission, founder and chair of a major climate focused organization in Silicon Valley, contract work with Silicon Valley Clean Energy, employment as Santa Clara County environmental planner, Executive of an environmental organization, environmental-centered higher education and award winning International Science Fair participant. Each distinct role has grown my leadership and collaborative capabilities. Virtually all these roles have informed my deep awareness of the need to rapidly reduce emissions using a wide array of solutions and the essential value of renewable energy to combat climate change. These varied roles all required well-tuned analytical and systems thinking regarding the operation of both non-profit and for-profit organizations dedicated to developing and utilizing systems, technology and programs to address climate and environmental issues. My roles have always required that I successfully evaluate the consequences of proposed solutions and opportunities to discover innovative ways to achieve operational goals. This multi-faceted expertise enhances my ability to think strategically about programs and operations. And in roles that are collaborative, I've honed my communication skills both in team settings and in the development of written documents that support plans, strategies, reviews, advocacy and promotion of ideas. My attached bio details my broad experience.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding of San Jose Climate Advisory Commission's purpose stems in great measure from my role as Chair of the San Jose Climate Advisory Commission in 2024 and 2025. I was also a Commissioner in 2023, when the Commission was titled the "San Jose Clean Energy Advisory Commission". This provides me insights about our purpose including, but not limited to:

- Providing thoughtful and studied review and comment regarding the wide range of the San Jose's climate plans, actions and functions to both reduce emissions in the City and to expand our renewable clean energy.
- Providing insights and comment regarding ways to accelerate our work to meet San Jose's carbon neutral 2030 goals.
- Monitoring and evaluating municipal, regional and state climate policy and legislation to communicate approval or concern regarding the effectiveness of that policy and legislation.
- Acting as a bridge of communication between the community, climate and energy non-profit organizations to support a free flow of input in both directions between San Jose departments and offices and the greater community.
- Support to staff's community outreach to encourage greater community participation in the City's climate and energy programs, including but not limited to:
 - o TRANSPORTATION: switching from gas based vehicles to EV purchases, increasing bike lanes and walking opportunities, promoting multi-family construction close to transit, and other transportation modifications.
 - o BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION: homes, multi-family residences, commercial and industrial properties. Use of expanded cool roof beyond current California code for residential, commercial and industrial roof new construction and re-roofing.
 - o GREENING of our spaces that provide added cooling impacts.
 - o CODES: improved building codes, and clearer communication with contractors and the public that help increase the use of heat pumps and other construction tools to support our climate and renewable energy work.

The Commission communicates with City staff including the Mayor's office, via the Transportation and Environment Committee and directly to these departments to share our support for City Climate plans, policy and action AND to express concerns for plans and policy. The Commission's advice and comment also extends to comment on climate challenges that arise from the local, regional, state and Federal economic, social and regulatory environment. Key City climate and energy functions the Commission focuses its review and comment on include:

- * The Climate Advisory Commission makes direct recommendations, regarding a wide array of City relevant climate issues, to the City Council via T&E and staff after review, discussion and majority Commission approval.
- * The Commission monitors and works with Climate Smart that staffs the Commissions management. Their work includes actions related to community outreach for the myriad programs we have in place, rebates, use of awarded grants and plans to pursue specific grants. They review and have comprehensive oversight of climate related City actions, plans, actions and goal monitoring.
- * monitoring San Jose climate related plans, policy, programs and actions both under the Climate Smart umbrella and SJCE.

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

Three San Jose issues the City Council should address that the Climate Advisory Commission can work on to recommend relate to accelerating GHG emission reduction in our community and, given SJCE's mission, should focus on those specific issues most alleviated by the expansion of renewable and clean energy for the community. ISSUE 1: Transportation remains the greatest contributor to emissions. The City needs to continue influencing the shift to electric vehicle transportation. We already provide EV rebates and as possible SJCE should expand the program to accelerate EV adoption. As part of the EV adoption actions SJCE is and should continue to expand convenient access to EV charging at single family households, multi-family complexes and other public locations via educating the public about incentives, low financing costs and system discounts. Hopefully as SJCE has more discretionary funds, it will also be able to provide rebates and other financial encouragement to install EV charging, especially level 2 and 3 stations. And as part of this SJCE can expand support for vehicle-grid integration with smart-charging and bidirectional charging technology. ISSUE 2: More rapid transition to all-electric infrastructure. This includes households (home and multi-family), commercial, institutional, industrial and government. It requires education about the value of all-electric (emphasizing heat pump technology for hot water, heating and air conditioning HVAC and induction stoves) and the means for residents to financially make the shift which is based on rebates and lower cost funding mechanisms that are tailored to the needs of that sector, whether household, business or organization. Providing expanded rebates for heat pump technology helps encourage people to go all-electric. Heat pump technology will continue to expand as both residents and contractor/installers are made aware of the benefits and have the capability to select the right heat pump technology with installation know-how. The removal of gas stoves with induction stove preferred (induction preferred) or electric stoves is a must not only for climate supportive emission reduction but also as a health and safety measure. We can continue our efforts at community education about the value of electrification and the existence of rebates across local and state governments and also enlarge the rebate programs in San Jose. ISSUE 3: Assuring City Requirements and Programs emphasize multi-family development within walking distance from transit hubs . More focus on incentivizing multi-family development near transit hubs to encourage the use of public transportation would be a significant factor in reducing emissions. These transit-oriented communities would include denser mixed-use housing with retail to support resident's interest in locating in these areas. Suitable walking distance is generally considered around a half mile. It's value is multi-fold. • The increased public transit use would reduce emissions by reducing dependence on cars. • Supports a more extensive and better transit system that would benefit all residents that prefer to use transit. • Encourages more walking which is part of a healthier lifestyle. • Creates more opportunities for successful lower-income affordable housing.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

N/A: Although I've been instructed to place an N/A in the section, I will share that as part of my higher education I did have a course in historic preservation. And from my early years of family travel in across the Unites states I gained an interest in historic preservation and knowledge of the role it plays as a force for cultural identity and interconnectedness for the community. Although our consideration of historic preservation is extremely minor at best, the City could play a role in assuring that historic structures are upgraded, as possible, to electrify.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

Historic Preservation: I follow their work in our local news. Public Planning: I have a degree in environmental planning. Some of our Commission meetings have included speakers from planning and I have spoken with San Jose planning staff in the past but do not follow the actions of the planning department closely. City Staff: I have worked closely with Climate Smart and indirectly Environmental Services when Climate Smart was integrated into ES. Other Departments: I have reached out to the Building Department related to permitting issues that impact our climate policy. My husband worked for the San Jose for 27 years as Assistant Director of Project Management at the Redevelopment Agency and through that I connected with City staff and was aware of many City plans and actions.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

The stakeholder categories I selected include: Community Outreach, Energy Advocate, and Environmental Association/advocacy/justice. ENERGY ADVOCATE My capability to play an energy advocate role comes from a number of directions including: • My role as Advisory Commissioner Chair for 2024 and 2025 and Commissioner in 2023 when we were identified as the San Jose Clean Energy Advisory Commission. • SUPPORTED SVCE's energy programs via articles, tabling and other means and have closely followed SJCE's energy procurement efforts, the PCIA challenges, rate structure policy and other energy related efforts. ACTIVELY ANALYZED LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL ENERGY LEGISLATION AND POLICY • Worked closely with Dave Rosenfeld, Executive Director of the Solar Rights Alliance, consulted SJCE for their opinions regarding the CPUC proposed NEM 3 rules, and worked to ask the League of women Voters at the state level to change their policy regarding support for the CPUC rules and worked in tandem with a Climate Reality Silicon Valley chapter member to research and release a background report on the genesis of the NEM 3 rule language. • Actively analyzed, wrote public articles and educated about on a number of California State energy related bills in the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions. • Actively worked on San Jose's reach code adoption process in 2019 and 2020 via meetings with San Jose Council members, and prepared reach code adoption articles to educate and promote support. SILICON VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY CONSULTING for All-Electric Energy. I consulted with Silicon Valley Clean Energy to develop a 5 hour video course designed for contractors and installers to learn fundamental knowledge about the value of shifting infrastructure to all-electric. Key topics included heat pump technology and products, induction technology, solar rooftop installation, and an introduction to the wide array of all-electric appliances. My role during this 1.5 year contract included project management, instructional development and design. I also consulted with SVCE to work on online Board Member education that describes SVCE's

Karen Nelson

history, role and programs. Separate from this project was the creation of a highly produced 7 minute video to educate board members about the varied impacts of climate change and the urgency to take action. COMMUNITY OUTREACH and ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION/ADVOCACY/JUSTICE These two stakeholder categories are very closely aligned regarding my qualifications and applicable experience. OUTREACH COMMUNICATION My decades of work as a communicator and educator has honed my skill-set to communicate with varied audiences using a variety of tools including presentations, news media, social media, and video and using a wide array of development methods including online interactive tools. • During my management of Pacific Media, I produced hundreds of marketing and instructional messages for clients from large companies such as Cisco to environmentally focused organizations such as the Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative. • During my Chair of Climate Reality: Silicon Valley our monthly newsletter achieved average 63% to 75% open rates which are very high industry metrics. I utilized social media for decades in my business and activism work and my success required an understanding about how to best market and promote messages to the target community. My work has targeted business audiences, narrow niche environmental audiences, and broader community audiences of varied demographics. My work includes the design and development of digital marketing, sales, corporate communication, education and training tools. These skills are usefully applied to the evaluation and comment for San Jose Climate Smart and other relevant City departments, plus SJCE's climate and energy outreach tools and efforts. My business efforts included advocating for clean technology through my former GreenTech TV website, environmental media work for clients, and my climate change volunteer work with the Climate Reality, League of Women Voters, and 350 Silicon Valley. I have focused on advocating for GHG reduction via a shift to clean energy for buildings and transportation. My work has included strategic program planning for climate change, presentation development and delivery, committee leadership, along with legislative analysis and research to develop position statements on environmental topics. LOCAL NGO LEADERSHIP. • I founded the Climate Reality Project: Silicon Valley chapter in 2018. I also acted as Chair from 2018 through mid-2023 and now as co-chair. An example of our chapter newsletter and the emphasis we placed on a community partnership with SJCE starting back in 20018 through 2023. Some of those energy related topics can be found in one of our old newsletters seen in this link. <https://conta.cc/3w3PPQM> LONG-TIME ACTIVE SJCE ADVOCACY. • I've actively supported SJCE since its inception with organizing tabling teams to promote SJCE at events, encouraging the formation of the SJCE NGO partner committee, to promoting SJCE via community presentation opportunities and other support along the way. LEADERSHIP and MANAGEMENT SKILLS • Current Chair of San Jose Climate Advisory Commission. After two years in this role, I understand the purpose, goals and communication needs of the commission and what is required to participate in the Commission's work. • As chair of Climate Reality: Silicon Valley for close to 5 years, I learned how to work with a wide variety of people with wide-ranging goals and to successfully encourage teamwork to meet our organization's goals. • As a 28 year diversity small business owner, I worked extensively with all types of clients getting to understand their needs and motivations. I've supported organizations from FORTUNE 500 FIRMS like Cisco, Apple, Intel and NetApp and many others to small business such as Steinberg Architects. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT including the California Department of Public Health, City of San Jose, Union City, and others. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS such as SVCE (Silicon Valley Clean Energy contract to create a 5 hour video course on home electrification and heat pump installation, San Jose Clean Energy Community, Climate Reality, among many other NGO's. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS such as University of California, San Jose State, Evergreen Valley Community College, Stanford University and the National Science Foundation. • My business ownership experience helps me evaluate climate plans and program's energy procurement plans and implementation for effective financial and sound management practice. GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING. • My education and professional work as an environmental planner has given me an understanding of how to successfully work with agencies and government departments, focused on energy policy development and implementation. This includes a diversity component and a commitment to working for environmental justice. that I have been committed to in all my environmental work. Via these three stakeholder categories, that I see as my more significant capabilities, I will utilize my communication background, advocacy experience, climate and environmental knowledge, and compassion to protect all our communities along with a community outreach and business perspective to continue my participation in the Commission. I draw on my experience in government, business and non-profit work to offer a broad understanding of the needs and goals for a wide array of diverse stakeholders.

Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

During my over three years of participation in the Commission (SJCE Advisory Commission and the San Jose Climate Advisory Commission) I have never missed a meeting, along with being available for meetings associated with the Chair position. I welcome frequent communication that assures the Commission is moving forward in a timely manner. Serving on the Climate Advisory Commission will remain my highest volunteer priority. I have encouraged the formation of appropriately conceived Ad Hoc committees and will play a role on Ad Hoc committees going forward that support the climate Smart staff working directly with us and the other San Jose department staff whose work impacts San Jose's climate defense efforts. My broad community climate organization connections (CRP:SV, San Jose Community Energy Advocates, California Alliance for Community Energy, League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara, Mothers Out Front, Elders for Climate Action, The Climate Center, Green Foothills, among other organizations) will continue to facilitate a more responsive and effective contribution to the Commission.

Anything else you would like us to know?

In addition to the two references noted above I would like to submit two additional references that can comment on my background, relevant to the Commissioner position: Bill DeVincenzi Commissioner on the Santa Clara County Climate Advisory Commission and Treasurer, Elders Action Network (includes climate action) and Email:

Home phone: Cell phone: Address:

Bill Ekern Board Chairperson, San Jose Arena

Authority Email: Cell Phone: Address:

Current local community NGO organizations I am affiliated with that are relevant to the Commission role and demonstrate my ability to support effective community outreach: * Climate Reality Project: Silicon Valley (founder and co-chair) * Fossil Free Buildings Silicon Valley (member and active for reach codes efforts) * Building Decarbonization Coalition and their The Switch Is On campaign (member of the NGO Ambassador advisory committee) * League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara (member and monitor the climate change/natural resources committee) * Elders for Climate Action (they are a partner with CRP SV) * Sierra Club - Loma Prieta (member) * Mother's Out Front (member and active relationship with the local leaders)

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Jimi
First Name

Kogura
Last Name

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Street Address

[REDACTED]
Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95112
Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:

[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)

[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) *

☒ District 3

Mobile: [REDACTED]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Historic Landmarks Commission: Submitted

Stanford University // Kogura
Company

Employer

Biographic Services
Associate // 4th Generation
Legacy Business Owner

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

● Leland High School (2006) ● University of Arizona (Eller College of Business - Accounting, 2010)

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

● Japantown Neighborhood Association: Executive Board Member, Adopt-a-Park Neighborhood Coordinator (2022-Present) ● Japantown Farmer’s Market: Volunteer & Board Member (2023-Present) ● San Jose Buddhist Church Obon: Executive Board (2024-Present), Volunteer (30+years)

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

Growing up in San Jose Japantown, attending school in Almaden, and exploring our city, I see how delicate and powerful these decisions can be and how they affect people. I want to help protect the culture of neighborhoods that have helped raise generations without hindering growth for the future. San Jose is experiencing a pivotal time in promoting the culture of San Jose with the rest of the Bay Area and everyone who comes to visit. And of course, one of the main ingredients of culture is history. I will bring a perspective to the commission to help build and strengthen communities by balancing the following: honoring the past, recognizing the present, and acknowledging the future.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

My great grandfather, Kohei Kogura, opened our family shop in 1928. We have been at our current location since 1936 in San Jose’s Japantown. Growing up working at the store and in the Japantown community makes my roots strong. I have seen how neglect can hinder a community, and how care can make one thrive.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Kogura Company - [REDACTED]

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Japantown Neighborhood Association, Kogura Company have many buildings that are historically designated by the city.

Reference 1 Name

Tamiko Rast

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Brandy Kahlig

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Having the privilege to serve on these boards has given me a greater perspective on how our neighborhood & community have continued to stay strong and grow to show & share with the rest of the city and Bay Area our history and culture.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

● Ability to make tough decisions ● Talking with and listening to those I disagree with ● Having discussions to learn and understand ● Showing up ● Being accountable and being held accountable ● Enjoy what I'm doing - by knowing what I'm doing - because of why I'm doing it (for San Jose & Japantown)

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

As we move forward into the ever-changing future, the Commission brings a balance of protection and preservation to the great history of San Jose by discussing and reviewing proposals made by constituents and organizations. San Jose is rich in history and culture, and there is delicate balance of preserving our past and giving breath to make space to create new history. I would not take this position for granted and feel the weight of its duties.

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

1) Confusing communication between the City and business owners about historical designations and deciding what can and can't be done architecturally. This crushes culture and communities. 2) Continuing to find ways to fund various community art programs like murals and festivals to draw more economically and grow more roots for San Jose's culture (while dealing with the budget deficit) 3) Mitigation for neighborhoods when unhoused populations (i.e. safe sleeping sites to nonprofit-operated housing complexes), negatively affect the surrounding community.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

As San Jose continues to grow, we're in a moment where it feels like San Jose is finally finding and embracing its "Culture". The purpose of historic preservation is to honor how we got here while making room for the people of San Jose to continue to create new history we can all be proud of. Our role carries the weight to keep this delicate balance. Our decisions don't come lightly as we must engage others in order to see, hear, and feel how pieces of history are helping or hindering a community. Our role is to help make decisions that shape the future of San Jose and how we will be remembered.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

Volunteering with our Japantown Neighborhood Association, Japantown Farmer's Market, and the San Jose Obon Festival opened my eyes to the power of community. It takes some people to light the way - and if those people put in the time, energy with good intentions - people will follow. Through these organizations and being a curious resident of San Jose, I know how to contact the San Jose District 3 Councilmember's staff and the Santa Clara County District 2 Supervisor and her staff. For the things I'm not familiar with, I will take the time to learn and understand.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for your consideration for this Commission. I can bring a unique and fresh perspective with my family and community background, and overall love for San Jose. I appreciate all your work and hope to work closely with you if given this opportunity.

(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 *

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted City/State/Zip]

[Redacted Phone Number]

[Redacted Email Address]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

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- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
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- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Marika

First Name

Buchholz

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95112

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 3**Home:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ Less than 1 year

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing and Community Development Commission: Submitted

County of San Mateo

Employer

Human Services Analyst II

Job Title

Current Employer Address

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Stanford University, B.S. 2019 in Symbolic Systems - attended 2015-2019; Affordable Housing and Community Development Certificate - San Jose State University - in progress, 2025

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Board Member, Voices of Recovery San Mateo County - 2023 to present

Languages Spoken

English (fluent), Japanese (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

First Place Winner, San Mateo County Innovation Challenge (2024): Proposed RV buyback program to support safe housing transitions for vehicle residents. Finalist, Phyllis Koshland Friedman-Retha Smith Robinson Award (2022): Recognized for leadership as a woman of color in public service.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I want to serve on the Housing and Community Development Commission because San Jose is my home, and I care deeply about ensuring it is a place where all residents have access to safe and affordable housing. My career has taken me from working directly in San Jose homeless shelters, building motel-based respite programs, and walking encampments to connect with people experiencing homelessness, to now managing multimillion-dollar funding streams at the county level (in San Mateo County). These experiences have given me both "boots on the ground" knowledge of the challenges residents face and system-level expertise in how policies and funding decisions shape outcomes. As a commissioner, I would bring this perspective to help expand dignified interim housing, affordable housing, and innovative prevention strategies. I also want to ensure that federal housing funds such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG are used strategically. Finally, I want to work toward building more housing at all income levels. Most importantly, as a renter and resident, I want to give back to the city I care about by helping San Jose make thoughtful, forward-looking housing and community development decisions.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

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

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission, Planning Commission

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ 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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Sarah Fields

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

sarah.fields@sanjoseca.gov

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Tanya Beat

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 currently serve on the Board of Directors for a recovery services nonprofit, where I contribute to governance, strategic planning, and oversight of organizational priorities. In this role, I work collaboratively with other board members to review budgets, evaluate program outcomes, and provide guidance to ensure the organization remains mission-driven and accountable to the community it serves. This experience has strengthened my ability to analyze complex issues and balance multiple stakeholder perspectives. While this would be my first city commission, my board service, combined with my professional work in government and nonprofit leadership, has prepared me well for the role of a commissioner. I understand the responsibility of serving the public interest and the importance of transparent and thoughtful decision-making.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring a blend of professional leadership, systems knowledge, education, and community involvement that would qualify me to be a strong HCDC commissioner. My career has been dedicated to addressing homelessness and affordable housing in the Bay Area. I currently serve as an Analyst with San Mateo County's Center on Homelessness, where I lead the countywide redesign of homeless outreach services, manage multimillion-dollar contracts, and have helped secure state funding such as Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) and Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) to expand housing-focused programs. I also contribute to CoC strategic planning for San Mateo County. Previously, as a Program Director at LifeMoves, I oversaw regional homeless outreach services and developed innovative housing programs, including a motel-based respite initiative that I built from the ground up. Before that, I worked boots on the ground as a case manager in homeless outreach and in San Jose shelters. These roles have given me deep experience in program design, public sector innovation, funding strategy, and cross-sector collaboration. I hold a B.S. in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University, and I am currently pursuing a certificate in Affordable Housing and Community Development Finance at San Jose State University. This program is equipping me with technical skills in affordable housing finance and policy, while also grounding me in San Jose's local housing landscape. Beyond my professional and educational background, I serve on the Board of Directors for a recovery services nonprofit, where I contribute to governance, strategic planning, and community engagement. Through these experiences, I have built strong abilities in financial oversight, and consensus-building, which are skills that are essential for an effective commissioner. I also bring the personal perspective of a long-time renter in the Bay Area, with firsthand experience of the challenges of housing affordability. Combined with my professional expertise, this gives me a balanced understanding of both the systems-level and individual-level impact of housing policy. I would bring both technical expertise and lived experience to advancing San Jose's housing and community development goals.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding is that the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) serves as an advisory body to the City Council and Department of Housing on housing policy and community development. HCDC evaluates existing housing programs and policies, reviews new policy proposals, and tracks the City’s progress toward its housing goals. It also holds public hearings to ensure meaningful community participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan and other major initiatives. HCDC may make recommendations to the City Council on the use of housing and community development funds and may also submit reports and recommendations involving affordable housing. In addition, HCDC provides guidance on issues related to San Jose’s mobile home and mobile home park regulations.

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

Homelessness: San Jose must continue to expand both interim and permanent housing options for people experiencing homelessness. Interim solutions should be dignified and service-oriented, rather than temporary shelters of last resort. Having worked in homeless services, including shelters in San Jose, I have seen firsthand the gaps in our system and the difference that well-designed, well-staffed facilities can make in helping people exit homelessness. The City should also focus on prevention by addressing inflow, while continuing to explore innovative solutions such as RV buyback programs and strengthening coordination with county and state partners on funding opportunities. Housing: Most of San Jose is zoned for single-family housing, which limits the City’s ability to meet housing demand and perpetuates affordability challenges. Upzoning to allow opportunity housing would help diversify housing choices and create more pathways to affordability. At the same time, San Jose should prioritize housing production downtown and along transit corridors, ensuring that growth benefits residents across income levels while also supporting the City’s long-term economic vitality. Increasing Community Safety: Public safety goes beyond policing and includes strong crisis response and mental health services. Programs like San Jose’s TRUST (Trusted Response Urgent Support Team) are vital for responding to mental health crises with care, dignity, and cultural competence. Expanding investments in programs like TRUST, alongside broader crime prevention initiatives, would strengthen community safety while reducing strain on emergency services. With my background in homelessness and crisis response, I have seen how integrating public health and public safety approaches can make neighborhoods safer.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

N/A - I am applying only to the Housing and Community Development Commission

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

N/A - I am applying only to the Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you live in, own, lease or manage property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), please list the address here. This includes mobilehomes, mobile home parks, and apartments/apartment buildings building during or before 1979.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If your employer or other source of income owns, leases or manages property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), or if you are unsure, please list your employer's name or other source of income and address here.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

What experience do you have with affordable housing issues?

I have over six years of experience working on homelessness and housing issues in the Bay Area, spanning both nonprofit leadership and county government. In my current role with San Mateo County's Center on Homelessness, I manage contracts and lead system redesign efforts, including securing state funding and coordinating cross-sector stakeholders to expand outreach and housing-focused services. Previously, as Program Director at LifeMoves, I oversaw regional homeless outreach, developed innovative housing programs such as a motel-based respite initiative, and managed budgets, staff, and partnerships to connect clients with stable housing. Through this work, I have developed a strong understanding of the intersection between homelessness and affordable housing. I have seen firsthand how the lack of deeply affordable units limits system capacity, and I have worked on strategies that integrate housing development, supportive services, and policy advocacy to address these gaps. Beyond my professional background, I also bring the perspective of being a renter in San Jose. I have experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating high housing costs and limited rental options, and I understand how affordability pressures affect working families and young professionals striving to build their lives here. This perspective gives me a strong sense of urgency and commitment to advancing policies and investments that expand affordable housing opportunities in San Jose.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Please explain your familiarity with the Community Development Block Grant Program?

I am familiar with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as one of the federal funding streams administered by HUD that cities like San Jose allocate to support affordable housing, community development, and public services. While my direct professional work has primarily focused on state and local funding sources, I have worked closely with programs and shelters that were partially funded by CDBG and understand how important these funds are in supporting facilities, services, and neighborhood improvements that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. In my role as a Human Services Analyst with San Mateo County, I manage multimillion-dollar contracts for homeless services and have led system-level projects funded through state and federal sources. My experience gives me an appreciation for the importance of CDBG in filling service and funding gaps, and I would bring that perspective to ensuring San Jose's allocations are used strategically and equitably.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for a Low Income Position on the Commission. See requirement below.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

**I qualify for a Low Income Seat on the Housing and Community Development Commission. Please indicate how you qualify by selecting one of the following: Refer to this link to determine your eligibility:
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/90049/6380038120>**

☒ Low- or moderate-income person as defined by HUD

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I meet the requirements for one of the Housing and Community Development Commission Special Eligibility Seats. Please note, if you indicate you are mobilehome resident or landlord representative, you will need to submit a copy of a letter from that organization indicating their nomination of you as their representative.

☒ n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Do you have experience in any of the following areas? *

- ☒ Homeless Services
☒ Federal Funding

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for the Lived Experience Seat in Homelessness on the Commission.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you are applying for the Lived Experience Seat, please describe your experience with homelessness. Include when and for how long you experienced homelessness, and any information you'd like to share about how you lost your housing.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Have you stayed at any shelters or used any homeless services programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience any homelessness in Santa Clara County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience homelessness in San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☒ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

I believe I am low- or moderate- income based on the 2025 updated guidelines: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/122746/638847271311800000> I currently make about \$109,000 per year. I'm not married, but I live with my partner and her two children. I didn't count my partner's income - if we count both, I probably wouldn't qualify. If that's the case, please feel free to disregard my "Yes". I did check "Yes" to the question about working for an organization that primarily serves low-income residents, as I work for the San Mateo County Center on Homelessness. Let me know if you have any questions, and I'd be happy to clarify.

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]
☒ [Redacted]
☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Thoa

First Name

Hoang

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95132

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 4**Home:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 1-2 years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing and Community Development Commission: Archived

Stanford University

Employer

Investing Fellow

Job Title

Current Employer Address

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

(1) Piedmont Hills High School, Class of 2009 (attended 2005-2009) (2) De Anza College, Associate of Arts - Business Administration and Computer Information Science, June 2011 (attended 2009-2011) (3) University of California, Berkeley - Bachelor of Arts, Political Economy and Social Welfare, Global Poverty and Practice Minor, July 2015 (attended 2012-2015) (4) Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, Master of Public Policy and Certificate in Management, Leadership, and Decision Sciences, May 2023 (attended 2021-2023)

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

GOVERNMENT: Workforce Analyst, U.S Department of Labor (June 2020 - September 2021)
Program Analyst, U.S Department of Agriculture (September 2016 - June 2020) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION: Vietnamese-American Professional Women Association of Silicon Valley, Scholarship Selection Committee 2022 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), D.C Chapter Co-President (2019-2021), Vice President (2017-2019)

Languages Spoken

Vietnamese, Spanish

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

Department of Labor Secretary's Exceptional Achievement Award 2021 USDA Food and Nutrition Service Administrator's Award 2020 Vietnamese American Professional Women of Silicon Valley Award 2009

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

Dear Housing & Community Development Commission members, I am excited to apply to serve on this commission, representing District 4. My lived experience as a first-generation Vietnamese American and 7+ years of professional experience as a federal employee and community organizer fuels my interest for economic development and mobility. Serving on the board of the Housing & Community Development Commission is an opportunity to serve my community. My first exposure to city government started when I served on the Youth Advisory Council for San Jose District 4 as a high school student. This experience illuminated how anyone, regardless of age can play an active role in shaping their government. This also influence my decision to study Political Economy at the University of California, Berkeley. After college, I moved to Washington D.C where I spent 5 years implementing grant and mandatory programs for various federal agencies. Now back in California, I am eager to leverage my experience at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Labor (DOL) to serve the city of San Jose. My federal experience provides an understanding of how federal agencies administer and enforce mandatory and discretionary social assistance programs. During my time at DOL, I was program manager for the National Farmworker Jobs Program, which provides grants to community-based organizations to implement career and affordable housing services. I want to contribute to the commission's work on Housing Catalyst and Rent Stabilization projects. Thank you for considering my application. I'm excited to reconnect with San Jose and play an active role in making the city a better place for residents.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

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

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission, Planning Commission

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ 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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

N/A

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Rachel Pak

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Danielle Deemer

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 was a board member for non-profit organization and served on various student organizations while in college and during graduate school.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

1. Experience: - Policy/Legislation Experience: Familiarity with federal housing policies and regulations, and experience with monitoring and evaluating housing grants for farmworkers nationwide. Familiar with HUD – Section 8 housing and affordable housing initiatives) 2. Training: - Housing/Urban Development: Academic experience in private and public housing development through coursework. - Finance and Budgeting: Training in financial management, budgeting, and public finance. Harvard State and Local Government Economic Development Seminar Program 2022 3. Knowledge: - Community Development Practices: Knowledge of best practices in community engagement, revitalization efforts, and economic development strategies. Have experience serving low-income communities in California, Washington D.C., and Mississippi. 4. Skills: - Leadership and Decision-Making: Strong leadership skills, including the ability to guide discussions, foster collaboration, and make informed decisions that benefit the broader community. - Analytical and Critical Thinking: The ability to analyze housing trends, demographic data, and policy implications to make strategic decisions for community development. This is through previous work experience and academic courses/trainings. I have conducted data analysis for large organizations. - Communication: Effective communication skills, including public speaking and writing, are crucial for advocating for community needs and representing the board to the public. - Collaboration and Networking: Building partnerships with other organizations, government entities, and community leaders to further the goals of the commission.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The commission advises the Director of Housing, the Mayor, and the City Council on housing and community development matters. The commission provides input into policies and issues affecting the future of the San José community.

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

Below are three issues that the city of San Jose faces and the Housing & Community Development Commission should address. I think these are issues that the Commission is currently striving to address which is why I am excited to participate in this effort. These issues aren't isolated to San Jose, but something that many large cities across the U.S are facing. 1. Stock of Affordable Housing: Limited affordable housing supply drives up prices. The commission's work to support policies that increase the availability of affordable housing could include upstream related actions such as: fostering new developments, or other actions such as: offering incentives for affordable units, and ensuring that low- and middle-income residents have access to adequate housing. In my work with SNAP and the National School Lunch Program, threshold limit really hurt families that are middle income who are between the different eligibility levels. This is where the strategic and effective use of CDBG comes in. 2. Homelessness: This is a challenge that is not isolated to San Jose. Living in Washington D.C., I've seen how the city struggles to address this, with policies that would move encampments or breakdown encampments every couple month rather than addressing the root causes. The commission could continue to explore how services for the homeless, such as permanent supportive housing, shelters, and mental health resources, as well as working on prevention strategies to stop people from becoming homeless in the first place. 3. Tenant Protections: The commission could work on strengthening tenant protections, implementing rent control measures, and ensuring enforcement of building codes to protect renters from unsafe living environments. I think the policies are in place, but more efforts to communicate them would be beneficial.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

I am not applying for the Historic Landmarks Commission. I see the value in preserving historical landmarks and educating the community about San Jose's rich history.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

I'm not applying for the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you live in, own, lease or manage property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), please list the address here. This includes mobilehomes, mobile home parks, and apartments/apartment buildings building during or before 1979.

n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If your employer or other source of income owns, leases or manages property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), or if you are unsure, please list your employer's name or other source of income and address here.

n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

What experience do you have with affordable housing issues?

I have experience with HUD Section 8. I have supported community members, acting as a case worker to help direct them to affordable housing options in their community.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Please explain your familiarity with the Community Development Block Grant Program?

I became familiar with the Community Development Block Grant Program through the Harvard State and Local Government Economic Development Seminar Program and courses in public and private economy development. These two opportunities allowed me to meet officials in Vermont implementing CDBG and engaged in conversations about challenges. I am very family with reporting and monitoring requirements for federal programs.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for a Low Income Position on the Commission. See requirement below.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I qualify for a Low Income Seat on the Housing and Community Development Commission. Please indicate how you qualify by selecting one of the following: Refer to this link to determine your eligibility:
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/90049/6380038120>

☒ N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I meet the requirements for one of the Housing and Community Development Commission Special Eligibility Seats. Please note, if you indicate you are mobilehome resident or landlord representative, you will need to submit a copy of a letter from that organization indicating their nomination of you as their representative.

☒ n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Do you have experience in any of the following areas? *

- ☒ Development
- ☒ Community Development
- ☒ Federal Funding

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for the Lived Experience Seat in Homelessness on the Commission.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you are applying for the Lived Experience Seat, please describe your experience with homelessness. Include when and for how long you experienced homelessness, and any information you'd like to share about how you lost your housing.

n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Have you stayed at any shelters or used any homeless services programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience any homelessness in Santa Clara County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience homelessness in San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for reviewing my application

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Jennifer

First Name

Cretella

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95125

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:

[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)

[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) *

☒ District 6

Home:

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 3-5 years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing and Community Development Commission: Submitted

Apple

Employer

Technical Design

Job Title

Current Employer Address

Current Employer of Spouse

Apple

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Spouse's Job Title

Engineer

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Harvard, Masters of Liberal Arts, Digital Media Design, graduated 2020 Monmouth University, BFA Graphic and Computer Design, graduated 2007 Masuk High School, High School Diploma, graduated 2003

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

California State Public Affairs Committee (CalSPAC) Senior Delegate 2025-2026 Junior Delegate 2024-2025 Junior League of San Jose 2025-2026 CalSPAC Senior Delegate 2024-2025 CalSPAC Junior Delegate 2023-2024 Sustainer 2022-2023 At Large Director of Sustainability 2021-2022 Fundraising Committee 2020-2021 President Elect 2019-2020 Fundraising Co-Chair 2018-2019 VRL 2019 Co-Chair 2017-2018 Media Producer: VRL 2018 2016-2017 Ad Hoc Committee on Community 2016-2017 Photographer 2015-2016 Photographer 2014-2015 Make Build Play committee member Junior League of Los Angeles 2011-2012 Communications Assistant to the Director 2010-2011 Provisional Willow Glen PTA 2025-26 Advocacy Chair 2024-25 Fundraising Committee 2023-24 Fundraising Committee

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I am deeply committed to ensuring that all residents of San José have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Serving on the Housing and Community Development Commission represents an opportunity for me to contribute meaningfully to policies and programs that address the city's most pressing housing challenges, including affordability, displacement, and homelessness. My specific objectives as a commissioner would include: Advocating for equitable housing policies that prioritize low-income and marginalized communities disproportionately affected by housing insecurity. Supporting initiatives to expand affordable housing development through innovative financing, zoning reform, and partnerships with community-based organizations. Championing tenant protections and programs that help residents stay housed, including rental assistance and eviction prevention strategies. Ensuring transparency and accountability in how housing funds—such as those from federal HUD programs or local bond measures—are allocated and implemented. With San José at a critical point in addressing its housing needs, I want to bring a thoughtful, community-focused perspective to the commission's work and help shape solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to those most impacted by the housing crisis.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

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

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission, Planning Commission

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ 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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Gini Bossenbroek

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Anne Souza

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

None

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring over a decade of experience in the tech industry, combined with a strong record of community leadership and advocacy, which collectively prepare me to serve effectively on the Housing and Community Development Commission. Professionally, I have worked as a designer at Apple for the past 12 years, where I have developed deep expertise in user-centered design, systems thinking, and cross-functional collaboration. My work has involved solving complex problems with empathy and clarity—skills that are equally essential in the public sector, particularly when addressing housing policy that affects diverse and vulnerable populations. Academically, I hold a Master of Liberal Arts in Digital Media Design from Harvard University and a BFA in Graphic and Computer Design from Monmouth University. My education has strengthened my ability to analyze information critically, communicate effectively, and approach challenges from interdisciplinary perspectives. My civic and volunteer experience includes over a decade of service in the Junior League—both in San Jose and Los Angeles—where I have held leadership roles including President Elect, Director of Sustainability, and CalSPAC Senior Delegate. In these roles, I have led advocacy efforts, facilitated partnerships, and helped guide community programs. I currently serve as the CalSPAC Senior Delegate for the Junior League of San Jose, where I advocate for state-level policies impacting women and families. I also serve as Advocacy Chair of the Willow Glen PTA, where I support efforts that align school, family, and community priorities. Together, my professional, academic, and volunteer background has equipped me with a unique combination of skills—strategic thinking, public advocacy, and human-centered design—which I believe can contribute meaningfully to the Commission’s work in shaping equitable, effective housing policy in San José.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Housing and Community Development Commission serves as an advisory body to the San José City Council and Housing Department on policies, programs, and funding related to affordable housing, homelessness, and community development. The Commission plays a key role in reviewing and providing input on strategic plans, housing policy initiatives, and the use of local, state, and federal funds—including programs supported by HUD, such as CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA. In addition to advising on the allocation of resources and proposed housing developments, the Commission ensures that public input is considered in shaping equitable solutions to San José's housing challenges. Its purpose is not only to guide policy but to uphold the City's goals around fair housing, anti-displacement, neighborhood revitalization, and support for vulnerable populations. Ultimately, I understand the Commission's purpose as helping to ensure that housing and community development decisions are inclusive, data-informed, transparent, and aligned with the long-term needs of San José's diverse communities.

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

Three Issues Facing the City of San José That the Council Should Address: Housing Affordability and Availability The continued rise in housing costs has made San José one of the most expensive cities in the country, pricing out low- and middle-income residents and creating a growing affordability gap. The City should prioritize policies that accelerate the production of deeply affordable housing, streamline permitting processes, and incentivize mixed-income developments—especially near transit corridors and job centers. Homelessness and Transitional Housing Solutions San José faces a critical need for both immediate and long-term responses to homelessness. While recent investments in interim and quick-build housing are a positive step, there is an urgent need for wraparound services, mental health support, and permanent supportive housing. The Council should continue to expand and refine these solutions while working closely with county and nonprofit partners. Displacement and Tenant Protections As new development continues, lower-income residents—especially in historically underinvested neighborhoods—face displacement. The City should strengthen tenant protections, invest in anti-displacement strategies, and preserve naturally affordable housing. Equitable redevelopment must include robust community engagement, protections for existing residents, and investments that prevent cultural and economic displacement.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

None

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you live in, own, lease or manage property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), please list the address here. This includes mobilehomes, mobile home parks, and apartments/apartment buildings building during or before 1979.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If your employer or other source of income owns, leases or manages property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), or if you are unsure, please list your employer's name or other source of income and address here.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

What experience do you have with affordable housing issues?

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Please explain your familiarity with the Community Development Block Grant Program?

None

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for a Low Income Position on the Commission. See requirement below.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I qualify for a Low Income Seat on the Housing and Community Development Commission. Please indicate how you qualify by selecting one of the following: Refer to this link to determine your eligibility:
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/90049/6380038120>

☒ N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I meet the requirements for one of the Housing and Community Development Commission Special Eligibility Seats. Please note, if you indicate you are mobilehome resident or landlord representative, you will need to submit a copy of a letter from that organization indicating their nomination of you as their representative.

☒ n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Do you have experience in any of the following areas? *

☒ None

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for the Lived Experience Seat in Homelessness on the Commission.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you are applying for the Lived Experience Seat, please describe your experience with homelessness. Include when and for how long you experienced homelessness, and any information you'd like to share about how you lost your housing.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Have you stayed at any shelters or used any homeless services programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience any homelessness in Santa Clara County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience homelessness in San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☒ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]
☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Oscar

First Name

Quiroz-medrano

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95123

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:

[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)

[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) *

☒ District 10

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing and Community Development Commission: Submitted

SOMOS Mayfair

Employer

Vecinos Activos Coordinator

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

~Education~ - Bachelor of Science, Sociology Santa Clara University, 2015-2017 - Associate of Science, Social, Language, and Behavioral Sciences, Sociology San José City College, 2011-2015 - Construction Technology Silicon Valley Career Technical Education. 2010-2012
~Licenses & Certifications~ - Global Diplomacy: The United Nations in the World, Issued Nov 2022

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

~Work Experience & Real Estate Developments~ 1) Cooperative Housing Development Lead Coordinator, Somos Mayfair (January 2021 - Present) a) Led the end-to-end development of cooperative housing initiatives, from concept design and stakeholder engagement to ownership model evaluation and implementation, ensuring projects were grounded in community priorities and long-term sustainability. b) Project evaluation and approval, risk assessment, strategic guidance, performance oversight, capital allocation, policy compliance, stakeholder engagement, portfolio diversification, market analysis, and financial oversight 2) Project Advisor & Secretary, Banderitas (2019- Present) a) Secured \$250,000 in county funding to acquire an 11-acre property, developed financial pro formas to guide investment decisions, and collaborated with county officials and local partners on planning a mixed-use community featuring housing, businesses, and a Vietnam Memorial Park. b) Fundraising and grant management, financial analysis and modeling, real estate development, project planning and coordination, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration, strategic planning, policy, and regulatory compliance, community-oriented development, communication, and presentation. 3) Apprentice Protégé, Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR) (2020-Present) a) Participate in initiatives led by the Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR) to address educational and social disparities. Gain hands-on experience in advocacy, professional learning, community engagement, and policy action, supporting efforts to amplify the voices of educational leaders and promote equitable outcomes for students and their communities. b) Equity and inclusion awareness, advocacy, and policy implementation, community engagement, collaborative problem-solving, research and data analysis, project coordination and management, leadership development

Languages Spoken

Spanish & English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

~Academic Awards, Honors, and Related Coursework~ Santa Clara University - Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) - Outstanding Achievement in Sociological Research, 2017 - India Global Immersion Fellowship, 2017 San Jose City College - Salzburg Global Fellowship - Global Leadership Program Participant, London, Germany, & Austria, 2015 - Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, 2014 - Political Speech Excellence Award - San José City College, Political Science, 2014 ~Additional Awards and Honors~ - La Cultura Cura healing Circulos, Noxtin (All Of Us), 2014

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I want to serve on this Board because I believe in advancing community-centered development that is equitable, sustainable, and reflective of local priorities. My experience leading cooperative housing projects, securing funding for community land development, and advising on impact-driven investments has prepared me to contribute both strategic insight and hands-on implementation skills. As a member, I would work toward ensuring that projects are guided by meaningful community engagement, financial sustainability, and inclusive decision-making. Specifically, I would focus on strengthening partnerships with local stakeholders, aligning investments with long-term community benefit, and promoting equitable access to housing and public spaces. My goal is to help the Board steward resources responsibly while fostering initiatives that enhance quality of life and create opportunities for historically underrepresented communities.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

In 2021, I was diagnosed with a vision impairment that reshaped how I approach everyday tasks and challenged me to adapt to new ways of navigating life. This experience has deepened my resilience and given me a unique perspective on accessibility, inclusion, and the importance of designing communities that truly meet the needs of all residents. I would like to bring my lived experience as an adult with both a vision impairment and learning challenges to the Commission. By contributing these perspectives, I hope to help shape more inclusive housing developments—places that not only provide shelter but also feel like home for people of all abilities and backgrounds.

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

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission, Planning Commission

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ 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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

As an employee of SOMOS Mayfair, currently working on the Limited Equity Housing Cooperative pilot project, I am aware that certain city funds directly support the work I am carrying out in my role as a Vecinos Activos collaborator. To maintain transparency and uphold a trustworthy process, I plan to recuse myself from any decisions where a potential conflict of interest could arise. This commitment ensures that all issues are addressed in advance and that the integrity of the decision-making process is preserved.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Huy Tran

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Flor De León

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Mural Program (B.A.M.P.), where I provided financial oversight and supported the organization's strategic planning to increase awareness of its programs and community impact. In this role, I contributed to initiatives that combined leadership development with hands-on mural projects, empowering communities to create artwork that reflects their aspirations and identity. I also helped lead the development of the organization's website (<https://www.thebamp.org/>), which enhanced public engagement and visibility. Through this experience, I gained insight into nonprofit governance, strategic decision-making, and collaborative leadership, skills that directly translate to serving effectively on a Commission or Board.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring a diverse background in community development, housing, nonprofit leadership, and professional advisory roles that uniquely qualify me for appointment. As Cooperative Housing Development Lead Coordinator at SOMOS Mayfair, I have guided projects from concept to implementation, balancing strategic planning, financial oversight, and community engagement. In my role as Project Advisor and Secretary for Banderitas, I secured public funding, collaborated with county officials, and helped plan mixed-use developments, honing skills in stakeholder engagement, policy compliance, and equitable development. My experience as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Mural Program provided governance and nonprofit management expertise, including oversight of budgets and strategic initiatives. Additionally, my work with CLEAR and Rebel One Venture Capital strengthened my skills in leadership development, equity-focused decision-making, impact assessment, and collaborative problem-solving, all of which are directly applicable to the responsibilities of a Commission member.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Housing & Community Development Commission (HCDC) serves an important advisory and oversight role, providing guidance to the City Council and the Director of Housing on policies, programs, and funding priorities related to housing and community development. The Commission helps ensure that resources, including federal and local funds, are allocated effectively to support affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and community services, while reflecting the needs of low- and moderate-income residents. It also promotes transparency, accountability, and equity by incorporating community input and ensuring that programs are implemented fairly and in alignment with city policies. Through this work, the Commission plays a key role in shaping sustainable, inclusive, and responsive housing and community development strategies for San José.

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

1) Affordable Housing and Housing Stability – San José continues to face a shortage of affordable housing, rising rents, and homelessness. Addressing these challenges through innovative housing solutions, including cooperative housing, mixed-income developments, and tenant protections, is critical to ensuring long-term stability for residents. 2) Equity and Inclusive Community Development – Many communities, particularly low-income and historically underserved neighborhoods, lack access to resources and decision-making opportunities. The Council should prioritize policies that promote inclusive engagement, equitable distribution of services, and community-driven development. 3) Small Business Support and Economic Prosperity – Strengthening San José’s local economy requires supporting small businesses, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. Policies that reduce barriers, provide access to capital, and foster inclusive economic growth will help ensure that all communities share in the city’s prosperity.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Historic preservation in San José is intended to protect and maintain buildings, sites, and landmarks that reflect the city's cultural, architectural, and historical heritage, fostering community identity and supporting economic and tourism opportunities. The Historic Landmarks Commission advises the City Council and Planning Director on the designation of historic resources and reviews projects affecting these properties, ensuring that changes are consistent with preservation standards. By balancing development with protection of San José's historical assets, the Commission helps maintain the city's character while guiding responsible growth.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

My prior experience with historic preservation and public planning is rooted in my work on community-focused housing and development projects, where I have engaged closely with planning processes and regulatory frameworks. In my role as Cooperative Housing Development Lead Coordinator at SOMOS Mayfair, I collaborated with city staff, county officials, and other public agencies to ensure projects complied with local policies, zoning, and equity-driven planning goals. Additionally, my advisory work on projects like Banderitas involved coordinating with public agencies, securing funding, and navigating planning approvals, which required understanding both community needs and regulatory requirements. Through these experiences, I have developed strong skills in stakeholder engagement, collaborative problem-solving, and navigating city planning and public agency processes—all of which are directly applicable to supporting historic preservation efforts in San José.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you live in, own, lease or manage property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), please list the address here. This includes mobilehomes, mobile home parks, and apartments/apartment buildings building during or before 1979.

n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If your employer or other source of income owns, leases or manages property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), or if you are unsure, please list your employer's name or other source of income and address here.

n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

What experience do you have with affordable housing issues?

I have extensive experience with affordable housing issues through my work leading cooperative housing and community development projects. As the Cooperative Housing Development Lead Coordinator at SOMOS Mayfair, I guided the planning, design, and implementation of limited-equity housing initiatives, ensuring that projects reflect community priorities and provide long-term affordability. I have also worked on policy advocacy, including supporting the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (which ultimately did not pass) and advancing the Tenant Preference Policy, which was successfully adopted to prioritize housing opportunities for existing residents. Additionally, in my role as Project Advisor and Secretary for Banderitas, I helped secure \$250,000 in public funding for a mixed-use community development that includes affordable housing, collaborating with county officials and local stakeholders to ensure equitable access and sustainable outcomes. These experiences have given me deep insight into housing affordability, funding mechanisms, policy compliance, and community-centered development.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Please explain your familiarity with the Community Development Block Grant Program?

I am familiar with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program through my work in community development and affordable housing projects. In my roles at SOMOS Mayfair and Banderitas, I have been involved in planning and implementing projects that align with CDBG funding priorities, including housing development, community services, and infrastructure improvements for low- and moderate-income residents. I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact CDBG funding has had in San José, supporting initiatives that increase housing stability, enhance public spaces, and provide essential resources to underserved communities. This experience has given me insight into how CDBG resources can be leveraged to promote equitable, community-driven development and long-term sustainability.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for a Low Income Position on the Commission. See requirement below.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I qualify for a Low Income Seat on the Housing and Community Development Commission. Please indicate how you qualify by selecting one of the following: Refer to this link to determine your eligibility:
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/90049/6380038120>

☒ Low- or moderate-income person as defined by HUD

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I meet the requirements for one of the Housing and Community Development Commission Special Eligibility Seats. Please note, if you indicate you are mobilehome resident or landlord representative, you will need to submit a copy of a letter from that organization indicating their nomination of you as their representative.

☒ n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Do you have experience in any of the following areas? *

- ☒ Development
- ☒ Lending
- ☒ Community Development
- ☒ Homeless Services
- ☒ Federal Funding

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for the Lived Experience Seat in Homelessness on the Commission.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you are applying for the Lived Experience Seat, please describe your experience with homelessness. Include when and for how long you experienced homelessness, and any information you'd like to share about how you lost your housing.

N/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Have you stayed at any shelters or used any homeless services programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience any homelessness in Santa Clara County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience homelessness in San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

In addition to my work in housing, community development, and nonprofit leadership, I serve as a Startup Mentor and VC Surveyor for the Santa Clara University Bronco Venture Accelerator. In this role, I support the creation of new ventures, foster innovation, and help cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among students, alumni, and faculty. This experience has strengthened my skills in strategic advising, mentorship, and collaborative problem-solving, and has reinforced my commitment to empowering communities to achieve long-term success. For further context, I have shared insights from this work in an article for the SCU CIOC Center: Growing Through Obstacles / Creciendo a Través de Obstáculos (<https://www.scu.edu/cioccacenter/newsletter-the-mindset/perspective-pieces/growing-through-obstaclescreciendo-a-traves-de-obstaculos/>).

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]
☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
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- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Karina

First Name

Solano

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95116

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 3**Home:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Library and Education Commission: Submitted

Silicon Valley Education
Foundation
Employer

College & Career Specialist
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted Address]

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.

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

-W.C. Overfelt High School (2016-2020) -Evergreen Valley Community College (2019) -
Bachelors of Arts in Sociology & Double minor in Public Affairs and Community Engagement
& Social Change, UCLA, (2020-2024)

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

-Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley: Engaged Latina Leadership Activist (ELLA) Program (February – July 2025) -MPESD Budget Advisory Committee (January – March 2025) -Latino Education Advancement Foundation Advocacy Program (January – March 2025) -SV@Home Action Fund's Civic Leadership Program (January – February 2025) -Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley: Policy, Advocacy, Leadership in Action Program (October 17 – 27 2025) -Young Leadership Academy - U.S Senator Laphonza Butler at the United States Senate (August – October 2024) -California Latino Capitol Association Foundation (CLCAF) Fellow with NextGen Policy (June – August 2025) -Mentor, Latino Education Advancement Foundation Advocacy Program (June 2022 – July 2025) -Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley's Latino Board Leadership Academy (July – October 2025) -UCLA BruinHope Chair (July 2023 – July 2024) - Volunteer, The Westside Tenants Association (WSTA) (January – May 2024) -UCLA's Latino Policy & Politics Institute (September 2023 – June 2024) -Intern, Office of San Jose Councilmember Peter Ortiz (July – September 2023) -Intern, Safe Place for Youth (April – June 2023) -Fellow, The Campaign for College Opportunity Student Leadership Institute (October 2022 – June 2023) -Hispanas Organized for Political Equality College Leadership Program (July 2022 - December 2022) -Staff Member, UCLA's Undergraduate Students Association Office of the Internal Vice President (September 2021 – May 2022) -Staff Member, UCLA's Undergraduate Students Association Council's Academic Affairs Commission (September 2021 – May 2022)

Languages Spoken

English & Spanish

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

-Certificate of Commendation - County of Santa Clara Supervisor Sylvia Arenas: Named a 2025 Engaged Latina Leadership Activist (ELLA) graduate and their steadfast dedication to completing a 6 month program cultivating civic engagement skills and developing leadership capabilities on the occasion of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley's 2025 ELLA Graduation. - Certificate of Achievement - County of Santa Clara Former Supervisor Cindy Chavez: Graduation from the LCSV Policy, Advocacy, Leadership in Action Program. This commendation is presented in honor and recognition of my outstanding commitment to uplifting Latina voices in policy & advocacy, empowering underrepresented communities, and embodying Latina resilience and leadership. -Certificate of Completion - SV@Home Action Fund Civic Leadership Program: Upon Completing the SV@Home Action Fund's Civic Leadership Program as a member of the 2025 Cohort. -Certificate of Appreciation - Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley: In recognition of my dedication and service as a volunteer at the 35th annual Hispanic Foundation Ball. -Certificate of Completion - UCLA Center for Community Engagement: This certificate is awarded for successful completion of the requirements of the Community Engagement and Social Change Interdisciplinary Minor at the University of California, Los Angeles. -Charles E. Young Humanitarian Award - University of California, Los Angeles: Honors outstanding contributions and commitment to public service to inspire future projects to enact positive social changes. -Chancellor's Service Award: Outstanding record of leadership and dedication to the public service mission of the University of California, Los Angeles. -Certificate of Recognition - State of California Senate: Completion of the 2024 California Capitol Association Foundation Fellowship. -Certificate of Completion - Public Policy & International Affairs Program: Recognition of successful completion of the Public Policy & international Affairs - Junior Summer Institute (PPIA - JSI) Program. -Participation in HOPE College Leadership Program - Hispanas Organized for Political Equality: Participant of HCLP leadership development program designed to prepare Latinas in college for a self-sufficient future through development of leadership, advocacy, and professional skills. -Certificate of Recognition- Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley: Completion of the Latino Board Leadership Academy 2024, Class XXVII.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I want to become a member of the Library and Education Commission to be a voice for my community and ensure their needs are being met. As a library user when I was a child, student, and now a community advocate, I would love to support their services and programming to ensure equity, access, and affordability for our residents. I want to continue being a champion for literary programming, especially for elementary school-age students, as it is an indicator of students' educational success. This is important, especially with current federal administration changes impacting our educational systems. In addition, I would like to work towards advocating for youth programming, as it's a way to provide our youth with an opportunity to stay civically and academically engaged. The library is a third space that many of our youth continue to use. I would also like to support adult services expanding, especially current services that have positively impacted our residents' lives, through digital literacy, partnership programs, and educational access. I will also advocate for college and career readiness in our libraries and find ways to discuss further development in this area, as well as in other areas, such as facilities and financing, to ensure we are addressing our residents' needs.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

I am committed to serving our residents in San Jose and ensuring everyone's needs are being heard as a commissioner. Through my civic engagement and volunteering work, I come with diverse knowledge that can be an asset to the Library and Education Commission. From my educational studies and lived experience, I want to continue advocating for important resources that are impacting individuals' lives. Although it may be one of my first times in a city commission, I am dedicated to learning to ensure our residents have the services they need to thrive in our city.

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Thalia Marroquin

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Hector De Leon

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

Karina Solano

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Although I may not have experience serving on a city commission or board, I have experience being a staff member in UCLA's Undergraduate Students Association Council's Academic Affairs Commission, where I would attend quarterly meetings to discuss opportunities to support students in matters related to their academics. I collaborated with committee members to run the program "Books for Bruins," which provides financial assistance to afford college textbooks. We also discussed opportunities to cross-collaborate with multicultural organizations to raise awareness about this program. In addition, we conversed about issues students were facing and possible recommendations to report to the Academic Affairs Commissioner. I also joined two leadership development programs to best prepare myself to be part of a commission or board. I participated in SV@Home Action Fund's Civic Leadership Program, where we learned how to serve on locally appointed boards and commissions. Furthermore, I completed the Latino Board Leadership Academy, which trains and guides Latinos to serve on local boards, where I learned about board responsibilities, financial responsibilities, and the role of maintaining organizational sustainability.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

- Joining MPESD's Budget Advisory Committee, I got to experience firsthand providing recommendations to avoid recurring budget deficits present in the district while keeping in mind students' success. It included reviewing previous, current, and projected budgets as well as educational services. Being part of this committee equipped me with the transferable skills that I can use as a commissioner, as I have an understanding of budget reviews, evaluating services and making recommendations with fellow members. - Further, being part of LEAF's Advocacy Program, I learned to be a better advocate for students and my community in spaces of influence, which provided me with the fundamental tools and knowledge regarding local government and state government making process in education. I also got to learn how to engage with local officials such as school board members, trustees, and county board members. Through the program, I engaged in difficult conversations and listened to the educational concerns from families and students. - Additionally, as a CLCAF Fellow with NextGen Policy, I gained an understanding of the legislative process, especially passing educational bills in the State Capitol. I was able to support research and see the importance of coalition efforts. This knowledge will be helpful as a commissioner because policy impacts the services of the libraries. - I also was part of LCSV's Policy, Advocacy, Leadership in Action Program (PALA) and Engaged Latina Leadership Activist (ELLA) program, where I got to further understand the different levels of government and the role commissions play as well as how to participate in civic boards and commissions. - I have a background in education issues as a College & Career Specialist in East San Jose and through lived experience. I work directly with students in middle school and high school to provide supplemental educational services to promote a college and career readiness culture in order to lessen the academic gaps students face. As a first-generation Latina, I have firsthand experience with the education inequalities that our historically marginalized communities face. This reality influenced my strong passion for tackling educational inequality issues starting in grades K-12 and then following higher education. As a result, I decided to pursue my higher education studies in addressing educational needs. My undergraduate studies in Sociology analyzed the educational inequities in urban education through a sociological perspective. I completed interdisciplinary coursework through my minor in Community Engagement & Social Change, where I learned about innovative solutions from community-based organizations with school leaders to address education issues such as literacy and math achievements in grades K-12, which have been exacerbated due to the pandemic. - Finally, I chaired UCLA's BruinHope, which promotes equitable education and wellness resources for orphanages in Tijuana for children that range from toddlers to teenagers. We provided STEM and literacy activities to children who were attending under-resourced schools. One of the reasons that made me passionate about giving back to children was that research was showing that third-grade literacy is an indicator of a student's success. Through this position, I learned program evaluation to improve programming and secure funding. Lastly, I was overseeing budgets, as the organization had to apply for grants and yearly funding through UCLA's administration. If I become commissioner, I will be able to transfer these skills and a diverse work background.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The purpose of the Library & Education Commission is to ensure that communities needs are being heard and acted upon. The commission is responsible for providing the best services and facilities for our residents. In addition, the commission is there to provide a space for the community to address their library needs. Being a part of the commission, one is making sure that we are providing new opportunities of growth for the library and assessing challenges the library is facing and ensuring that our City Council is aware about these recommendations and challenges.

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

The City is facing housing unaffordability, which is impacting many families, forcing them to move out of the city. As a result, many schools have been closing because of the low enrollment they are facing as families move away from San Jose. This is an important issue as students moving around may impact students' academics. Another issue is homelessness, which has been slightly decreasing with new housing initiatives, but it is also a result of housing unaffordability and the rising cost of living. It is important to continue to provide wrap-around services to unhoused individuals and safer housing alternatives, as present initiatives such as tiny homes and mental health services. The third issue the City Council should address is our community safety, especially in our neighborhoods. Our city should be a place where our students and families feel safe, no matter where they live. Our Council has already begun focusing on this through their city-wide plan, especially as major events will be approaching next year, which is a big win for our communities. They are also utilizing advanced technology and working to ensure building community trust with our police department.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

The purpose of historic preservation in San Jose is to honor and commemorate San Jose's history. It also ensures cultural stewardship. The role of the Historic Landmarks Commission ensures protection of our city's history and more well informed decision-making when it comes to significant changes in our city's land usage.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

I don't have experience with historic preservation, but I participated in SV@Home Action Fund's Civic Leadership Program, which entailed workshops regarding housing and planning processes to be better informed on housing and development decisions in our city as someone interested in public service either in elected office or commissions. In regards to working with the City, I was previously a PRNS Recreation Leader working at Seven Trees Community Center, supporting the Senior Nutrition Program and Front Desk. I provided a welcoming environment to the community and answering their questions at the center. Also, I was an intern with Former Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and Councilmember Peter Ortiz, which influenced my passion for public service and advocating for my community. These experiences exposed me to the systems of local government, especially working for a department and supporting an elected member's office.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Growing up in San Jose, I was faced with early education issues as an English learner at a young age, which made it difficult to navigate the educational system, but influenced my strong passion for tackling educational inequality starting in K-12 public schools. Raised in an under-resourced neighborhood, I faced English Learning difficulties, education funding inequity, and financial hardships in a single-mother household. At the age of eight, I was working alongside my mother in the flea market. During this time, it was challenging as I had to learn English quickly to translate for my Spanish-speaking mother. I had to easily adapt and find services such as my local public library for help. I remember going to Joyce Ellington Branch Library whenever there was free time to get books to read and attend their library events like their story times, as an elementary student, to further my English language. Fast forward to the age of fourteen, my family was experiencing severe financial hardships and housing instability, which led me to rely on my local public library for computer and internet access, as well as a place to do homework during my high school years. I saw how instrumental the library was to me and many students. Thus, I volunteered for TeenReach, specifically in math tutoring, volunteering in Friends of the Library, and Summer Learning at East San Jose Carnegie Library. The library also became a space to finish some of my remote studies during undergrad. The San Jose Public Library played a pivotal role in my passion for education equity work and my community involvement, including my current occupation, which drives me to this commission to keep expanding access to families, students, and community members.

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Yes, I am more than happy to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission.

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

(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 *

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Sharon

First Name

Holt

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95120

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 10**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Mobile:

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Library and Education Commission: Submitted

retired SJUSD

Employer

teacher/library resource
specialist/instructional coach

Job Title

Current Employer Address

retired

Current Employer of Spouse

retired

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

retired

Spouse's Job Title

software engineer

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

STRS Spouse--none

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Cornell University, Asian Studies/history/economics,1968-1971, BA June 1971 Teaching Credential, San Jose State, May1990

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Library media resource specialist, San Jose Unified School District: 1996-2003 Children's church organization, volunteer, San Jose: primary supervisory responsibility (president) for 8 congregations, 1998-2008 Teaching English as a Second Language and other volunteer full-time work, Japan: 1971-1973, 2018-2020 Extensive other volunteer work including public presentations, teaching and advocating, lifelong

Languages Spoken

English, Japanese

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

At this stage of my life, I am able to "give back" as a thoughtful advocate for education, particularly in behalf of those who have had less opportunities for learning. I enjoy analyzing data and information, while feeling a strong connection to individual needs, especially people who may need that advocacy. All children fall into that category, as well as immigrant and second language populations. I truly believe that helping people gain a strong vision of education is necessary to solve many of our societal challenges. Libraries are an important conduit for this kind of educational support, and are essential to promoting a strong community.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

I believe that the combination of my extensive experience with both libraries and education and my growth mindset and flexibility in learning new skills will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the work of the 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

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Sandy Davis

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Tracey Ananmalay

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Through decades of work as a public school teacher and a church volunteer, I have served on many committees. This has given me valuable experience both as a supporter and as a leader in working on numerous projects. I have had many opportunities to collaborate with a group to accomplish worthwhile goals.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

A long life of relevant experience in libraries and education has led to obvious training and knowledge. I have also developed "soft skills" of collaboration, active listening, analyzing information, an accelerated learning curve, an appreciation for the viewpoints of others, and an unselfish desire to serve my community.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

At this point, I am just beginning to learn about how commissions and the city work together. I intend to begin attending the meetings and increasing my civic involvement.

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

In looking only at issues that may come under the advisement of the Library and Education Commission, the following issues are likely to arise: 1. funding allocations across various locations 2. funding allocations for various services and priorities 3. community outreach and promotion activities, targeting various demographics

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Again, at this point, I am just beginning to understand the structure and function of city government at the commission level.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

As homeowners in San Jose, we have had occasional experiences dealing with the city. No major experience.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

retired teacher SJUSD, including 7 years as library resource specialist, 2 years as instructional coach extensive volunteer and teaching experience with children and youth ages 3-17 currently leader (as a volunteer) in program providing access to low-cost higher education worldwide, with focus on Mongolia, Japan, Korea, and Micronesia (supervising about 40 volunteers and 200 students) mother/grandmother lifelong learner and reader

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Yes

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

I have poignant memories of experiences in libraries from a very young age. I could not imagine raising my children without the resources of the library, and feel strongly that literacy and love of reading are a vital foundation for developing lifelong learners and successful adults in our society. I feel great concern for the problems of society throughout the world, and believe that literacy is the answer for so many problems, starting in our own community.

(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 *



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
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- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Sheikh

First Name

Nayeem

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95135

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 8**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

None Selected

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Climate Advisory Commission: Submitted

Measure T Community Oversight Committee: Submitted

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission

I am applying under the following stakeholder categories (Pick top 3): *

- ☒ Electricity Field (e.g. Electrical Utilities, Energy Production, Efficiency, Demand Reduction, Technology, Financing, Policy)
- ☒ Other - Please explain in application

AMAT

Employer

Facility Operations and
Engineering

Job Title

Current Employer Address

Current Employer of Spouse

None

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

NA

Spouse's Job Title

NA

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

1. MS in Mechanical Engineering 1984 2 BS in Mechanical engineering

Sheikh Nayeem

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

1. Worked for City of San Jose from 1988 till 2000 in the Enviromental Services Department
2. Worked for California State University from 2018 till 2022 as Energy and Sustainability Director--advisor to teh President

Languages Spoken

English-Hindi-Tamil-Urdu

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

1. Flex your Power award
2. City of San Jose Energy Conservation and Outreach Award--Awarded by Californio Energy Commission.
3. I was Co-Chair for SVLG Energy Sub-committee

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

I have considerable related experience and knowledge in in this area. I want to contribute to the public service sector.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Good experience in Carbon Footprint planning and reduction. Demand Reduction Demand Response and Auto Demand Response. Energy Procurement RECs Purchase Outreach and Education Renewable energy project management

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Raeena Lari

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Tara Sreekirshnan

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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.

Currently I serve on the board of "Our City Forest" I read the documents in detail, make recommendations, cast my vote intelligently. Attend meetings on time.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

Climate Change and Measure T

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

I have considerable experience (25 years) in Climate Change programs. I have also volunteered in non-profit organization's emergency preparedness training, program development, and measures implementation for 8 years

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

1. Outreach and education on Climate Change 2. Offer more incentives for energy and water conservation projects 3. Provide training and emergency preparedness kits to residents and non-profit organizations including faith-based.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of an Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

1. Maintain traditional natural resources 2. Minimize carbon emissions and traffic congestions. 3. Unnecessary industrialization will create air, energy and water pollution.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

While working for City of San Jose and Cisco, I was providing potential pollution data to decision makers.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José’s older adults and what do you see as the Commission’s role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission
Based on the stakeholder categories you selected, please briefly describe your qualifications and applicable experience. Please attach resume at the end of the application.

I have 30 years of relevant experience in private and public organizations.

Question applies to Climate Advisory Commission
Given the small number of committee members, having a quorum is essential. Please describe your ability to make a commitment to attending and actively contributing to the committee (The committee will meet at least quarterly and in the evenings, but may meet more frequently in the early stages)

I am willing to meet as frequently as it takes

Anything else you would like us to know?

I am very excited to be part of Climate Change and Measure T commissions

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Sheikh Nayeem

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 *

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☒ ☐

☒

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Robert

First Name

Gonzalez

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95112

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***☒ District 3**Mobile:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks and Recreation Commission: Submitted

City of Palo Alto

Employer

Senior Management Analyst

Job Title

Current Employer Address

Current Employer of Spouse

City of Palo Alto

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Spouse's Job Title

Associate Planner

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Evergreen Valley High School (2005-2009) De Anza College (2009-2011) UC Santa Barbara (2011-2013) B.A. in Economics & Accounting

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

City of San José Budget Analyst (City Manager's Office) 2013-2015 Town of Los Gatos
Administrative Analyst/Senior Administrative Analyst (Parks & Public Works Department)
2015-2021 City of Palo Alto 2022-Current

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

2020 Santa Clara County Leadership Academy 2023 City of Palo Alto Leadership Academy

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

As a lifelong resident of San Jose, parks have played a meaningful role in my life. Growing up in Evergreen, Tropicana, and Edenvale, I have countless memories tied to our public spaces. I remember my Tito taking us to McDonald's and then walking across the street to the playground at Welch Park. I noticed early on the differences in park conditions when we visited Bramhall Park, which was noticeably cleaner. My grandparents would pack us a picnic and take us to Happy Hollow. I practiced youth soccer at Groesbeck Park and spent summers playing tennis and basketball there. I ran my middle school miles at Bogini Park and today I continue to enjoy Arcadia Sports Complex, William Street Park, Watson Park, Backesto Park, Guadalupe Oak Grove, Lake Cunningham, Branham Park, and many others. I use these spaces to hike, run, play pickleball, soccer, and softball. Viva Calle is my favorite city event and I regularly organize a group of more than ten family members to attend together on bikes, and collect the t-shirts for each event. These experiences have shaped my appreciation for parks and my understanding of how they reflect broader issues of equity, access, and community health. I want to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission to help ensure that all residents have access to clean, safe, and vibrant public spaces. As a Commissioner, I would work toward the following objectives: 1. Advocate for increased funding and staffing for parks maintenance to ensure consistent quality across all neighborhoods 2. Support improvements to the 311 app and reporting system to strengthen responses to blight and illegal dumping 3. Promote the expansion of San Jose's urban forest in parks and neighborhoods to improve environmental resilience and public health 4. Champion parks as a solution to the loneliness epidemic by activating spaces, improving cleanliness, and supporting inclusive programming that brings people together I believe parks are essential to the social and emotional well-being of our city. I am committed to helping San Jose's parks thrive and serve as places of connection, healing, and joy for everyone.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Robert Gonzalez

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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

Reference 1 Name

Robert Kass

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Kristen O'Kane

Robert Gonzalez

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

kristen. [REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Have you ever attended or watched 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 served on the City of San Jose's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for almost two years.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

1) Employee in Parks & Public Works Department for 6 years and Community Services Department (Parks & Rec) for almost 3 years. Knowledge of work order and asset management systems, contracts, grants, hiring processes, etc. Employee in City of San Jose's City Manager's Budget Office for 2 years. 2) Familiarity with Parks & Recreation fees, capital budget, and operating budget and associated processes. 3) Knowledge of City's 311 efforts, BeautifySJ, trail system, park condition assessment. 4) 11 years of contributing to preparation of Municipal Budgets, including 2 in San José. Includes projecting and tracking revenues and expenses, and setting fees. 5) Public employee for 11 years. 6) Former member of City of San Jose's Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee 7) Familiar with City of San Jose Audits and recommendations, including Parks Maintenance data, p-card activity, and others.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Parks and Recreation Commission advises the City Council on the City's system of parks, playgrounds, recreation centers and facilities, and recreation programs, including community sports, plays, celebrations and other recreation activities.

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

Given the scale of San José's \$554 million parks maintenance backlog and the staffing reductions despite a 22% increase in parkland over two decades, I believe the City Council should support a ballot measure to raise dedicated funding for capital improvements. At the same time, they should explore reallocating resources within the city budget to hire more parks maintenance staff. If vacancies exist, the city should consider adapting successful recruitment strategies used for police staffing especially those that have proven popular and effective. With development impact fees being waived and threatened by pending legislation, proactive investment is essential to preserve and expand equitable access to quality public spaces. The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department plays a central role in the City's 311 response efforts through the BeautifySJ program, especially in addressing illegal dumping and blight. District 3 consistently has the highest number of 311 cleanup requests for illegal dumping, yet one of the lowest rates of junk pickup requests, suggesting a gap in awareness or access. The City should explore targeted outreach and advertising of the 311 app in this district to help close that gap, aligning with the goals of the City's Equity Atlas. In addition, the City should prioritize tree planting in neighborhoods with low canopy coverage, particularly in heat-vulnerable and underserved areas. This not only addresses long-standing inequities in green infrastructure but also supports San José's Climate Smart goals by improving air quality, reducing urban heat, and enhancing community resilience. More broadly, reducing blight and expanding the urban forest in parks and neighborhoods should remain a top priority to improve quality of life and foster environmental justice. Finally, the City must recognize the vital role the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department can play in addressing the growing loneliness epidemic, as highlighted by former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy. While seniors are especially vulnerable, social isolation affects residents of all ages. San José's extensive park system is a tremendous public asset, one that can foster connection, community, and mental wellbeing when properly supported. The City should invest in this department not only to maintain and improve park infrastructure, but also to ensure it has the staffing and resources to activate these spaces, pursue grant opportunities, and create inclusive programming that brings people together. In doing so, the City will not only enhance quality of life but also advance public health and equity across neighborhoods.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San Jose have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☒ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

N/A

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Yes

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

Over the past decade, I've built a strong foundation working within and alongside various governmental agencies. As a local government employee for over 10 years, I've collaborated across departments and with external agencies on a range of initiatives, including grant-funded projects. My work has involved coordination with organizations such as the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), FEMA, the State of California, and multiple city governments; each requiring a nuanced understanding of interagency processes and priorities. Beyond my professional role, I've actively contributed to civic engagement and transportation advocacy. I served on the San Jose Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, where I worked closely with the city's Department of Transportation to advance infrastructure improvements and promote multimodal mobility. Additionally, as a member of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, I advocate for safer streets and equitable access for all road users, often engaging with local and regional agencies to support policy and planning efforts. This blend of direct government service, interagency collaboration, and community advocacy has given me a comprehensive perspective on how public agencies operate and how to effectively drive change within them.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

As a commissioner in an advisory role, it's important for me to be a bridge between the community and the city organization. I would ensure that I listen, that there is transparency in the process, and that the dialogue is constructive. I would try to understand where the group and neighbors are coming from through conversation. This is important to let them know they're heard, and that their perspective is valid. I would make sure that all parties understand the details of a proposal. As a seasoned local government employee, I could use my knowledge to help clear up any misunderstandings and try to modify any proposals as necessary. I would advise the City Council to hear both the technical aspects of the proposal, and also the feelings from residents. I'd use my judgement to land at a proposal that factors in both staff and the residents' ideas, to the extent that the solution is feasible. This could also manifest through pilot programs or phasing projects. Ultimately, it would be important to hear all sides and come to a workable solution.

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

One major public policy issue I've been deeply involved in is San Jose's Vision Zero initiative, which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Despite the city adopting this goal in 2015, progress has been slow, and traffic deaths have reached record highs in recent years. As an advocate and member of both the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, I've worked to hold the city accountable to its own Vision Zero and Better Bikeways plans, especially during street resurfacing and infrastructure projects where safety upgrades are often overlooked. My role has been to elevate community concerns, push for evidence-based street treatments, and organize a unified voice for safer mobility. A specific example I'm proud of is my involvement in the Quimby Road resurfacing project. Initially, the city's plans did not include any significant improvements to bicycle infrastructure, even though the Better Bikeways plan called for Class IV protected bike lanes. Quimby Road is a critical corridor that serves both a middle school and a high school, making safe access essential. Upon learning about the project, I quickly mobilized the BPAC and worked with city staff to advocate for changes. Within two months, we successfully influenced the redesign to include Class IV lanes, resulting in a safer, more inclusive street for all users. This experience reinforced the importance of persistent, informed advocacy in shaping public policy and ensuring that city plans translate into meaningful action.

What is a major issue facing San José's older adults and what do you see as the Commission's role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

I have a strong understanding of how city government operates, especially when it comes to funding and interdepartmental coordination. I am familiar with major funding sources such as the general fund, grants, enterprise funds, assessment districts, and capital improvement funds. I have been involved in every budget cycle for more than ten years and understand how financial decisions affect multiple departments. I have worked closely with the City Manager's Office, Housing, Police, Fire, Public Works, Transportation, Environmental Services, and Parks and Recreation. I understand how these departments connect, how their funding impacts operations, and how decisions in one area often influence others. I have participated in local government leadership academies and recently contributed to Palo Alto's special projects phase, focusing on accessory dwelling units and employee housing. Outside of work, I use my knowledge to advocate for better policy, educate neighbors through local forums, and stay engaged with city issues. I often listen to council meetings while exercising or commuting. Local government is both my profession and my passion. I am committed to using my experience to support thoughtful, informed decision-making.

(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 *

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

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.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Aimee

First Name

Escobar

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95112

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:

[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)

[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) *

☒ District 3

Mobile:

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing and Community Development Commission: Submitted
Planning Commission: Submitted

City of Santa Clara - City
Manager's Office
Employer

Management Analyst
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted Address]

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

Interests & Experiences

Educational Background: Describe how your education will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

San Jose State University, Higher Education Teaching Credential (HETC), 2024 San Jose State University, Masters Degree (Urban & Regional Planning) 2010 San Jose State University, Bachelor's Degree (Political Science) 1996 Lincoln Law School of San Jose (2003-2005)

Professional Experience: (employer, position) Describe how your employment history will assist you on this commission. If applying for more than one commission, include the information for all selected.

Management Analyst, City Manager's Office, City of Santa Clara (2025 - present) Santa Clara County Planning Commissioner- Commissioner (2015 - present) Senior Housing Policy Analyst (2015 - 2025), Santa Clara County Housing Authority Senior Policy Aide, (1999-2004), Office of Former Santa Clara County Supervisor Pete McHugh, District 3 Management Analyst II, (2004-2005), Santa Clara Valley Water District Chair, (2009-2023), Silicon Valley Latino Democratic Forum Vice-Chair, Communications (2014-2019) Democratic Activists for Women Now (DAWN) Delegate, California Democratic Party, Assembly District 27 (2015-2020) Latino Leadership Alliance (LLA), Cohort 5 (Stanford University) (2014) Lt. José A. Santiago Memorial Foundation, 2011-2012, Board Member Clara-Mateo Alliance Homeless Shelter, 2001 to 2003 - Vice President, Board of Directors

Languages Spoken

English

Relevant Skills or Expertise: (e.g. budgeting, community outreach, legal knowledge). If applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

Planning Achievement Award - Outstanding Academic Project (Alviso Community Assessment Report) Northern Section, California Chapter, American Planning Association May 2010

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 applying to more than one commission, include information for all selected.

As a holder of a Master's Degree in Urban Planning, I have studied all facets of planning/land use. Through my studies and hands-on experience as a past Land Use Consultant, Housing Analyst, and Planning Commissioner, I have gained an immeasurable amount of knowledge about the City of San Jose's housing and planning goals, land use, and government structure, including both its challenges and its successes. As a former Senior Housing Policy Analyst with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, I am well-versed in the challenges our City and County face in providing and accessing affordable housing. I was often tasked with resolving difficult housing access issues and would use the knowledge I have gained and continue to foster to increase access and the construction of affordable housing in San Jose. From my experience as a County Planning Commissioner, I would like to apply my practical and studied knowledge to help shape our City in revitalizing key areas, green building, zoning, preservation (both historic and ecological) and in the social planning aspect of our downtown core to provide for a more social and economically vibrant hub of activity. I am intensely interested in continuing to help shape and grow affordable housing as a Planning and/or HCD Commissioner providing thoughtful and practical knowledge to policies, projects and private/public housing collaborations. I am also interested in working toward a more socially planned city that is inclusive of all ages and uses while maintaining the integrity of the City and the needs of its residents. Further, my interest in historic preservation and the value of maintaining said structures through re-use/rehabilitation is also of great importance and something I would work toward as a Planning Commissioner.

For special seats such as Early education seats or HCDC mobile home/low income seats, please describe how you qualify for those special seats. Please visit https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Past Chair and current Commissioner on the Santa Clara County Planning Commission with over 9 years of experience as a Planning Commissioner. Former Senior Housing Policy Analyst (10 years) at the Santa Clara County Housing Authority and current Management Analyst with the City of Santa Clara's City Manager's Office. I hold a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning and have approximately 25 years of land use/planning experience.

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

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission, Planning Commission

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ 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 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. If applying for multiple commissions, please include information for all selected.

N/A

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

N/A

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Heather Miller

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Jacqueline Onciano

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Aimee Escobar

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

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

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Question applies to Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

Are you a registered voter in the City of San Jose? (Please note, your voter registration will be independently verified)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

Please provide the name and residential address under which you are registered to vote. If it is the same as listed above, please note see above.

See Above

Have you ever attended or watched 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 and continue to serve on various Boards and Commissions, both political and community. As a Board Member/Commissioner, I am tasked with making decisions that reflect the best interests of the organization/entity/party that I am serving. In this neutral capacity, I have addressed leadership, planning, community, political and gender issues while maintaining the integrity and values of the organization. Through my service to others via Boards and Commissions, I have found that I am more aware and aligned with the direction, growth and values of my community and am encouraged to remain engaged in the work at-hand as well as in determining the future course of each of the organizations and bodies of government that I serve.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I hold a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning from our local University, San Jose State. I have hands-on experience in working on urban planning issues through my involvement with Communiiversity (and as part of the curriculum) in the Five Wounds Neighborhood, the Downtown Core, Redevelopment issues (legacy), and Alviso. I also hold more than 10 years of experience in working in affordable and low-income housing, most recently in Section 8 with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority as a Senior Analyst. As a former Land Use Consultant, I have worked on and brought several matters before the Planning Commission for my clients that involved but was not limited to: zoning, conditional use permits, parking, easements, small development sites and historic property re-use. As a sitting County Planning Commissioner, I review and make decisions on a wide variety of planning issues, appeals, policies and permits, most notably, Stanford University lands. My fellow Commissioners and I are currently in the process of reviewing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Stanford's 2018 General Use Permit Application. The application is for the development entitlement for the next phase of campus land use on Stanford University to extend through the year 2035. These experiences have allowed me to gain an immeasurable amount of knowledge about the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara's planning goals, land use, and government structure and provide me with the experience and hands-on training that qualify me for an appointment to the Commissions.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The role of the Housing and Community Development Commission is to advise and/or make recommendations to the City Council on housing and community development matters, including CDBG funds. The role of a Planning Commissioner is to make recommendations to the City Council on the General Plan and specific and redevelopment plans for the future physical development of the City, land use and redevelopment regulations, including zoning and subdivision, and the Capital Improvement Program. The Planning Commission also acts as an appellate body on certain Planning Director decisions and certifies Environmental Impact Reports.

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

1. Affordable Housing/Inclusionary Zoning: Continue to utilize inclusionary zoning to promote mixed income communities and equitable growth for all residents. Bring/approve economic opportunities in areas that already have a high concentration of affordable housing and have access to public transportation. 2.Smart Growth: Under the guise of smart growth in the City of San Jose, the Commission should support existing communities through the redevelopment of underutilized sites, enhancing economic competitiveness, providing more transportation choices, developing livability measures and tools, promoting equitable and affordable housing, providing a vision for sustainable growth, aligning, coordinating, and leveraging government policies and making the development process transparent. 3. Innovative Solutions to Housing Shortage(s) & Homelessness Continue to think outside of the box in identifying solutions to curb homelessness and reduce the number of individuals without housing and also address barriers to obtaining and retaining housing.

Describe recent San José arts activities you have participated in during the last twelve months (up to five activities) and what drew you to attend?

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community, and what role should the City of San José have in arts and cultural development.

Should the City of San José have an active role in arts and cultural development? If so, in what ways and why?

How can you contribute to advising City Council on policy and programs related to cultural development in San José?

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you meet the requirements for appointment to this commission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

N/A

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

I have worked with City staff on numerous projects throughout the years to include Conditional Use Permits, Facade renovations, and other development projects as a Land Use Consultant. I have drafted and submitted development and permit plans and navigated through department review, leading to presentation at the Planning Commission or with the Planning Director, depending upon the project. I have also worked with numerous departments and city staff on community projects and events for the last 20-plus years.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you live in, own, lease or manage property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), please list the address here. This includes mobilehomes, mobile home parks, and apartments/apartment buildings building during or before 1979.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If your employer or other source of income owns, leases or manages property subject to a City rent ordinance (i.e., the Mobilehome Rent Ordinance or Rental Dispute and Mediation Ordinance), or if you are unsure, please list your employer's name or other source of income and address here.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

What experience do you have with affordable housing issues?

For over 10 years with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, I worked on housing issues relevant to Section 8 (HUD) voucher holders. My work spanned across all of Santa Clara County and within each of its jurisdictional cities. I created, interpreted, and rolled out policy for both the Agency and its voucher holders. Advising landlords and voucher holder tenants of their rights under the Section 8 program and according to the corresponding city ordinances. I also performed federal grant writing services and reporting under the HUD program.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Please explain your familiarity with the Community Development Block Grant Program?

I am familiar with the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) as it is a HUD-administered program. Although the Housing Authority does not directly apply nor receive CDBG funds, the program is similar to other grants applied for and received by the Housing Authority. Therefore, as a former Analyst with the Agency, it was part of my responsibility to remain informed of the program and its changing requirements, administration and funding levels.

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for a Low Income Position on the Commission. See requirement below.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

**I qualify for a Low Income Seat on the Housing and Community Development Commission. Please indicate how you qualify by selecting one of the following: Refer to this link to determine your eligibility:
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/90049/6380038120>**

☒ N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I meet the requirements for one of the Housing and Community Development Commission Special Eligibility Seats. Please note, if you indicate you are mobilehome resident or landlord representative, you will need to submit a copy of a letter from that organization indicating their nomination of you as their representative.

☒ n/a

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Do you have experience in any of the following areas? *

- ☒ Development
- ☒ Community Development
- ☒ Homeless Services
- ☒ Federal Funding

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

I am applying for the Lived Experience Seat in Homelessness on the Commission.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

If you are applying for the Lived Experience Seat, please describe your experience with homelessness. Include when and for how long you experienced homelessness, and any information you'd like to share about how you lost your housing.

N/A

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Have you stayed at any shelters or used any homeless services programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience any homelessness in Santa Clara County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Housing and Community Development Commission

Did you experience homelessness in San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have a background in early care and education issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What involvement have you had in library and/or early education issues?

Would you be willing to attend local special events/meetings as a representative of the Library and Early Education Commission?

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, how would you handle a situation where you have a volatile Community group which is opposed to a staff proposal?

Can you provide examples of major public policy issues that you have been involved in and what your role was in the issue?

What is a major issue facing San José’s older adults and what do you see as the Commission’s role in this issue?

Please describe a leadership role you have assumed within the last five years.

How would you handle differences in opinions or positions on issues being heard at a Senior Commission meeting?

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Anything else you would like us to know?

Currently a Commissioner on the Santa Clara County Planning Commission with over 10 years of experience as a Planning Commissioner. Former Senior Housing Policy Analyst at the Santa Clara County Housing Authority and current Management Analyst with the City of Santa Clara's City Manager's Office. I hold a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning and have approximately 25 years of land use/planning experience.

(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 *

[Redacted]

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☒ [Redacted]

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☒ [Redacted]