

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*

Micah
First Name

Chung
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

[Redacted]
Street Address

[Redacted]
Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95138
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?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple> *

District 8

Mobile: [Redacted]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

██████████ 2008

Evergreen Valley High
School

Employer

Student

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.

I've studied political science at UCLA and ethnic studies at EVC, alongside sociology at De Anza College. For the last four years I've also been studying at Evergreen Valley High School. I believe my education has given me a suitable background for doing budget work and analysis of local policy, and my time in high school has both helped broaden my worldview and given me a strong youth perspective on local policy.

Micah Chung

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.

I've worked at City Hall before as an intern, so I'm somewhat familiar with city infrastructure and I believe I'm well suited to working with city officials. I also worked with Dr. Luis Poza at San Jose State University as a policy consultant and student researcher, studying education in the Bay Area, which gives me a well-rounded approach to local politics and policy analysis.

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.

I'm skilled at canvassing, and it's a skill that I've continuously developed over multiple years, most recently in assistance to the Rapid Response Network. I also am great at organizing, particularly in volunteer environments, and I've helped run events from community workshops to food drives smoothly. I can parse statistical data due to past experiences working with Santa Clara County's YAYAA board, and I can read at around 900 wpm and type at 155 wpm at my fastest rates.

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 main goal is to make our community ICE-proof and to combat local poverty in San Jose. In my view these two factors represent the two most immediate threats to the well-being of San Jose's community. I'd like to help expand the scope of the Rapid Response Network and make sure that youth are as involved in the protection of our immigrant community as possible. I also think that the Commission can and should leverage its connections to help push for better conditions at local schools, particularly for low-income students, and to help organize more expansive food drives in light of rising food security in California.

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.

Question applies to Youth Commission

• Please state your current responsibilities in other organizations and groups, as well as the time commitment associated with those responsibilities (including family responsibilities).

Currently, I work with San Jose District 8's Youth Council Committee as a co-chair, though I would step back from that role if appointed in favor of another YCC member taking my position. I run a charity for Ukrainian defense, which demands a few hours of commitment a week, usually on weekends, and I also participate in karate and volunteer activities, which demand a few hours a week as well. On the third Wednesday of each month I work with the Santa Clara County Democratic Party's Ad-Hoc Committee on Housing for a few hours, and occasionally canvass on Saturday mornings.

Reference 1 Name

Luis Poza

Reference 1 Address

N/A

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Michelle Shanelec

Reference 2 Address

N/A

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

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

I've volunteered with the Mount Pleasant Elementary School District as an assistant teacher/reading tutor for multiple summers, totaling around 175 hours. I've also volunteered with San Jose Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services, for a total of around 100 hours. Though less consistently, I've also volunteered with organizations like JDRF and the Second Harvest Food Bank, and have helped organize the Cougar Pantry food bank at Evergreen Valley High School. I've received a Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award for my volunteer efforts. I've also been involved with the SEIU local 521 chapter and the East Side Teacher's Association, and I've supported both unionization efforts and protests for teachers' wages.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests mostly relate to the queer and working community within San Jose, as I have close ties to labor organizations and support social programs for the underprivileged, and am queer myself. As a young person I also have an interest in issues that affect youth in San Jose. As the child of immigrants I also staunchly support our immigrant community.

Question applies to Youth Commission

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

I think that a lot of San Jose youth are facing a lack of opportunity and connection bordering on a crisis. Many young people in San Jose have bleak or dim job prospects and have a hard time connecting with others because of a combination of physical and digital infrastructural problems. These factors, I feel, feed into a culture of pessimism and burnout that is leading to a major crisis of mental health. Additionally, rising STI rates and a spreading crisis of substance abuse have emerged as coping mechanisms with the above problems, in my opinion. I feel that the youth of San Jose need to feel like a part of a greater community and to have a feeling of belonging and agency.

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

I think the priorities of the Youth Commission should be empowering local youths to form and join efforts that can contribute to the overall creation of a feeling of community pride and connection, particularly through the creation and reinforcement of volunteer groups. The Youth Commission also has a very unique opportunity to connect with lots of local organizations, and I feel that creating a network of groups like food banks, volunteer organizations, and neighborhood associations can create a more coherent network of people who are willing and able to help their community members, again contributing to a stronger sense of city identity. I also think that the Youth Commission should simultaneously be focused on matters of legislation and making sure that youth are adequately represented in San Jose politics.

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 Santa Clara County's Youth and Young Adult Advisory Board. In that role, I helped draft legislation to counteract STIs and lobbied local school boards and governing bodies. I also served on its educational materials subcommittee and helped create material meant to be posted in medical offices informing others of the benefits of using PrEP.

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 am proficient at organizing and have a great understanding of policy analysis, and I can apply both to assist the Commission in achieving its goals on a volunteering/community basis and also in its goals giving recommendations to the city and giving recommendations on the city budget.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

From my understanding, the Commission has the role of giving youth a voice in San Jose politics and empowering local youth advocates. It also has a secondary function of giving recommendations to the city on policy and providing a secondary voice in the budgeting process.

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

1. I feel like the homelessness and cost of living crisis in the city can be addressed through a strong and robust network of public housing, similar to the New York housing model. I believe that if the City was to work with the County to establish a similar system that could create public apartment complexes available to the public at lower costs, while still being safe and of adequate living conditions, our cost of living crisis would begin to abate. 2. STI rates are climbing, and I feel the City can do more to provide contraceptives in public buildings and also to encourage the use of contraceptives to help stem the tide. Although this crisis is relatively minor compared to other crises that the city is faced with, I believe that a decade from now it will potentially have worsened dramatically. 3. I believe that flagging public infrastructure is a core problem in the City's urban design that has resulted in many lower-income residents becoming dependent on cars or, alternatively, being provided lower standards of transportation. I feel that the City should invest in renovating roads and intersections with the goal of becoming more pedestrian-friendly, and expanding transport lines for buses and perhaps even using tram systems.

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?

I attended a performance of the play Emma, based on the Jane Austen novel, and a matinee concert of The Snowman(1982) where the full score was played by a live orchestra. I also attended multiple other orchestra concerts, with Halloween and spring themes.

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.

I believe that art's main role is functioning as a form of storage for our emotional experiences and our own unique backgrounds and perspectives. I view art as one of the most important things in life, because art can help guide us to stronger forms of human connection. To that end, I think the City of San Jose should do its best to preserve and encourage art, both on a public and private level, to help develop the unique sense of culture that has developed in the Bay Area.

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

I absolutely believe the City of San Jose should have an active role in cultural development. I think that encouraging more public art and murals would be a great way to do so, particularly in urban corridors and public buildings. I also think that city patronage, or at least endorsement, of public music events and even other forms of art like plays and busking would be beneficial to the community as a whole. On multiple levels I feel that it can help create a unique sense of place and a form of cultural attachment to San Jose, similar to cities like New Orleans or San Francisco, which San Jose lacks in comparison. I also believe that these forms of public art can help foster local economic activity and attachment to local areas, and form as creative outlets for people who otherwise may not have the means to pursue art.

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 Jose helps keep our shared culture and history alive, and commemorates parts of the past that otherwise would go mostly ignored in everyday life. The HLC helps achieve that purpose by recommending places to be preserved and managing already preserved sites.

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 minor experience with historic preservation, as I've studied various dying cultural arts like the shamisen, working with Bachido, an international network of musicians with operations in San Jose. I've had limited involvement with San Jose's public planning process, mostly related to my experience with housing issues, though I've worked extensively with City and public agency staff due to my prior experiences in the District 8 YCC and with Santa Clara County's YAYAA Board.

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 Youth Commission

If applicable, have you ever participated in your local District Specific Youth Advisory Council?

Yes\,

Question applies to Youth Commission

If you answered Yes to the previous question, what are some projects you worked on in your Youth Advisory Council?

I created District 8's system of filing and its process for recommending policy, and I also helped in the creation of its officer system, including how they are elected and term limits. I also volunteered with the Council many times and worked to expand the scope of services provided to homeless students in the East Side Union High School District, under the Unhoused Student Services initiative.

Question applies to Youth Commission

If applicable, have you ever participated in the Youth Commission's Special Events such as the Annual Budget Summit?

Yes

Question applies to Youth Commission

If you are not selected for your district's Commission seat, would you be interested in the Citywide Commissioner role?

Yes

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]

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