

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Aroshi

First Name

Ghosh

Last Name

Email Address

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

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?☒ Yes ☐ No**Length of Residency**☒ 6 or more years

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

☒ District 10

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95120

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Employer

Student intern with the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship program

Job Title

Current Employer Address**Current Employer of Spouse**

NA

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Spouse's Job Title

NA

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

NA

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

Demographics (Optional)

The demographic information you choose to provide is **VOLUNTARY** and **OPTIONAL**. This information will be kept separate from your application and will not be used for evaluating applications or making appointments. The City of San José will use this information to solely conduct research and compile statistical reports regarding the composition of its Board and Commission applicants.

Question applies to multiple boards

Ethnicity

Question applies to multiple boards

To which gender identity do you most identify?

Interests & Experiences

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

1. Leland High School: San Jose, CA. Sophomore student with Unweighted GPA: 3.95; Weighted GPA: 4.03. Currently enrolled and expected graduation date: 2022. 2. Monterey Peninsula Community College: Monterey, CA Took class on Introduction to Java (CS10A) for additional high school credits Summer 2018 3. Los Angeles Computing Circle: LA, CA (<https://sites.google.com/site/computingcircle/home>) Selected by the outreach program through an application process for a one month, tuition free class at UCLA Engineering. Summer 2019 4. AI4ALL UC Berkeley and BAIR Lab: Berkeley, CA. (<http://ai-4-all.org/berkeley/>) Selected by the outreach program through an application process. This program is in partnership with BAIR Labs at UC Berkeley and is a 5 day, no tuition course. My project was on Disaster Relief and uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) to process text messages during natural disasters and sort them using binary classification. It utilizes various types of machine learning models (Logistic Regression, Neural Networks) to classify the messages. Project team included high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. Summer 2019

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

NA. I have included details of my work and volunteer experience later in the application.

Languages Spoken

English, Bengali, Hindi, French

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

1. Received 2020 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Bay Area Regional Affiliate "Winner" Award. Also, received the 2019 National "Certificate of distinction" from NCWIT Aspirations in Computing. The awardees are chosen for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post-secondary education. (Profile information: <https://www.aspirations.org/user/127447/>) 2. Finalist at Coast Forensic League Tournament in Speech and Debate. Advanced to State Qualifiers in 2019 and 2020. 3. Placed twice at 3rd place in Santa Clara University Speech Invitational in 2019. 4. FTC Team 8404 Quixiliver (Team awards) 2019 - 1st Place Control Award at World Championships in Houston - 9th rank in World Championships 2020 -14th rank in the World. -1st rank in California -Tournament Champions in NorCal Regionals - Qualified for World Championships in 2020 (Tournament cancelled due to corona virus) 5. Presidential Volunteer Service Award Gold Level in 2018 - Volunteer hours: 162 hours

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

I would like to become a member of the Youth Commission to learn about how to participate in the political process and influence public policy. I am particularly interested in outreach efforts to reduce the digital divide in our community and encourage diversity and inclusion in STEM fields. I am also interested in advocating for conservation efforts for environment sustainability. Additionally, I would like to partner with school districts and communities for education initiatives to reach young people and encourage youth participation in the political process. Furthermore, I am concerned about the homeless situation and would like to promote affordable housing, especially to benefit the city's youth community.

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

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

NA

Reference 1 Name

Dr. Arijit Das [REDACTED]

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Mr. Kevin Tibbs [REDACTED]

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

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

1. Student intern for the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship (SEAP) program at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, CA. Project: Working to develop a data analysis platform to enable the retention of military aircraft maintainers and ensure the unit's mission readiness by identifying operational efficiency and optimizing performance evaluations. This is a virtual summer internship due to the coronavirus shutdown. Mentors: Arijit Das and Tony Kendall April 2020 to August 2020 2. Founder of STEM outreach initiative called "AI Spectra: Artificial Intelligence and the diverse spectrum of its applications" Launched a series of structured interactive workshops to spark an interest in Artificial Intelligence(AI) and its applications across disciplines like art, environment, music, and fashion. The aim of the outreach is to help young women explore careers at the cross-section of the sciences and the humanities. Created online learning modules and videos to reach a virtual audience in partnership with non-profit organization LITAS for girls that aims to inspire middle school girls to pursue careers in STEM. Jan 2020 to current 3. Speaker at Climate Action Summit, San Francisco, CA. Selected by the AI4ALL non-profit organization as a speaker in the Climate Action Summit hosted at the Microsoft Reactor. Spoke about how AI can help solve the Climate Crisis by explaining personal research on using Natural Language Processing to help with disaster relief. Hosted a workshop to teach the basics of Artificial Intelligence, including how to create a simple Neural Network to classify the Iris Dataset. Participated in a hackathon and worked with several designers and data scientists to pitch an app design to change our view on trash by gamifying and encouraging people to clean up the streets of our neighborhoods. Here is the link to the blog post on the talk: <https://medium.com/ai4allorg/exploring-ai-tools-to-tackle-climate-change-722c7b185519>. February 2, 2020 4. Writer and Editor of "Student Spectator" Online Magazine A short magazine detailing various social issues that affect the youth population. From policy to gaming, art to technology, there is something for everyone. (<https://medium.com/student-spectator>) 5. Volunteer Intern at the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA), Monterey, CA. Volunteered 136 hours. Duties included astronomical research, scanning of Schmidt plates taken in Chicago and Chile, preparing models of stellar atmospheres for the chemical determination of stars, plotting variable star data taken with the MIRA telescope, and training a new volunteer on the exacting requirements for astronomical plate scanning. June 6 to August 9, 2018 6. STEM outreach initiatives with the FTC 8404 Quixilver Robotics team in Leland High School, San Jose, CA. Planned and organized Python, Java, Scratch and Lego Robotics Workshops at the Almaden Community Center. Planned boot camps for rookie FTC teams. Contacted School District Officials to help start robotics teams in low socio-economic status (SES) schools within San Jose Unified District. Helped run tryout challenges for the 2018 season to find new recruits. Mentored FLL robotics teams. 2017 to current 7. Student mentor for Speech and Debate with the Leland High School, San Jose, CA. Mentored middle school students from Bret Harte for duo interpretation and thematic interpretation events. 2018 to current 8. Peer Tutor at Leland High School, San Jose, CA. Mentored and taught students in high school Math, Science, French, Computer Science, and History. 2019 to current 9. National Honor Society (NHS) at Leland High School, San Jose, CA Volunteered at various events (marathons, festivals). 2019 to current

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

I am a tech enthusiast and am passionate about identifying technology solutions to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. I was recently selected by the AI4ALL non-profit organization as a speaker in the Climate Action Summit hosted at the Microsoft Reactor on February 2, 2020, in San Francisco. I spoke about how AI can help solve the Climate Crisis by explaining my research on using Natural Language Processing to help with disaster relief. I also hosted a workshop to teach the basics of Artificial Intelligence, including how to create a simple Neural Network to classify the Iris Dataset. I also participated in a hackathon and worked with several designers and data scientists to pitch an app design to help change our view on trash by gamifying to encourage people to clean up the streets of our neighborhoods. Here is the link to the blog post on my talk: <https://medium.com/ai4allorg/exploring-ai-tools-to-tackle-climate-change-722c7b185519>. As the founder of the AI Spectra outreach initiative, I have created a series of interactive, virtual workshops to introduce the basic concepts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and generate an awareness of how AI skills can be transferred into other disciplines like art, fashion, music, language, etc. so that young women are more aware and open to using STEM and CS skills in their careers. In these workshops, I also discuss the ethical implications of using AI in different fields and help create hands-on mini projects using coding skills learned in the program. I feel that young people should play an active role in public life and help to shape policies because they are likely to be most impacted in the future by the decisions of the present. That is why I believe that developing communication skills and an understanding of issues facing the community is as important as technical skills. Therefore, I want to be a part of the San Jose City's Youth Commission to help bridge the socio-economic gap in technology and provide resources and mentorship. I also enjoy blogging about contemporary issues facing students and youth, as the writer and editor of "Student Spectator" online magazine. (<https://medium.com/student-spectator>)

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

In my opinion, the top three issues that matter to young people in San Jose are the following: (i) Community access to technology irrespective of the socio-economic status of individuals so that we can reduce the digital divide. Despite being located in the technological hub of Silicon valley, the youth of San Jose still have different levels of access to resources and programs that increase their understanding of technology. Nearly 100,000 residents lack broadband access and while the city is actively promoting initiatives to reduce the gap through dedicated funding and partnerships with school districts and libraries, we can always do more, so that San Jose emerges as a role model city to promote digital equity. I feel that this is an extremely important issue to enable our youth to have meaningful careers and well paying jobs in the new economy, provide access to services and community engagement that is increasingly shifting online, and also prevent dislocation of people from their city in the future. A student's academic success, college admission, and career potential are all linked to their digital access. Having reliable internet, computers, or even cell-phones to complete school work can be challenging for some people and this has become even more obvious with the schools shutting down due to the Coronavirus situation. As part of the Youth Commission and a tech enthusiast, I would like to initiate and encourage outreach programs to serve people in my community so that everyone has a level playing field. (ii) Environment advocacy to reduce the impact of climate change - As a high school student, I am the voice of young people today, who have begun to understand the serious repercussions of climate change. Growing up I had heard about global warming and its destructive impact on the earth and the future of humanity. However, for the longest time, it had never registered as an issue that would hit close to home and appeared to be a cause that only scientists or environmentalists would examine with complicated graphs and pictures. Recently, I could not help but notice the frequency with which natural disasters are becoming prevalent all across the globe, so much so that their magnitude sometimes exceeds all imagination. Even at a community level, we can feel its impact with the drought situation in California. I feel the city plays a significant role in advocating for conservation efforts to save endangered species, prevent flooding in creekside communities, and overall outreach efforts to educate young people on climate change. Recently, the Almaden Lake Initiative to re-purpose the mercury-laden water by building a levee to separate the Alamos Creek from the lake caught my attention. I appreciated the efforts to engage the community on this project, which resulted in improving water circulation in the lake and helped to stabilize the habitat for local wildlife, especially the steelhead fish. As a Youth Commissioner for the city, I hope to be involved in more outreach programs to engage the community in environmental sustainability and identify technology driven solutions to help with conservation efforts. (iii) Increase youth participation in the political processes and civic life I find that many young people are indifferent to public life and policy because they are ignorant about how it may impact them in real life. I feel strongly about having a voice in shaping policy so that I can influence issues that are important to my community. For example, I am passionate about the idea of using technology like Artificial Intelligence to devise solutions that may help solve some of the most fundamental challenges facing humanity today. But I realize that unless we encourage diversity and inclusion in STEM, all technology will be biased and will cater to only certain sections of our community. Similarly, as a young person, I feel that public transportation is immensely important to travel to work, volunteering activities, and community events. However, I would like to see an expansion in the public transportation network and clean air transportation options available. However, unless I engage in defining such policy initiatives, I will just have to rely on politicians, who may not take these issues seriously. I feel that to reach young voters, we must connect with them at their level through voices of people like me, host social events with music, art, volunteer opportunities, and try to reach them through digital media.

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

I feel that the priorities of the Youth Commission should be identified on the basis of their long term impact on the community, especially the young people of the city. (i) I feel that encouraging outreach programs to increase awareness of new technology and promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields is important for the primary city in Silicon valley to ensure that the local economy and the community continues to thrive. (ii) We must encourage environment conservation programs to combat the climate crisis. (iii) To ensure that we continue to live in a beautiful city with a vibrant cultural life, we must also contribute to beautification projects and social events that would promote the arts and encourage young people to showcase their skills and engage with the community.

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

As the Founder of AI Spectra, a STEM initiative to encourage young women to explore careers at the intersection of STEM and humanities, I have been involved in applying for grants to fund my outreach efforts. I have developed curriculum, online learning modules, and presentations for virtual audiences. I have partnered with non-profit organizations like LITAS for girls to encourage diversity and inclusion in STEM fields. I work as the Marketing and Scouting lead for the FTC 8404 Quixilver Robotics team and help to integrate projects and assignments between the various functional groups, manage external communication to companies and sponsors through emails, and promote workshops on social media. I also teach programming and Computer Aided Design (CAD) to younger members of the team to ensure team sustainability. I also act as the team liaison between our mentor and various members for conflict resolution. Additionally, I have created and run numerous programming workshops and set up robotics classes at schools that were low on funding, opportunities and overall student motivation.

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

I feel that the following skills and experience qualify me to be a Youth Commissioner for San Jose: (i) Leadership and initiative - As the founder of AI Spectra outreach initiative, I have organized various workshops to promote STEM and provide mentorship to students. However when the pandemic forced many schools to shut down, I took the initiative to create additional virtual resources such as videos and online learning modules because I realized that many students would not be able to continue learning at schools and other on-site programs. Additionally, as part of the leadership on my robotics team, I have learned how to conduct various meetings to determine the best paths forward for the team, and thus helped lead the team to two Worlds Championships in a row. It is also part of my responsibility to communicate with other robotics teams to form finalist alliances at tournaments, as well as maintain ongoing relationships with such teams for future scrimmages. (ii) Communication to generate consensus and public speaking - I believe it is important to make your voice heard because it is the only way that people can have a say in policies that affect their life. As part of the nationally ranked Leland Speech and Debate team, I have won numerous finalist awards for my speeches related to mental health issues in students and human trafficking in California, at various Speech and Debate tournaments. Additionally, I have been chosen to speak about my research on disaster relief at various events such as the Climate Action Summit and Salesforce Analytics in San Francisco. Furthermore, I maintain an on-going blog to talk about different social issues or activities that pertain to our city's youth. (iii) Technical skills to identify solutions using technology - I have a lot of experience running outreach programs and workshops to promote causes that are important to my community like diversity and inclusion in STEM fields and work hard to get things done. Additionally, I have done research with several UC Berkeley students on how to sort disaster relief aid messages automatically. Furthermore, I am currently working as a virtual intern at the Naval Postgraduate School to create an automated system to improve fleet readiness. (iv) Community engagement - In 8th grade, I started volunteering at the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy where i would perform different tasks such as plotting variable star data or maintaining the equipment for one of their high powered telescopes. I volunteered 136 hours over the summer break, earning me the Presidential Service Award (Gold). I also continue to volunteer at different schools such as Bachrodt Elementary to teach basic robotics. (v) Passion for public life and the desire to learn from community leaders - I have always wanted to make a difference in my community, to help benefit all the people who may not be as privileged. I hope to learn from people around me to see how we can improve everyone's lifestyle, and I believe that by being on the youth commission will help me learn from our current community leaders and speakers. GitHub Link to Projects: <https://github.com/yoshighosh>

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Youth Commission helps with policy recommendations concerning the well being of youth in the city of San Jose. It is also designed to support young people who serve their community through civic engagement and participation. The Youth Commission deals with issues like safety, health, environment, education, and housing that impact the young people of San Jose.

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

I feel that the following issues are impactful and important given the current situation: 1. The economic fallout from shutting down borders and non essential services will be hard to overcome. Many small business are going bankrupt and won't be able to re open even after the pandemic ends. Additionally, workers are being laid-off from their jobs as employers cannot afford to continue paying everyone, which in turn will result in an increase in the unemployment rate. 2. Since many people are out of work, they currently have no income. People everywhere are losing their homes as they can no longer afford to pay rent or bills. Creating more affordable housing or devising other housing solutions for our workers will help the working class get back on their feet and back to work. 3. Bridging the educational and technological divide among young people is especially important as many schools have shutdown completely and not all students will have adequate access to technology to attend online classes. Without proper resources, these education of these students will suffer and they will eventually end up contributing to the unemployment rate.

I would like to say . . .

.... that I am very excited to be considered for this opportunity, and be the voice of young people in San Jose. I feel that my interests, skills, and experience in the field of public speaking, debate, and technology will help me to serve my community on the Youth Commission.

(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 *