

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Paula
First Name

Escobar
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

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

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

None Selected

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

District 8

[Redacted]
Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95135
Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

Home:
Alternate Phone

N/A
Employer

N/A
Job Title

Current Employer Address

N/A

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

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

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

[REDACTED]

Demographics (Optional)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interests & Experiences

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

Upcoming junior at Evergreen Valley High School

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

East Side Union High School District Student Governing Board — Member April 2019 - Present Evergreen Valley High School Girl Up — Treasurer August 2019-Present Elemental Health — Teen Advisory Board June 2020 - Present Evergreen Valley High School Latinx Student Union— Public Relations August 2018 - Present Evergreen Valley National Honor Society- Member October 2019 - Present City Team — Volunteer July 2018 - Present San Jose Public Library — Homework Club Tutor November 2019- Present

Languages Spoken

English, Spanish

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

-Chaboya Middle School Class of 2018 Leadership Award -East Side Union High School District Latino Student Award -Jose Valdes Math Institute Scholarship -Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Youth Fellow -Hispanic National Bar Fund Scholar

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.

-Mental Health resources -Sexual violence and domestic abuse resources for youth, especially among the Covid-19 pandemic -Equitable access to wifi -Addressing racism

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 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.

Reference 1 Name

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

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

Since 2018, I have competed on my school's varsity debate team and acted as an administrative assistant, where I gained comprehensive knowledge on global issues. I have served in other analogous positions that have honed in the value of representation particularly being a member of the Latino Student Union and Latino Student Parent Coalition. Bringing me closer to my heritage, I have both found and begun to foster a community in my high school that was once hidden. This Latinx community has welcomed me with open arms and together we are striving to create pride in where we come from and the traditions that we hold despite the fear of rejection. As a member of the Student Governing Board, I represent my school, provide unique student input to district affairs, and advise our district Board of Trustees on student policies. This experience has engrained the value of integrating students' voices in addressing the issues confronted by a diverse student population while also emphasizing the need to speak up for what you believe in.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Because of my role as an East Side Union student governing board member, I have seen how a coalition of student voices brought attention toward undercovered issues and allowed the development of change through policy making. I believe that youth have an intrinsic ability to activate change and initiate discussion towards causes they are passionate about. However, many feel suppressed and isolated from communities they are actively trying to be part of. Catalyzing change starts with embracing ourselves, our identities and our individual capacity. Because of these reasons, I am passionate about creating a space to amplify youth voices. It builds a foundation within my community that invests dedication to underrepresented voices embracing people as they are. Because of these reasons, addressing underrepresentation in youth voices would be a large and impactful interest. Growing up, this is something I never had access to, and I don't want this to be an issue for future generations to have.

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

Recently, many at my high school have come forward as victims of sexual assault. Despite their bravery for speaking up, others were quick to scrutinize, shame, and blame them. As someone who has faced harassment and experienced domestic abuse, I understand how difficult it is to seek help and build up courage to tell someone. It is extremely frustrating to see the harmful and disgusting actions of assaulters being brushed off and normalized. For these reasons, I hope to raise awareness of this issue occurring to youth all over San Jose and provide them with resources. Whether its resource guides or accessible sex education, the district 8 youth advisory council can implement change and take measures to stop sexual assault. With stress and anxiety eroding the thoughts of teen in our community, those who struggle with mental health feel as if they are drowning. It is important to provide these people with an avenue of hope; whether its free social services or creating info graphics to raise awareness, we can reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. Connecting youth with the help they need is an essential step towards achieving equitable resource access. In a diverse community like East Side San Jose, it is important to dismantle systemic racism and address prejudice. Growing up in an immigrant, single-parent home, this has always been something I have struggled with personally. So many times I have felt that there is no room for my voice and that I do not matter, but coming into high school, I have found new hope. Racism continues to plague our community; it is our responsibility to take a stance and represent the different backgrounds of our communities. Collaborating with grassroots organizations who are on the frontlines will allow us to reach new heights and inform the youth. We can fund new programs and community groups that promote enrichment and celebrate unique identities. Whether it is an arts cultural center that focuses on youth activism or a music show that displays the breadth of talent in the community, using these activities to promote involvement will help build community and embrace diversity.

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

For the upcoming year, the priorities of the youth commission should aim to be inclusive, especially with the presence of covid-19. In order to increase the outreach of the board, the commission will increase its social media presence, continue holding consistent meetings, and hold more events. For example, promoting meetings through e-flyers and hosting webinars will bring more attention towards our events, while maintaining community engagement. Maintaining an Instagram page will allow us to maintain direct contact with other youth in our community, while also easily channeling announcements. Publishing meeting and promoting meetings will allow brainstorming sessions to bring intersectional viewpoints, thus creating a foundation for change to occur.

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.

This past year, the San Jose District 8 Youth Advisory Council has allowed me to connect with other youth by organizing events, brainstorming ideas, and initiating policy change. For example, our youth advisory council volunteered at the District 8 Fall Fair, cultivating a recreational space and showcasing our capabilities. With this event, we were able to increase attendance at meetings while also connecting with parents. Brainstorming sessions within meetings involved organization of hygiene kits, movie night organization, mental health seminars, and using 3-D printing towards innovative initiatives. Acting as a member of the East Side Union Student Governing Board, I represent my peers by providing unique student input to district affairs and advising our Board of Trustees. During discussions, I have actively exercised communication skills by advocating for equity in academic resources and increased accessibility to mental health services. Together, the student coalition was able to stop budget cuts within our district, in turn maintaining the presence of counselors, activities directors, and librarians across school sites.

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).

Since I joined the District 8 youth commission in June of 2019, I have become more familiar with the process of policy making and apply unique perspectives to issues affecting youth. These experiences have allowed me to understand the functions of the board and understand the importance of addressing inequities within our community. My position as treasurer for the local Girl-up chapter, I managed finances and organized fundraisers with local businesses. This skill will make me an important asset to the advisory council, as I can utilize my business connections when coordinating for events. Acting as a public relations officer for Latinx Student Student Union and a treasurer for Girl Up, I have assisted in managing documents on programs such as Google Sheets and have organized fundraisers for school-wide functions dedicated to cultivating an inclusive campus. These roles have shown me the importance of investing in programs and events towards embracing intersectional identities while highlighting diversity. Being a volunteer for the San Jose Public Library has allowed me to improve my communication skills and interact with the next generation. Thus, my experiences with public policy and passion towards addressing youth-centered affairs make me a perfect candidate for this position.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

As District 8 Youth Advisory Council member, it is my duty to channel youth voices and ensure representation of my peers. To create an inclusive and involved community, the commission is also responsible for curating events towards youth. From movie nights to assembling care packages, the commission unites adolescents across the city and sets precedent for positive change to occur. Adolescents deserve to be heard and the commission is responsible to uphold the hopes and dreams of the next generation.

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

-Mental Health resources -Sexual violence and domestic abuse resources for youth, especially among the Covid-19 pandemic -Equitable access to wifi

I would like to say . . .

The unequivocal support from the district 8 community has inspired me to overcome barriers, promote inclusivity, and challenge prejudice. I hope to carry forward these influences and look forward to the upcoming year with the council!

(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 *

PAULA ESCOBAR

ABOUT

Paula Escobar is a strong believer in addressing underrepresentation and aims to foster platforms for youth oriented change in her community.

ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

East Side Union High School District Student Governing Board — *Member*

April 2019 - Present

- Represent class of 2022 at ESUHSD meetings and district study sessions
- Collaborate with Board of Trustees to create student-oriented policies
- Discuss district-wide issues with governing board representatives from other schools in order to produce sustainable solutions
- Hold meetings with EVHS cultural clubs to ensure equitable representation of student voices

Evergreen Valley High School Girl Up — *Treasurer*

August 2019-Present

- Organize fundraisers and events towards positively impacting the lives of women around the world
- Manage club budget and project annual expenditures with use of Google Sheets
- Host feminine hygiene product drives to support locals women's shelters
- Plan annual D&A social project, an initiative dedicated toward amplifying student voices

Elemental Health — *Teen Advisory Board*

June 2020 - Present

- Reinvent mental health experience through development of app curated to teens
- Constructively market to ensure increased accessibility and outreach
- Curate authentic content relating about mental fitness to connect and engage users

San Jose District 8 Youth Advisory Council — *Board Representative*

July 2019 - Present

- Advise City Council staff in policies affecting youth, such as adolescent sex education and accessibility to internet
- Attend council meetings to participate in discussions and surveys regarding undercovered affairs
- Program and volunteer at workshops aimed to increase teen involvement in public policy

Evergreen Valley High School Latinx Student Union— *Public Relations*

August 2018 - Present

- Promoted inclusivity and diversity among campus through hosting events celebrating Hispanic culture
- Served on Latino Student-Parent Coalition to advance community engagement
- Improved outreach through marketing on social media with e-flyers

Evergreen Valley National Honor Society- *Member*

October 2019 - Present

- Selected based on scholarship, leadership, service, and character
- Contribute to community-based projects by tutoring students in spanish and math

VOLUNTEER HISTORY

City Team — *Volunteer*

July 2018 - Present

- Helping people in poverty through serving meals
- Provide resources through management of donations and hygiene kits

San Jose Public Library — *Homework Club Tutor*

November 2019- Present

- Assist elementary school students with their homework
- Lead engaging activities to promote academic development of elementary school students

EDUCATION

Evergreen Valley High School

2018-Present

Graduation Year: 2022

Chaboya Middle School

2016-2018