

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Debora Ow
First Name 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?

Senior Citizens 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 7

[Redacted] Suite or Apt
Street Address
San Jose CA 95136
City State Postal Code

[Redacted] Alternate Phone
Primary Phone
NA N/A
Employer 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.

I am single. The assumption that I am married seems a bit antiquated.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Interests & Experiences

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

Oakland Technical High School graduated 1971 University of California, Berkeley Business Major with Accounting specialty, Graduated 1975 California State University, East Bay, Finance Major Graduated 1990

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

Treasurer of the El Camino Real District United Methodist Women, 2019-present

Languages Spoken

English

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

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 be a member of this commission to aid the city in providing safe, affordable and accessible housing and activities for seniors. I see a need for this as many seniors are isolated and may need assistance with obtaining services. We also want to make our city safe for seniors walking and attending activities in San Jose.

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

I am a member of the San Jose Advocacy Team of AARP in San Jose. I was employed as the Finance Manager for Masonic Homes of California of Union City for 4 years and was involved with many aspects of care for seniors at the independent, assisted and skilled nursing levels. I aided the residents with their financial affairs as well as applications for Social Security and VA benefits.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

██████████. San Jose, CA 95136

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

Reference 1 Name

Fred Buzo, Assoc. State Director AARP

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Soledad Martinez, Exec. Director, Masonic Homes of CA

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

I have not served on any City Board. I have served on various committees and boards at my church and with the United Methodist Women.

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

I am a recently retired senior. My last job was at Masonic Homes of California in Union City as the Finance Manager for 4 years. This retirement home has the three levels of care; independent, assisted and skilled nursing. In this position I interacted with residents on a daily basis and developed an understanding of their physical and emotional needs. As well as working with the finances of the home, I assisted various residents with their personal finances and participated in many social activities provided to the residents. I also served on the Operations Committee of the home. This Committee was involved in all aspects of operations.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding of the Commission is that it will be advisory to the City Council regarding actions which may affect the elderly of our community.

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

1) Traffic Safety 2) Public Transportation 3) Affordable Housing

Question applies to Senior Citizens Commission

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

Older adults often live on a fixed income. Rising rents can cause evictions of older adults who have few options for housing. The commission's role could be to advise the City Council on the affect of rent control enactment that would limit rent increases. Also, seniors often travel by public transportation. The impact of reductions to these services often affect seniors disproportionately. The commission could work with the staff and report these impacts.

Question applies to Senior Citizens Commission

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

I became the Finance Manager of Masonic Homes 5 years ago in 2016. I supervised 4 people in that position and was responsible for reporting financial results for the home. These included accounts payable transactions, general ledger account reconciliations, and analysis of variances to budget.

Question applies to Senior Citizens Commission

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

I think that listening first is important. If you don't know why someone has a certain opinion then you can't judge the validity of it. I would also keep an open mind since I do not have a lot of experience in government and I would certainly want to learn as much as I can. I would also ask clarifying questions. If I did disagree, I would state my views clearly and give reasons why. Hopefully we could come to some compromise position that will still be helpful.

Question applies to Senior Citizens Commission

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

I have lived in San Jose for 8 years. I am a senior. I am retired. I have worked in the field of Senior Care for 4 years. I am not an expert but I do have this experience. I have empathy for people that are in need.

I would like to say . . .

That I do care about people. As people age, many seniors feel that their identities are taken away from them because they no longer work and are not physically able to do the things they enjoy. Much of our society only values the amount of money we have or our physical abilities. All people have value, even those who live in nursing homes and cannot provide for their own living. I have known many people in this situation and empathize with them. We must consider their needs even though they often cannot speak for themselves.

(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 *

Debora Ow

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

John

First Name

Callison

Last Name

Email Address

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No**Length of Residency**

☒ 6 or more years

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

☒ District 6

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95128

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Workday

Employer

Sr. Manager technology sourcing
(Global)

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

☒ [REDACTED]

Interests & Experiences

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

Went to school in Illinois (University of Illinois Chicago), have Certifications in Project management, Business Continuity, Sourcing, Finance, etc. Negotiate contracts for a living Owner of a Craft Vodka, and Founder of a 66,000 member strong adult costuming group advocating inclusion, artistic / creative talent, and public outreach/charity for customer enthusiasts aged 30-90 Have led many events for different Comicons or the vodka Company

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

US Army (Cav Scout) and then A Military Intelligence Role same branch of service

Languages Spoken

German, English, Spanish (L1 for spanish)

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

Many Military awards, Costuming awards, work related awards (can go into details) but too many to list out.

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.

ARTS - From my first experience with theater and art in my early teens to my present life I have always felt the arts were an inspirational and uplifting way to bring happiness to most cultures. Almost every culture in history has used some type of art (music dance, painting, theater, etc) to tell the story of their people, convey feelings and ideas, bring various personality types and mindsets to the same or similar conclusions etc. You can have a bike gang member, a society debutante, and a person suffering from dementia all inspired by the same piece of music or same wall art downtown. Additionally, being able to find new artists in every genre from all over San Jose and get them the support they need to grow and expand in their work could really make a difference in both for the individual and their communities. been to almost every venue in my district and quite a few throughout the city. Love so much of what we have in San Jose and would like to be a part of the SJ Arts Community

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

ARTS - I have hosted many events, with local artist (music, dance, theater, both as a Vodka Company owner and with the charity events we've sponsored through cosplay and appreciate the huge value this brings to any event. I Have a deep appreciation for the amount of time and energy the artists and their production companies or art house go through to make the spectacle the consumer sees a reality from the vision the artist had.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Rent. in Santana Row

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.

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

Joseph La Jeunesse

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Joe Minafra

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Current District 6 commissioner parks and rec active participant and community member (former) Board of Owners for Marz Vodka (decision maker for planning, spend, events, marketing direction) etc. monthly board meetings Board of Directors for Over30cosplay we meet regularly to discuss events, conventions, panels, speaking engagements, marketing opportunities and how best to serve our community Sourcing in Telecommunications Leaders board

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

ARTS I was approved for the arts board for district 6 but the previous seat holder decided to reapply last minute and was granted role So at some point a few months ago was considered appropriate for the role already.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

ARTS To review art acquisitions, programs, public art related projects, and grant arts related applications from different cultural groups. I'd Recommend levels of funding for my district to the City Council. And serves as the advocate for the arts and for beautification of the environment to the Council and the Staff. Additionally I would serve as the liaison between the City's arts programs, programs of adjacent communities, the state and the nation, and arts organizations. Basically San Jose governments representative to the different art venues and programs in the city and conversely the advocate for those programs and venues back to the city. My role would "not" be the final decision make but rather the adviser to the final decision makers (City Council)

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

ARTS - Cultural Diversity in Types of Art the city has to offer being shown in web searches Amount of Art related events shown on City search sites (Often FaceBook has more events for the city then the city does) Coviid and how to make arts events virtual (have created and / or participated in many Virtual events this year Public awareness of san jose's amazing number or arts venues and the variety by type those venues host. If asking someone on the street in from of the spaghetti factory downtown to name more then one venue that host live theater most people don't seem to be able to communicate this which means the general resident doesn't know its available. Since there are numerous levels and varieties or arts available in the city there is literally something for everyone but the message is not getting out there. (messaging and or branding)

Question applies to Arts Commission

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?

Helped manage the 2016 Festival of Globe featuring multinational artists 8 san jose improv shows (love comedy) Children's Musical Theater San Jose 2 shows Friends kids were performing Children's Museum San Jose (i'm a donor and have attended many night time events) TheatreWorks Silicon Valley saw around the world in 80 days :-) Willow Glen Wine Walk _ many additional theater events since first application San Diego Comicon Virtual comicon@home panel lead and participant break out session lead Wondercon Virtual panel lead and participant LA comicon Virtual panel lead and participant Babylon5 Virtual Panel and Event Coordinator in support of actress Patricia Tallman

Question applies to Arts Commission

Describe the ways in which you believe the arts bring value to the general community.

Music and art have always been inspiring and have often been the tool for change in local communities. With the turbulent times and strife related to current world and federal politics many people are looking for something to bring a little joy and happiness to their world. Art, Theater, Music, comedy, magic, dance, etc all are ways to accomplish this. Additionally many people are looking for ways to improve their own lives and thier own art forms can be the path that they take to better lives. Constantly finding, promoting, and bringing new artists into our community creates both an venue for the public to enjoy and a vehicle for advancement for the aspiring artist.

Question applies to Arts Commission

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

Depends on the definition of Active. It is my understanding that often City Government is not involved with an Arts commission to remove the political influence from the Art world. If the role envisioned is supportive and nurturing without a political bent then yes Local government should support their local cultural communities. But it should be very hand off and let careful to maintain a politics free environment.

Question applies to Arts Commission

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

By connecting with local community cultural leaders, identifying what works, doesn't work what the community needs and wants and developing ways to meet these requests that both benefit the artists and the public. Reviewing policies and programs for ways to improve them or if they are already successful utilize them in ways that might better meet the needs of the community. In some cases i'm sure I'll just be keeping certain areas going in the successful ways they have been in the past in other cases I can bring new insight and or experience to programs to improve their reach Helping create virtual Content

I would like to say . . .

ARTS - It would be an honor truly an honor to take on this role for the City I live in and in an area that most inspires and impacts the joy in my life. Who can't watch an amazing theater event, or hear music that touches the soul, see dance moves that blow the mind or art work by a child on a local street that moves you to tears of the plight of his community and NOT be INSPIRED and AWED. We live in despairing times, Art of any type brings hope, joy, passion, and creativity to our community. It needs a balanced home in San Jose benefiting both the city and its people and the art and the artists.

(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 *