

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*

Minerva
First Name

Sarellano
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

[Redacted]
Street Address

[Redacted]
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?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?

Arts Commission: Submitted

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Employer

Director

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

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

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

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.

I graduated from Independence High School in 2000 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Adolescent Development from San José State University in 2007. My studies have given me a strong understanding of how children and families learn and engage, which informs my belief that the arts are essential for development, creativity, and community connection. Through my experience in high school drama and college music appreciation, I developed an appreciation for the performing arts and their cultural significance. This background allows me to bring a child development and community-focused perspective to the Arts Commission, particularly in supporting accessible and meaningful arts opportunities for children and families in San José.

Minerva Sarellano

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 currently work at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, where I focus on supporting early childhood development and strengthening family engagement across diverse communities. I also serve on the Board of Parents Helping Parents, where I contribute to governance, outreach, and ensuring resources are accessible to families of children with diverse needs. Additionally, my current experience on the Arts Commission has provided me with valuable insight into public art, cultural programming, and the role of the arts in community building. Together, these roles have strengthened my ability to collaborate across sectors, advocate for equity and inclusion, and support initiatives that make the arts accessible and meaningful for all residents of San José, especially children and families.

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.

I bring strong skills in community outreach, family engagement, and cross-sector collaboration, with a focus on ensuring programs are inclusive and accessible to diverse communities. Through my work with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and Parents Helping Parents, I have experience coordinating events, engaging families, and building partnerships with community organizations and public agencies. I also have experience in leadership and governance, including contributing to strategic planning and decision-making. Additionally, my background includes organizing large-scale community events and working within public systems, which has strengthened my ability to support equitable access to resources, including arts and cultural opportunities for children and families in San José.

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 reappointment to the Arts Commission to continue deepening my understanding of the City's arts and cultural offerings while actively working to expand access and equity, particularly in District 2. My goal is to help ensure that our community is more intentionally included in San José's arts programming by bringing forward ideas for public art, performances, and partnerships with schools and local organizations that reflect the diversity of our residents. I am especially committed to advocating for inclusive, accessible opportunities that engage people 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_CH2.08BOBU to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

Not applicable. The Arts Commission does not have special eligibility seats, and I am applying for a District-based appointment.

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.

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

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Trena Hudson

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.

I am actively involved in my community through both my professional and volunteer roles. I work at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, where I support early childhood development and family engagement across diverse communities. I serve on the Board of Parents Helping Parents, contributing to governance and outreach efforts that support families of children with diverse needs. I am also involved at my children's school as a parent leader, where I help organize community events and support family engagement initiatives. In addition, I currently serve on the City of San José Arts Commission, where I contribute to advancing arts and cultural opportunities across the city. Through these roles, I remain deeply committed to strengthening community connections and expanding access to resources and opportunities for families.

Minerva Sarellano

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests are deeply rooted in expanding access to the arts and using arts and culture as a way to strengthen connection, identity, and belonging within our communities. I am passionate about ensuring that all residents, especially children and families in underserved areas, have meaningful opportunities to experience, participate in, and see themselves reflected in the arts. I am particularly interested in creating inclusive, community-centered arts experiences through public art, performances, and partnerships with schools and local organizations. I believe the arts are a powerful tool for bringing people together, celebrating diversity, and building vibrant, connected communities across San José.

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. Additionally, my service on the City of San José Arts Commission has provided me with experience in public sector governance, including reviewing cultural initiatives, supporting public art efforts, and contributing to discussions that shape arts and cultural policy. Together, these experiences have given me a strong foundation in how boards and commissions function, the importance of collaboration, and how to balance community needs with organizational goals, while upholding a commitment to inclusive representation and public service.

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 strong commitment to the arts that qualify me for this appointment. As a Director at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County in the Early Learning and Care Department, I co-chair community engagement efforts as part of strategic planning and collaborate with partners such as the Children's Discovery Museum on cultural initiatives. I also serve as Governance Co-Chair on the Board of Parents Helping Parents, where I contribute to policy oversight, accountability, and collaborative decision-making. In addition, my current service on the San José Arts Commission has provided me with direct experience in public art, cultural programming, and city processes. As a parent leader at my children's elementary school, I have supported the expansion of arts programming, and through my personal involvement in performing arts and cultural events, I bring a deep appreciation for the role of the arts in reflecting and connecting diverse communities. These combined experiences equip me with the knowledge, skills, and perspective to support inclusive, community-centered arts initiatives across San José.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding is that the purpose of a commission is to advise city officials, guide policies and programs, and ensure that community needs and perspectives are represented in decision-making. Commissions provide subject matter insight, help oversee initiatives, and engage residents to promote awareness and participation. Specifically, the Arts Commission plays a key role in supporting and advocating for the arts, providing recommendations on arts-related policies and programs, and helping ensure that all communities in San José have equitable access to cultural and artistic opportunities.

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

Three key issues I believe the City Council should address include expanding access to arts and cultural programs, particularly in underserved areas like District 2, to ensure all residents—including individuals with disabilities—can participate in inclusive and culturally relevant experiences. Additionally, increasing equitable access to community resources and family supports, especially for children and working families, is critical to strengthening overall community well-being. Lastly, investing in safe, welcoming public spaces and community-driven programming can help foster connection, belonging, and engagement across diverse neighborhoods in San José. 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.

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?

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.

Question applies to Arts Commission

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 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.

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

I have direct experience working with governmental agencies through my role at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, a public entity funded through California tobacco tax revenues, where I collaborate with county and state partners to support early childhood programs and community initiatives. In this role, I engage in cross-sector partnerships, contribute to strategic planning efforts, and help ensure accountability in the use of public funds. Additionally, my current service on the San José Arts Commission has provided me with firsthand experience in city governance, including working within public processes, reviewing programs and policies, and collaborating with city staff and fellow commissioners. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of how governmental systems operate and how to effectively represent community needs within public decision-making spaces.

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

I have been actively involved in public policy and advocacy efforts, particularly through organizing and participating in lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Sacramento, where I met directly with legislators to advocate for policies supporting children, families, and early learning. In these efforts, I often took on the role of speaking with representatives, sharing community perspectives, and elevating the needs of our most vulnerable populations. Through my work at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and my broader advocacy efforts, I have also helped organize families and community members to engage in policy discussions and amplify their voices. My advocacy experience began earlier in my career while directing after-school programs, where I worked to ensure programs were responsive to community needs and aligned with broader education and youth development priorities. These experiences have strengthened my ability to navigate public systems, communicate effectively with policymakers, and advocate for equitable, community-informed solutions.

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

Within the last five years, I have taken on several leadership roles that reflect my commitment to community and public service. As a Director of early learning efforts in Santa Clara County, I partner with a wide range of organizations and represent FIRST 5 Santa Clara County at the local, regional, and state levels. I serve on the Board of Parents Helping Parents, where I contribute to governance and strategic direction, and I am currently the PFA (PTA) President at my children’s school, leading family engagement and school community initiatives. I was also recently elected as Secretary of my neighborhood association, further expanding my role in community leadership. In addition, I serve on the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s Local Planning Council, where I co-lead the Workforce Committee. Through these roles, I have developed strong skills in collaboration, leadership, and community-centered decision-making across multiple systems.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I have always had a deep passion for the arts and the way they enrich and connect our communities. One of my favorite places is the San José is History Park, where I enjoy learning about our city’s history and the preservation of its historic sites. I am inspired by opportunities to bring communities together through music, art, food, and cultural traditions, creating shared experiences that strengthen our neighborhoods. The arts are also a meaningful part of my family’s life, my children and I actively participate in performing arts through folklórico, Polynesian, and Latin dance, which further fuels my commitment to expanding access to arts and cultural opportunities across San José.

(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*

Rebecca

First Name

Porda

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

[Redacted]

Street Address

[Redacted]

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

Mobile: [Redacted]

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Archived

IHSS
Employer

Home Care
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

Current Employer of Spouse

Great America

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[Redacted]

Spouse's Job Title

Carpenter

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

[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.

Silver Creek High School- Diploma Evergreen college - general ed./police academy Bryman College - Medical Asst. Latino Business Foundation- Certificate

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

Community advocate Outreach/ Resource leader for the Blessed Side Church President of Women's Outreach at New Mission

Languages Spoken

English & Spanish

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

•Santa Clara University- Advocacy, Community Building, & Small Business • Congressional Recognition from Congress woman Zoe Lofgren •Certificate of Commendation from Supervisor Otto Lee/ Latino Business Foundation •County of Santa Clara- Policy, Advocacy, Leadership in Action program / Latina Coalition •Certificate of Recognition from Domingo Candelas D8

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.

I would want to become a member to help with my experiences in the arts & community relations. To be apart of that bridge that unites community & government. To ensure that the arts doesn't die and is kept alive for future generations. To let the next generation know that they are important by keeping culture alive & each individual is unique in their own way. Every life matters.

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

I have worked closely with councilman Peter Ortiz D5, Domingo Candelas D8, & SJPD Chief Todd Trayer. I've helped organize & put together events for the community in both districts.

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 multiple boards

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.

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

Domingo Candelas

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

district8@sanjoseca.gov

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Shelene Huey- Booker

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

If applicable, 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

Rebecca Porda

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

In serving on a board I've contributed to the organization, making a difference in the community or industry by being an influence and making decisions that affect the organization's performance & direction.

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.

City Year of San Jose Latino Business Foundation SV Pala(Policy. Advocacy, Leadership in Action)Latina Coalition

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding is that commissions typically hold public meetings where they discuss issues, gather information, and make recommendations. They gather information on topics, specific issues or policies. They are a bridge between the community & the government.

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

Community Engagement Homelessness/ Mental health Affordable Housing

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?

Berryessa Arts Festival Viva CalleSJ Paint in the Park D8

Question applies to Arts Commission

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

I believe that arts adds value to our communities. Especially because San Jose is a big city with a lot of cultural diversity. It's important for economic growth, community well-being, and individual development. It plays an important role in education, improving skills, and promotes understanding between different groups.

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?

Yes, in the way that arts and culture provide a common ground for diverse individuals to connect and share experiences, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Public art, murals, and well-lit areas attract people to downtown areas and can improve the overall quality of life in a community. Understanding different cultures would help bring a diverse community together.

Question applies to Arts Commission

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

Arts was an important subject for me in high school. It help me express myself through art & improve my academics. Arts helps individuals develop valuable skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration, which are highly sought after in the workforce & it also helps with mental health. It's a form of therapy.

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 helps to protect the unique cultural and historical character of a place, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and understand the stories and traditions embedded in these resources. We can protect buildings & artifacts that hold historical & cultural significance.

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've volunteered with park clean ups. Planted trees, did liter street clean ups for D5 & D8.

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 *

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

De Anna
First Name

Mcneal Mirzadegan
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

[Redacted]
Street Address

[Redacted]
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?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple> *

District 6

Mobile: [Redacted]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Submitted

McNeal Enterprises, Inc
Employer

Owner / President
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

Current Employer of Spouse

GB Coffees

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[Redacted]

Spouse's Job Title

Owner

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.

Archbishop Mitty High School Class of 87 San Jose State class of 93 B.S. in Business Finance

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.

Willow Glen Neighborhood Association President since 2021, term ends 12/31/2024 Board member since 2019 City Wide Mural Panel May 2024 West Valley Soccer Manager 2007-2012

Languages Spoken

English, un poco espanol

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

Outstanding Volunteer Recognition from Susan Ellenberg County Supervisor in 2023 As President of Willow Glen Neighborhood Association received many community service awards from Dave Cortese, State Senator, Matt Mahan, Mayor, Cindy Chavez & Susan Ellenberg in 2023 and 2024

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 highly interested in the arts and beautifying San Jose. This commission would allow me to explore both interests. I would like to volunteer in a capacity that would help San Jose as a whole as my focus for the last five years has been Willow Glen. My objective as a commission member would be to help expand the arts throughout San Jose and make it reachable by all San Jose residents regardless of income or demographics. As a child I lived and went to school in the Seven Trees Oak Grove SD area and would love to be involved in project in that area as well as my own D6. I have also volunteered on arts projects within district 9.

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 arts experience include installation of nine art boxes in Willow Glen. I personally solicited artist applications and selected the box artists and submitted it to SJ Beautify for approval. Two of the criteria for the last six art boxes were that it contain a Willow Tree in some form as homage to our neighborhood and that preferably the artist resided within Willow Glen. I wanted a Willow Glen artist for Willow Glen as it is fosters community spirit and engagement. I also think it is important for the art to align with the character of the neighborhood. For example, I was inspired by the Egyptian themed art boxes in front of the Rosicrucian Museum. I conceived and developed the idea of the art boxes and the kindness garden at Wallenberg Park. I also managed all the neighborhood beautification projects listed here: https://www.wgna.net/neighborhood_beautification_projects I also curate art at our coffee shop, Great Bear Coffee in Los Gatos. I rotate artists monthly. I have such high interest that my schedules are booked a year in advance. To see some of the artists I have hosted, visit <https://gbcoffees.com/art/> I am also a developing watercolor artist and taking classes through West Valley College, Stanford Continuing Ed, and private instructors.

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

Pierluigi Oliverio

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Mitchell Ehrlich

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.

I am currently an arts commissioner for district 6 as well as a board member for Willow Glen Neighborhood Association. I attend neighborhood meetings throughout district 6 to provide support and education on working with the city and doing public arts projects.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My interest in the community is to uplift the community through creativity, beautification, and the spirit of volunteerism. Rooted in the belief that art has the power to inspire connection and transformation, I strive to make our neighborhoods brighter and more vibrant through public art projects, community events, and service initiatives.

De Anna Mcneal Mirzadegan

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 currently the D6 arts commissioner. This past year has been spent in collaboration and education of the city's public arts programs. I have been very involved. I was invited and now sit on the executive and public arts subcommittees for the F/Y 2025-2026. I also assisted with the Cornerstone of the Arts awards and have sat on grant panels. Previously I had spent the last five years on the board of Willow Glen Neighborhood Association. When I joined the organization, it was grossly mismanaged, in a deficit, and not compliant with any city, state, or federal reporting requirements. I led the organization in removing board members, filing all required reporting, and having our nonprofit status reinstated. Since then, I have led the organization from a deficit to having 15-20 thousand dollars at any given time. In 2021, as we were coming out of Covid, I led the board in establishing our first annual National Night Out event at Bramhall Park. We now have over 600 people attend each year. https://www.wgna.net/past_events. In 2023, I led the organization's 50th Anniversary Party which was attended by the Mayor, Senator Cortes, Council Members, Board of Supervisors as well as some of the founding members of WGNA. It was a fabulous celebration, and we were awarded with numerous certificates of appreciation and volunteerism.

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.

In addition to my experience on the WGNA board, I have ran a very successful manufacturing company in San Jose since 2001, McNeal Enterprises, Inc, www.mcneal.com. We are one of the few manufacturers left in the Bay Area. As president of this company, I have a wide breadth of knowledge in human resources, finances, compliance, sales, infrastructure, technology, as well as specific industry knowledge. I led the company in buying a building in San Jose in 1999 as well as moving us from Santa Clara. I also manage two property management companies, AMG Ringwood and Mirzadegan Management which owns multiple properties in Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County. I am also developing watercolor artist branching out to other mediums including colored pencils. I have shown my work at West Valley College and at Great Bear Coffee. I have a great love of the arts and have studied art history. I am well travelled and have visited many of the finest museums in the United States and the world.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding is that this commission advises the City Council on policies and programs that impact the city's arts and cultural life as well as voting on grants, arts projects, and recommending approval of OCA objectives.

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

* Financial accountability is one of the largest issues facing the city. Even with possible budget cuts, I believe that the arts are vital to the residents and city as a whole. Responsible, equitable, and cost effective projects are vital. * City vibrancy is a very important issue within San Jose. Projects which will help San Jose attract tourists, employers, and add to the overall beauty of San Jose are greatly needed. * Expanding (arts) education for all and especially low income areas of San Jose and within schools

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?

First Friday Artwalk: Love viewing exhibits, various styles of artist's work. Murals: Murals add so much vibrancy and character to the city. San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles: I am also quilter and am inspired by the talent and beauty of quiltmakers and quilts. Open artist studios: I enjoy riding my bike to the open artist studios and enjoying the wide variety of arts within our community. Viva Calle - wonderful event that my husband and I enjoy tremendously. It fosters community spirit and is a great way to explore the city.

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 the arts enrich communities by encouraging creativity, enhancing cultural understanding, and promoting social cohesion. It can provide a platform for diverse voices to express themselves. It encourages dialogue and collaboration among different groups, which can lead to increased empathy and reduced polarization. Art also spur local economies through tourism and job creation. The revitalization of public spaces results in a more vibrant and inviting community. Additionally, participation in arts activities has been linked to improved mental health and well-being.

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

Cities should have active roles in promoting and encouraging the arts throughout its communities. By investing in the arts, the city can enhance public spaces, support local artists and organizations, and improve access to cultural programs for its residents. I believe its primary role should be sponsoring art installations, exhibits, and revitalization and beautification of public spaces.

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

I can contribute to the cultural development of San Jose in a myriad of ways. I am well versed in engaging in community forums, public meetings, and policy makers. I would share insights as well as gather feedback from residents to ensure that diverse perspectives are represented. I would focus on promoting awareness and building coalitions with other community members to build support for cultural initiatives and influence policy decisions.

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 have not been active in the San Jose historic preservation groups, but my understanding is that one of the purposes is to protect the city's heritage by maintaining the character, culture, and history of neighborhoods, landmarks, buildings, architecture within San Jose. The Historic Landmarks Commission reviews, advises, and makes recommendations to City Council regarding making designations of historic landmarks, buildings, neighborhoods, and districts. They also have the authority to list properties on the Historic Resources Inventory without requiring Council approval.

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 not worked on historic preservation projects, but have varied experience working with San Jose's public planning process, the city, and public agency staff in my professional duties in property management and development, managing a manufacturing company within the city, and as a board member of Willow Glen Neighborhood Association.

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?

I have not been involved in the library or early care issues, but am an avid user of libraries.

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.

I have served on the arts commission for the past year. I also frequently work with US as well as international government agencies within my career.

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?

Soon after joining the arts commission, I became engaged in the Backesto Mural controversy. This project was a huge learning experience for me. In general, I support the community and believe that the city should and does work for the community as a whole. Community input in projects is vital and the city should give serious consideration to both opposition and support for projects. In my opinion, Backesto was not managed as well as it could have and should serve as an opportunity for improvement within the city processes and outreach.

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

As president of WGNA, I was involved with public policy issues regarding Mayor Mahan's plan for the unhoused and managed encampments. This issue was vitriolic. As a board, we voted to support the mayor's plan. My philosophy is work on issues in a positive way and compromise when needed.

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

A major issue facing San Jose's older adults is affordability. The arts commission as little role in this issue. However, the arts commission does have a role in engaging with our older community and getting them involved. Community involvement is immensely beneficial to the health and wellness of older adults.

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

I have had many leadership roles within the last five years, primarily as an owner and president of businesses and president of WGNA.

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

I am not familiar with the Senior Commission meetings, but differences of opinions at any commission meeting should be respected. We are a diverse city, differences of opinions should be expected. We must assure that opinions are vocalized in a respectful manner and bullying and berating is not tolerated.

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

I dont think I am especially knowledgeable about senior issues in the community but am interested in learning more about them in respect to public arts.

Anything else you would like us to know?

As President of Willow Glen Neighborhood Association my focus has been to positively impact the community through education as well as art and garden beautification projects. It is very important to me to contribute to my community in a positive and meaningful way. I am guided by the beliefs of positivity, compromise, and incremental change are the key to success. Please see my Linked In profile at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/de-anna-mirzadegan-699a6b3/>

(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]

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Submitted

Local Color

Employer

Deputy Director

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.

I have degrees in Art History and Studio Arts from San Francisco State University and De Anza College. My education provided me with a strong foundation in cultural theory, civic design, and the social role of art in public life. My studies in Art History taught me to analyze how institutions shape narratives and identities, while my training in Studio Arts focused on process, collaboration, and practical implementation. In 2023, I was nominated and attended the Young American Leadership Program at the Harvard School of Business. Together, these disciplines enable me to assess public art proposals, cultural planning efforts, and policy decisions with both critical rigor and creative sensitivity.

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 currently serve as the Deputy Director at Local Color, a nonprofit organization in San José dedicated to transforming underutilized spaces into vibrant cultural hubs and supporting artists through fiscal sponsorship and professional development. In this role, I co-lead a team of twelve, manage financial systems and public grants, and cultivate partnerships with city departments, funders, and community stakeholders. My experience includes close collaboration with municipal agencies on funding agreements, permitting processes, public programming, and compliance requirements. I have successfully overseen the redistribution of over \$800,000 in grants through our fiscal sponsorship program, empowering numerous community-led projects. Additionally, I have secured multi-year public funding, which has given me a comprehensive understanding of budgeting processes, funding mechanisms, and the operational realities that cultural organizations face. This background equips me with the skills and insights necessary to contribute meaningfully to the commission, ensuring that our initiatives reflect the needs and aspirations of the San José community.

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 combine operational discipline with relational leadership, striking a balance between fiscal responsibility and community input. - Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement - Policy Analysis and Memo Writing - Development of Cross-Sector Partnerships - Board Governance and Strategic Planning - Facilitation of Public Meetings and Difficult Conversations - Data-Driven Decision-Making - Evaluation of Public Art and Cultural Programming

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 would like to continue serving on the Arts Commission because I believe that arts and culture are vital components of our community infrastructure. My goals include: 1. Supporting the designation and strengthening of Local Cultural Districts to enhance and establish creative identities within neighborhoods. 2. Contributing to the update of the City's Cultural Plan to ensure it reflects current economic and community realities. 3. Reviewing and improving funding mechanisms for the arts. This includes advocating for a Private Percent for the Arts policy and Recommendation 11, which suggests establishing a baseline of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funding allocated to the General Fund. This would ensure that new growth can support the Office of Cultural Affairs, Visit San José, and the maintenance of cultural centers.

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.

Local Color is a 501(c)3 arts nonprofit in San José. Historically Local Color has participated in RFQs and is a recipient of the Operating Grant reviewed by the Arts Commission. In these situations, I would be prepared to disclose a potential conflict of interest and recuse myself/abstain as a decision-maker in that occurrence.

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

Amanda Rawson

Reference 1 Address

San José

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Jonathon Borca

Reference 2 Address

San José

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

Deputy Director, Local Color (employer since 2019) District 8 Representative, San José Arts Commission (since September 2025) Volunteer with the San Jose Arts Advocates (since 2023) I am a lifelong resident of San Jose and a community collaborator on public cultural events and neighborhood activations

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

I have a sincere interest in how public spaces, the arts, and civic infrastructure come together to foster a sense of belonging. My work focuses on expanding equitable creative opportunities, supporting small and mid-sized cultural organizations, and ensuring that policy decisions reflect the experiences of diverse communities. I am committed to intergenerational engagement, promoting economic mobility for creatives, and enhancing cultural vitality at the neighborhood level.

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.

Since September 2025, I have been the District 8 representative on the Arts Commission. I have attended every meeting and participated in numerous public events in an official capacity. I actively share updates with my community and ensure that relevant District 8 cultural activities are brought to public meetings. I take this role seriously, committed to diligence, transparency, and public accountability.

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 experience in nonprofit leadership, public grant management, community facilitation, and cross-sector collaboration positions me as a strong candidate for this role. I understand how City policies influence funding, public programs, and economic growth. Additionally, I have personal and professional experience navigating systems that impact artists, families, and small organizations. As Deputy Director of Local Color, I gain experience managing charitable funds, creating equitable processes, supporting local creatives, and engaging with development events and artist-in-residence spaces. My previous roles in the arts—including internships at MACLA and Southern Exposure—have enhanced my project management skills and my ability to communicate compassionately with diverse groups. Recently, I participated in the 9th cohort of SVCcreates SVMindshare, which deepened my understanding of leadership and the current arts and culture landscape in Santa Clara County. Being a native of San Jose, I have actively built and expanded my social connections across the city, meeting various artists and stakeholders. This has given me a unique perspective and a thorough understanding of San Jose's diverse and vibrant arts community.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The City of San José Arts Commission plays a crucial role in supporting the arts and cultural activities in the city. Their purpose includes advocating for the development and implementation of policies and programs that foster a diverse and vibrant arts community, budgeting funds for grants to artists and organizations, and promoting public art and cultural events. Additionally, the Arts Commission serves as a liaison between the public and the City Council by providing reports, recommendations, and presentations on current challenges or successes experienced in the arts community in San José.

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

Designating and supporting Local Cultural Districts to take advantage of the new AB812 State legislation that can improve affordability for the creative workforce Updating and implementing the City's Cultural Plan with an overlay of the state-defined priorities to ensure a healthy Creative Economy/Workforce. Establishing sustainable funding mechanisms for arts and culture, including TOT baseline protections and exploring a Private Percent for the Arts policy.

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?

On average, I attend one or more events each week in San Jose. I often have a personal connection with the organizer, or the events feature art and music, both essential to my joy and to my embracing life to the fullest by feeling connected to my local community. Café y Cumbi at Mezcal (community cultural gathering) Reels & Records Exhibition at Noble Workshop & Gallery (local artist showcase) Sonic Loveway by Opera San José (innovative performance experience) SJ2026 Public Events at San Pedro Square (civic activation events) Hapa's Creekside Block Party with San José Jazz (neighborhood music celebration)

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.

The arts play a vital role in enriching the community by promoting social cohesion, economic vitality, and a shared civic identity. They foster mental health and well-being, provide platforms for dialogue, and act as catalysts for tourism and small business growth. The arts create spaces where diverse voices can be heard, helping to build understanding and empathy among community members. By showcasing local talent and culture, the arts also enhance San José's unique identity, attracting visitors and residents alike. The City of San José should take an active role in arts and cultural development by investing in public art initiatives, maintaining and enhancing cultural facilities, and supporting local artists and arts organizations. This includes integrating the arts into broader community and economic development strategies. The creative economy has a reciprocal effect; increased attendance at cultural events boosts local businesses and contributes to the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). Furthermore, when residents engage in meaningful artistic activities, they are more likely to invest in their community, fostering a sense of belonging and pride.

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

The City of San José should actively promote arts and cultural growth. By increasing funding for arts, it can make cultural programs accessible to all residents, especially marginalized communities that have long been underrepresented. The city can also foster partnerships among artists, community groups, and local businesses—big and small—to develop collaborative projects that enrich the cultural landscape. Arts and culture go beyond popular murals and sculptures; they include events that shape our community and showcase San José's diverse population. With nearly every culture worldwide represented in our city, this diversity should be celebrated and reflected in public spaces through both permanent artworks and impactful temporary events.

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

I am eager to engage in ongoing discussions and help develop policies and programs that benefit everyone. I believe these efforts can significantly contribute to the cultural development of San José and ensure that the city's vibrant cultural scene continues to flourish. I can assist the City Council in advising on cultural development policies and programs by utilizing my extensive experience in arts administration, community engagement, and policy advocacy. My position on the San José Arts Commission has already provided me with valuable insights into the local arts landscape and the needs of artists and cultural organizations. I excel at building collaborative relationships with diverse stakeholders, including city officials, community leaders, and arts organizations, which is crucial for fostering a unified approach to cultural development. Additionally, I can help the Council formulate policies that prioritize equity and inclusion in arts funding and programming. My expertise in systems-building and partnership development enables me to work collaboratively to identify innovative solutions to the challenges facing the arts community. By actively engaging with community members and gathering their input, I can ensure that the City's cultural policies reflect the voices and aspirations of San José residents. Through these contributions, I aim to help San José cultivate a thriving arts ecosystem that benefits the entire community.

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 safeguards collective memory, architectural heritage, and community identity. The Historic Landmarks Commission ensures that preservation decisions balance development needs with stewardship responsibilities. Preservation contributes to cultural continuity.

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.

In my work, I have activated underused spaces and coordinated with City staff to navigate permitting, land use, and cultural facility management. I understand the importance of working alongside planning staff and community stakeholders. Although I haven't participated directly in formal historic preservation projects, I am a strong advocate for preserving San José's cultural and architectural heritage. I stay informed on preservation issues through the Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*JJ), regularly reviewing their updates, newsletters, and public meeting reports. My arts leadership work often aligns with preservation principles—highlighting local history, respecting cultural stories, and amplifying community voices in place-based initiatives. I believe my skills in building partnerships, managing public processes, and advocating for community interests will enable me to contribute effectively to the Commission, supporting informed, equity-centered decisions on historic preservation in San José.

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?

In 2020, I collaborated with parents and educators to launch Loco Recess at Local Color, aiming to bring joy to the community. Since then, the program has developed into a recurring summer initiative called Color Me Rad, which has received support from the California Arts Council and SVCCreates. Nearly 100 students have participated in this program, and each cohort provides valuable insights into the challenges and resilience of local youth.

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.

I have collaborated closely with the City of San José and served as a grant panelist for the California Arts Council, with a focus on grant compliance, reporting, public events, and cultural initiatives. I have a solid understanding of procurement processes, reporting timelines, and public accountability standards. Through Local Color, I have partnered with the Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs (OEDCA) to oversee the Climate Art and Resilience cohort. My responsibilities included managing the selection process, administering funds, and organizing public events.

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?

I would begin by listening actively and acknowledging concerns. I would ensure that all voices feel heard before clarifying the staff proposal and its intent. I believe in transparent communication, shared fact-finding, and identifying common ground. My facilitation training emphasizes empathy and de-escalation.

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

I have been involved in advocating for operating support funding for cultural organizations, public art investments, and equitable distribution of cultural resources. My role has included co-drafting recommendations, providing public comment, and coordinating cross-sector input through volunteer coalitions.

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

Social isolation and access to services are significant issues affecting older adults. The Senior Commission advises on accessible programming, community spaces, and culturally relevant services that foster dignity and connection.

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

As Deputy Director, I co-lead strategic planning, supervise department leads, and manage cross-functional initiatives.

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

I encourage respectful dialogue, clarify shared goals, and focus discussions on evidence-based solutions. I believe that differences can strengthen outcomes when approached with patience and clarity.

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Through community engagement and public programming, I have collaborated with multigenerational audiences and have come to appreciate the importance of accessible programming, transportation, and culturally relevant engagement for older adults. My parents, who raised me and still live in San Jose, are aging and becoming more involved in the senior community. My father has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and recently retired. My personal experiences have shaped my understanding and empathy regarding the challenges faced by the senior community.

Anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for considering my application. I approach public service with humility, preparation, and a commitment to long-term stewardship. I believe that San José's future relies on thoughtful, inclusive, and economically sustainable policy decisions. I would be honored to continue contributing to this important work by serving a full term on the Arts Commission. My goal is to join one of the two Arts Commission subcommittees in the upcoming fiscal year.

(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]

[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*

Shelby
First Name

Taketa
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

[Redacted]
Street Address

[Redacted]
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: [Redacted]
Primary Phone

Home: [Redacted]
Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Submitted

Self/Contract

Employer

Consultant

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.

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.

My educational background provides both a strategic and practical foundation that directly supports my work on the Arts Commission. California Polytechnic University's "Learn by Doing" philosophy has been a guiding principle throughout my career and civic service. Over the past three years on the Commission, I have applied this mindset by actively engaging in the complexities of public art policy, grantmaking, and governance. I recognize that it takes time to fully understand the breadth of programs, stakeholders, and regulatory frameworks, and I am committed to building on this experience with each term to contribute more effectively and thoughtfully. My studies in marketing, along with executive education at Columbia University in digital marketing, customer engagement, and analytics, inform my ability to think strategically about audience development, community engagement, and how the arts are communicated and experienced in a modern context. This perspective is especially valuable as the City continues to evolve how it connects with diverse communities. Additionally, my coursework in clothing and textiles has contributed to my appreciation for craft, design, and artistic expression across disciplines. I also believe that continued education is essential to effective leadership. I am currently expanding my knowledge in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, with a focus on how innovation can support the arts through increased accessibility, new forms of storytelling, and operational efficiency. Bringing this forward-looking perspective helps ensure that San José remains both culturally vibrant and positioned as a leader in innovation. Overall, my education—combined with hands-on Commission experience and a commitment to ongoing learning—enables me to contribute with both practical insight and a future-oriented mindset.

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.

My professional experience reflects a leadership approach grounded in strategy, execution, and creative problem-solving across both nonprofit and private sectors. At Mission Minded, I lead complex digital and organizational initiatives for mission-driven clients, requiring clear direction, cross-functional coordination, and accountability across multiple stakeholders. I bring a structured approach to advancing projects from concept through implementation, ensuring alignment with broader organizational goals and measurable outcomes. I have led and contributed to projects for organizations such as Season of Sharing, UWC-USA, and Aquarium of the Bay, supporting initiatives that span community impact, fundraising, and social and environmental engagement. I am also currently involved in early-stage work with TokuOru, contributing to beta development efforts in partnership with CDCR. These experiences have strengthened my ability to navigate complex systems, work across sectors, and support initiatives that serve diverse populations. In addition, my work as a stylist consultant for Silicon Valley executives has provided a unique perspective on identity, communication, and the role of creative expression in leadership. This experience has enhanced my ability to build trust, listen deeply, and translate vision into thoughtful, human-centered outcomes. Across all roles, I lead with a balance of strategic thinking and practical execution, bringing clarity, collaboration, and forward momentum to the work. I am comfortable operating in complex environments and contributing to decisions that require both creativity and accountability. Overall, my employment history equips me to contribute as a thoughtful, solutions-oriented leader in support of the Arts Commission's mission.

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.

* Strategic planning and program development * Stakeholder engagement and community outreach * Cross-functional leadership and facilitation * Project and process management * Budget awareness and resource prioritization * Public-private partnership development * Marketing, communications, and audience engagement * Digital strategy, accessibility, and content systems * Creative direction and cultural programming insight * Policy awareness and governance processes * Conflict navigation and consensus-building Emerging technology awareness, including AI and its applications for arts and community engagement

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 reappointment to continue building on the experience, relationships, and institutional knowledge I have developed during my time on the Arts Commission. Over the past several years, I have gained a deeper understanding of the City's cultural landscape, governance processes, and the complexities involved in advancing arts initiatives. I recognize that meaningful progress—particularly in areas such as policy development, funding strategies, and community trust—requires time, consistency, and sustained engagement. With the Commission now nearing full membership, there is a strong opportunity to build momentum and work more cohesively toward shared goals. My objective is to help strengthen the long-term sustainability and impact of the arts in San José. This includes supporting strategies that stabilize and grow funding, advancing thoughtful policy solutions such as a percent-for-art program, and working closely with the Office of Cultural Affairs and community partners to maximize outcomes with available resources. I am also committed to fostering collaboration, clarity, and accountability within the Commission, while continuing to elevate the role of arts and culture as essential to the city's identity, economic vitality, and community wellbeing. Having developed both perspective and context through my service, I am motivated to continue contributing in a more informed and effective way—helping move initiatives forward with intention and follow-through. At its core, my belief remains that the arts are fundamental to a thriving community, and I am committed to ensuring they are supported, valued, and accessible in San José.

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 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

Christina Donley

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Gunita Nagpaul

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

My community involvement spans nonprofit organizations, arts advocacy, and grassroots community-building efforts. I serve as an Advisory Board Member for Awaken Society, supporting an organization focused on empowering women through personal growth and community impact. I have also been actively involved with ArtSpan as a Co-Host Committee Member and ongoing supporter, helping to elevate local artists and expand public access to the arts. Additionally, I have participated as a community member and volunteer with Mama Hope, supporting initiatives centered on global storytelling and dignity. I am also engaged in creative community spaces, including my involvement with Disco Space Shuttle, a Burning Man camp that produces music and technology-driven fundraising events while highlighting local artists, including those from Treasure Island. Locally, I support youth development through the San José Zebra Youth Foundation, which provides opportunities for young athletes in the Asian and Pacific Islander community. As a former Division I athlete, and through my family's scholarship in honor of my father, I remain committed to mentorship, representation, and community support. In addition, I recently started a neighborhood gathering called Golden Ladies, which brings together women from diverse political, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. The intention is to foster connection at a local level—creating space for dialogue, understanding, and community-building by first coming together as neighbors. Overall, my involvement reflects a commitment to building inclusive, connected, and culturally vibrant communities at both the organizational and grassroots levels.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests center on strengthening connection, cultural vibrancy, and inclusive engagement across San José. I am deeply invested in supporting the arts as a catalyst for community identity, economic vitality, and shared experiences, while also fostering spaces where diverse perspectives can come together. This includes both formal efforts through arts and nonprofit initiatives, as well as grassroots community-building, such as creating opportunities for neighbors to connect across different backgrounds. I am particularly interested in how culture, creativity, and innovation intersect to shape a more connected, forward-thinking city where all communities feel represented and engaged.

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.

Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of serving on the San José Arts Commission, including my recent role as Chair of the Public Art Committee and now Chair of the Arts Commission. Through these roles, I have developed a deep understanding of the City's cultural ecosystem, governance processes, and the importance of balancing artistic vision with public accountability. My experience includes reviewing and approving public art projects, participating in grant panels, helping guide policy discussions, and working closely with City staff, fellow commissioners, and community stakeholders. I have also been actively involved in navigating complex and sometimes sensitive community conversations, ensuring that processes remain transparent, equitable, and aligned with City protocols. As Chair, I have focused on strengthening collaboration, improving communication, and fostering a productive and respectful environment for commissioners and staff. I've contributed to onboarding improvements, including refining orientation materials and helping establish guiding principles for commission success. Prior to my service with the City, I also advised the Awaken Society Board on strategic rebranding efforts to support both B2B and B2C revenue growth, which strengthened my ability to think strategically across mission-driven organizations. Overall, my commission experience reflects a blend of civic leadership, strategic thinking, and a strong commitment to advancing arts and culture as a vital part of San José's identity and community wellbeing.

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 reflect a blend of strategic, creative, and operational experience across the nonprofit, civic, and private sectors. Through my work at Mission Minded, I lead digital and brand initiatives for mission-driven organizations, with a focus on website strategy, audience engagement, accessibility, and content systems. This work has deepened my understanding of how organizations communicate impact, reach diverse communities, and build sustainable engagement through thoughtful design and storytelling. My professional background spans integrated marketing, creative direction, and project/product management, equipping me with the ability to translate big-picture vision into actionable plans. I am particularly skilled at facilitating cross-functional collaboration, managing complex stakeholder environments, and implementing structured processes that support both creativity and accountability. I have also advised nonprofit organizations such as Awaken Society on brand and revenue strategy, supporting growth across both B2B and B2C audiences. In addition, my global experiences—including leading projects such as Fest300 (curating the world’s best festivals) and organizing international expeditions—have shaped my perspective on the arts as a powerful cultural and economic connector. I bring a strong appreciation for artistic and cultural expression, along with a forward-looking interest in how emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, can support the arts. I am actively building my knowledge in this area, with a focus on expanding access, enhancing storytelling, and helping organizations adapt to evolving digital landscapes. Overall, I offer a combination of strategic thinking, creative leadership, and a future-oriented mindset that supports the continued growth and relevance of San José’s arts and cultural community.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding of the purpose of the Commission is to advise the city council on all matters pertaining to The Arts.

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

1. Sustainable and resilient funding for the arts ecosystem: With the City’s projected budget deficit, it is more important than ever to prioritize stable and diversified funding streams for arts and culture. This includes protecting existing investments while exploring innovative models that demonstrate measurable community and economic return. 2. Establishing a percent-for-art policy for private development San José currently lacks a formal percent-for-art requirement for private development. Establishing this policy would create a sustainable, growth-aligned funding mechanism for public art—ensuring that as the city develops, investment in cultural infrastructure grows alongside it. 3. Driving greater impact through strategic alignment with the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) With limited resources, the City must focus on maximizing outcomes through stronger alignment between Council priorities, OCA, and community partners. This includes prioritizing high-impact programs, improving operational efficiency, and leveraging partnerships to extend reach and measurable outcomes.

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?

Over the past twelve months, I have attended and participated in a wide range of arts and cultural activities across San José, with a focus on experiencing the diversity of programming across districts as well as in downtown. I have attended major live music events, including performances by artists such as Keilani, Fisher and Dom Dolla, which successfully drew regional audiences and activated downtown spaces. These events reflect the growing demand for contemporary music experiences—particularly electronic music—and highlight an opportunity for San José to continue expanding its presence in this space. I have also participated in film and media arts through Cinequest, one of San José’s most prominent cultural events, which showcases the City’s role in storytelling, innovation, and creative technology. Additionally, I attended La Culture Vive at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, which celebrates cultural identity through music, dance, and community gathering. Events like this highlight the importance of culturally rooted programming and the role of the arts in honoring and uplifting the diverse communities that make up San José. As part of my role on the Arts Commission, I also contributed remarks for the Artist Exhibition in Sports at City Hall, supporting the recognition of how art intersects with major sporting events and civic identity. This experience further reinforced the importance of leveraging large-scale events to elevate local artists and cultural storytelling. In addition, I have attended various community-based events, public art activations, and cultural gatherings throughout different neighborhoods, with the intention of understanding how arts programming reaches and reflects diverse communities across the city. What continues to draw me to these activities is the breadth of artistic expression—from music and film to dance and interactive experiences—and the opportunity to see how arts and culture activate public space, bring people together, and contribute to San José’s identity. I am particularly encouraged by how major sporting events are placing San José on a global stage, and how City staff and local organizations are leveraging this momentum to create vibrant, arts-driven experiences. These efforts reinforce the importance of continuing to invest in a wide range of cultural programming that attracts both residents and visitors alike.

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.

The Arts brings people together, reflecting community values, creating innovation, and promoting interaction and understanding. It can transcend cultural barriers to help the humanities and the humanities lead to appreciation of various cultures.

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

The City of San Jose should absolutely have an active role in the arts and cultural development. The financial support and active promotion would build economic sustainability and bring much needed revenue while revitalizing communities and social cohesion. Creative expression is a key tool to cultivate a better San Jose.

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

My childhood background, work history, and world travels brings a deep sense of cross-cultural understanding and extreme interest in advising and supporting policy and programs. I am a fourth generation Bay Area Japanese-American woman with deep roots in San Jose which include my grandfather being considered the “Mayor of Japantown.” My father attended San Jose High School representing his school at CA Boy’s Town. As a child I remember going to the Big Bone game on Thanksgiving against Lincoln High School. My mother is a retired teacher but still actively involved on many on boards. I grew up in Almaden Valley at a time when neighborhoods had many cultures due to the creation of Silicon Valley. I’ve always participated in civic groups such as being President of Key Club at Leland High School to being the student representative at Bret Harte Middle school regarding Desegregation.

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?

Anything else you would like us to know?

Art is essential to the vitality of our city and the world today. In San José, we have seen how arts and culture contribute directly to economic development—attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and creating a city where people want to live, work, and gather. Building this kind of environment requires thoughtful collaboration, a willingness to balance diverse perspectives, and the understanding that meaningful progress takes time. Through my service on the Arts Commission, I have gained valuable insight into these dynamics, and I am committed to building on those learnings to help move initiatives forward in a more informed and impactful way. I am motivated to continue contributing to a San José that is culturally vibrant, economically strong, and reflective of the communities it serves.
<https://www.shelbytaketa.com> | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shelbytaketa/>

(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*

Rachel _____ Royer _____
First Name Last Name

_____ _____
Email Address

_____ _____
Street Address

_____ _____
Suite or Apt

San Jose _____
City

CA _____
State

95126 _____
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 6

Mobile: _____ _____
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Historic Landmarks Commission: Submitted

Jamestown LP

Employer

Vice President, Development
& Construction

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Palo Alto Networks

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Corporate Counsel

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.

Washingtonville High School 1992-1996 State University of New York at Albany, B.A. Urban Planning, 1996-1999 University of Pennsylvania, M.S. Historic Preservation, 2001-2003

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.

Jamestown LP, VP Development & Construction - 2023-present Lendlease, Sr. Development Manager - 2022-2023 Bauen Capital, Director of Development - 2020-2022 Hunter Properties, Director of Development - 2018-2020 Alterra Properties, Director of Project Development - 2015-2018

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.

Historic Preservation, Real Estate Development, Adaptive Reuse, community engagement

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 would like to continue to serve on the HLC to bring my knowledge of preservation policy and practice, as well as experience with real estate development to the commission.

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?nodetd=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.

Reference 1 Name

Dana Peak

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Ben Leech

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

City of San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission Girls on the Run Filoli Creekside

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Through my work and volunteer work, I am interested in making connections between people in San Jose, creating great places and activations, community clean ups, the arts and preservation activities.

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 appointed to the Philadelphia Historical Commission by the Mayor to fill the seat of a Real Estate Development Professional in 2016. I served for 2 years, until I moved to San Jose. I also was a member of the Financial Hardship Committee of the PHC. I currently serve on the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission. I was awarded the seat in 2018. I was also recently appointed to the Board of Directors at Filoli.

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 a M.S. in Historic Preservation from University of Pennsylvania and have been working in preservation, design and real estate development focusing on historic properties for over 20 years.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Commission has a responsibility to provide comments and recommendations to City Council regarding matters of historic resources and programs in San Jose.

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

Balancing demand for development with historic resources. Protecting historic resources as density increasing in the areas around those resources. Providing ways to make preserving historic resources affordable and accessible.

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

Question applies to Historic Landmarks Commission

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 maintains and enhances historic resources in the City. The Commission has a responsibility to provide comments and recommendations to City Council regarding matters of historic resources and programs in San Jose.

Question applies to Historic Landmarks 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.

I have many years of training and practical and professional experience in historic preservation. I have worked hands-on for many years to preserve historic buildings and adaptively reuse them. I was a Commissioner in Philadelphia prior to moving to San Jose. Since moving to San Jose, I have worked with city staff on projects, so am familiar with the permitting process and have served on the HLC since 2018, so am familiar with the Commission process, as well.

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

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

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

I serve as the team lead for Creekside, the area just south of the SAP Center where we have been renovating and reactivating vacant buildings and lots. I am also currently the Chair of the HLC.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I am passionate about historic preservation and would be honored to continue my service with the Historic Landmarks Commission in 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 signature area]

[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 _____ Kogura _____
 First Name 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?

Historic Landmarks Commission: Appointed

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

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

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

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

● 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

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.

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.

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

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.

[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.

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

Reference 1 Name

Tamiko Rast

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Brandy Kahlig

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Jimi Kogura

Supplemental Questions

If applicable, 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.

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.

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]

[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*

Hania _____ Garcia _____
 First Name 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?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple> *

District 10

Mobile: _____ _____
 Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

None Selected

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Library and Education Commission: Submitted

Cambrian SD

Employer

Exec. Assist and Operations

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Apple Inc

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Cupertino

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.

I earned my Master's degree in Global Environmental Studies from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan; and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Martín de Porres University in Lima, Peru.

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 have served as an ELPAC Coordinator at Cambrian School District, San Jose, California, from August 2023 to the present, coordinating state-mandated English language assessments and compliance requirements.

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.

I bring experience in education systems, community engagement, and operational coordination. I currently work in public education administration, where I support district-level educational services, curriculum logistics, compliance requirements, and coordination across multiple schools and departments. This role has given me a strong understanding of how educational programs are implemented, funded, and evaluated in practice. I have experience reviewing budgets, tracking resources, and ensuring materials and services are distributed equitably to support student learning. I am also familiar with public accountability processes, data reporting, and collaboration with educators, families, and administrators. In addition, I am deeply engaged as a parent and community member, with a strong interest in equitable access to education, literacy, and public library services. I value libraries as essential community spaces that support lifelong learning, digital access, and family engagement. I am bilingual (English/Spanish) and committed to inclusive outreach and clear communication with diverse communities.

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 appointment to the Education and Library Commission because I believe equitable access to education and libraries is essential to a strong and informed community. Through my work in public education and my experience as a parent, I understand how policy and resource decisions directly affect students and families. As a Commissioner, I would focus on strengthening literacy, school-library collaboration, and inclusive, accessible programs that meet real community 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.

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.

Administrative professional in public education, supporting district-level educational services, curriculum coordination, compliance, and cross-department collaboration across multiple schools. Experience supporting McKinney-Vento programs, including coordination related to students experiencing homelessness and housing instability, ensuring access to educational services and compliance with federal requirements. Active parent involved in school communities, supporting student learning, literacy, and family engagement initiatives. Community advocate engaged in public discussions and outreach related to education funding, school resources, and equitable access to educational opportunities. Informal volunteer support for families navigating school systems, including communication and bilingual support (English/Spanish).

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests center on equitable access to education, literacy, and public resources that support children and families. I am particularly interested in strengthening school-library partnerships, expanding early literacy and digital access programs, and ensuring support for vulnerable populations, including students experiencing housing instability. I value transparent, inclusive decision-making and believe strong libraries and educational systems are essential to building an informed, connected, and resilient community.

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.

While I have not yet served on a formal commission or board, I have extensive experience collaborating in public sector settings that require similar skills, including compliance oversight, policy implementation, and stakeholder engagement. In my role as an ELPAC Coordinator, I work closely with district leadership, state guidelines, and diverse community members to ensure programs meet both regulatory and community needs.

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 seven years of experience working in administrative and operational roles in the public sector. In my current job as an ELPAC Coordinator, I work closely with school district leaders, state agencies, and families to make sure programs meet both state rules and community needs. I earned a Master's degree in Global Environmental Studies from Sophia University in Japan and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Martín de Porres University in Peru. These studies gave me strong skills in problem-solving, project management, and working with people from different cultures. Outside of work, I have helped with school and community projects, including organizing events, fundraising, and encouraging parent involvement. Living in different countries has taught me how to adapt, listen to different viewpoints, and find solutions that work for everyone.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The purpose of the Education and Library Commission is to advise the City on policies, programs, and priorities related to public education and library services. The Commission serves as a bridge between the community, schools, and the City by identifying needs, reviewing initiatives, and making recommendations that support equitable access to learning, literacy, and information. Its role is advisory, focused on improving outcomes through collaboration, community input, and informed policy guidance.

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

Strengthening School Library and Learning Support Services Persistent Math and Academic Achievement Gaps Strengthening environmental science education

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?

Attended community arts and cultural programs at San José public libraries. Participated in school-based art shows and performances, motivated by supporting student creativity and family engagement. Attended local multicultural and neighborhood arts events highlighting diverse artists and traditions, drawn by inclusive community expression.

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.

The City of San José should play a key role by supporting equitable access to arts and cultural programming, investing in local artists and organizations, and integrating the arts into public spaces, libraries, and educational initiatives so all residents can participate and benefit.

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 about protecting the places, buildings, and neighborhoods that tell our city's story. It helps keep our history alive so future generations can see and feel the character that makes San José unique. Having lived in different countries, I've seen how preserving cultural heritage builds pride, connection, and identity for residents. As a mother raising three children here, I believe it's important for them—and all young people in our city—to grow up surrounded by the stories and places that make San José special.

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 a deep appreciation for protecting cultural heritage and community spaces, shaped by my experiences living in countries where historic preservation is central to city planning. I have participated in San José's public processes as a resident and parent, staying informed on local development projects and community initiatives that impact neighborhoods. In my professional role as an ELPAC Coordinator in the public school system, I work regularly with district leadership, state guidelines, and various stakeholders, including city and county agencies. This experience has strengthened my ability to navigate public processes, interpret policies, and collaborate effectively with government staff to meet compliance requirements and serve community needs.

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?

As a long-time resident raising three children here, I am deeply invested in San José's future. Having lived in Peru, Japan, Mexico and now the United States, I bring a global perspective along with a strong commitment to preserving the character and values of our city. My background in public service, project coordination, and cross-cultural communication allows me to work effectively with diverse groups and find balanced, thoughtful solutions. Above all, I care about creating a safe, vibrant, and welcoming community where families can thrive for generations to come.

(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*

Karanveer _____ Anand _____
First Name Last Name

_____ _____
Email Address

_____ _____
Street Address Suite or Apt

San Jose _____ CA _____ 95131 _____
City State 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 3

Home: _____ _____
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

None Selected

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Measure T Community Oversight Committee: Submitted

Question applies to Downtown Parking Board

To which position are you applying? *

Member at-large with expertise in business and/or finance

Google

Employer

Technical Manager

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

Current Employer of Spouse

Netskope

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[Redacted]

Spouse's Job Title

Data Scientist

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.

My educational background in Computer Science and Management has trained me to approach complex problems with a data-driven, analytical mindset. This training will directly assist me across the commissions I have selected: Airport Commission: Modern aviation relies heavily on complex tech systems and infrastructure. My technical education allows me to understand the data behind operational efficiency, safety protocols, and long-term tech upgrades at SJC. Measure T Oversight Committee: Reviewing a \$650M bond program requires the ability to digest highly technical engineering reports, construction timelines, and audit data. My background ensures I can read these reports critically to protect taxpayer money. Downtown Parking Board: I can apply systems-thinking to evaluate urban mobility challenges, analyzing traffic flow data and parking occupancy rates to find smart, tech-forward solutions for District 3

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.

In my role as a Technical Program Manager at Google, I specialize in leading complex, large-scale initiatives from concept to delivery. My day-to-day work involves managing cross-functional teams, analyzing dense data to make strategic decisions, assessing project risks, and holding stakeholders accountable to strict timelines and budgets. These exact skills are directly transferable to the governance and oversight required by the city's commissions. Here is how my professional background will assist me on the commissions I have selected: Airport Commission: Modern aviation hubs are massive, complex operational systems that rely heavily on logistics and emerging technology. My experience in technical program management equips me to evaluate large-scale infrastructure plans, review technology upgrade proposals, and ask the right questions to ensure Mineta San Jose Airport remains a world-class facility. Measure T Community Oversight Committee: This committee requires rigorous attention to detail to ensure \$650M in public safety and infrastructure funds are spent legally and efficiently. In my role at Google, tracking multi-million dollar portfolios, analyzing audits, and ensuring compliance are standard practices. I will bring that same level of corporate transparency and fiscal accountability to protect San Jose taxpayers. Downtown Parking Board: Optimizing a city's parking infrastructure is a data and logistics challenge. My background in analyzing metrics to solve infrastructure bottlenecks allows me to bring a fresh, 'smart-city' perspective to District 3. I can help evaluate data on traffic flow and parking occupancy to make our downtown core more accessible for small businesses and residents.

Languages Spoken

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

As a Technical Program Manager at Google, I have developed a robust set of professional skills that are directly applicable to the responsibilities of a city commissioner. My core areas of expertise include: **Data-Driven Decision Making & Metrics:** I specialize in analyzing large, complex datasets to identify trends, risks, and operational bottlenecks. This skill is critical for reviewing technical staff reports and making objective, evidence-based policy recommendations. **Budget Management & Fiscal Oversight:** I regularly manage project portfolios with significant financial scale, tracking resource allocation and ensuring that initiatives are delivered within budget and with full transparency. **Cross-Functional Leadership & Stakeholder Management:** My day-to-day work involves aligning engineering, product, legal, and operations teams toward a unified goal. I am highly skilled at finding consensus among diverse groups with competing priorities. Here is how these skills apply across my selected commissions: **Airport Commission:** I will apply my experience in large-scale operations and logistics to evaluate master plans and tech infrastructure proposals, ensuring Mineta San Jose Airport operates at peak efficiency. **Measure T Community Oversight Committee:** My expertise in financial tracking, risk assessment, and program compliance will allow me to act as a rigorous fiscal watchdog for the \$650M public safety bond. **Downtown Parking Board:** I will use data analysis to look at parking utilization rates and traffic patterns, bringing a metrics-focused approach to improving accessibility in District 3

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 resident of District 3 and a professional in the tech sector, I want to apply my background in large-scale program management to give back to the city that I call home. San Jose has provided me with incredible professional opportunities, and I want to ensure our city government operates with the same level of data-driven efficiency, transparency, and forward-thinking innovation that defines Silicon Valley. If appointed, here are the specific objectives I would work toward for each commission: **1. Airport Commission Objective A: Data-Driven Operational Efficiency.** I will work to ensure that SJC leverages the best available predictive data and smart-logistics to streamline passenger flow, minimize wait times, and optimize airport vendor operations. **Objective B: Balanced Growth.** I will advocate for modernization and expansion projects that support San Jose's economic engine while strictly monitoring the environmental and noise impacts on the surrounding District 3 and residential communities. **2. Measure T Community Oversight Committee Objective A: Strict Fiscal Accountability.** Drawing from my experience managing multi-million dollar portfolios at Google, I will meticulously review bond expenditures to ensure that every dollar of the \$650M is spent exactly as voters intended on disaster preparedness and infrastructure. **Objective B: Public Transparency.** I will work to translate dense, technical audit reports into clear, digestible scoreboards so that regular San Jose residents can easily see the status of public safety projects in their neighborhoods. **3. Downtown Parking Board Objective A: Smart-City Parking Solutions.** Living in District 3, I experience our parking challenges daily. I want to work toward integrating smart-parking technologies (such as real-time occupancy sensors and app-based guidance) to reduce traffic congestion and circling. **Objective B: Supporting Small Business Recovery.** I will work with city staff and local merchants to evaluate flexible parking rate structures that encourage foot traffic and support downtown restaurants and small businesses.

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.

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

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.

I am an active resident of San Jose who believes in the 'back to basics' approach of improving our city through direct action. My community involvement includes: BeautifySJ Park Clean-ups with Mayor Matt Mahan: I have participated in the Mayor's neighborhood clean-up series, including litter and debris removal at [mention a specific park, e.g., Guadalupe River Park]. Working alongside Mayor Mahan and the PRNS team has given me a first-hand look at the challenges of city blight and the power of community-led beautification. Second Harvest of Silicon Valley: I volunteer with the food distribution and warehouse teams to help combat local food insecurity. This role involves logistics, quality control, and ensuring that thousands of San Jose families have access to fresh, nutritious food. Habitat for Humanity ReStore: I provide community service at the San Jose ReStore, supporting the mission of building affordable housing in the Bay Area. My work there helps divert usable materials from landfills and generates revenue that directly funds local Habitat for Humanity housing projects. These experiences have allowed me to interact with residents from all walks of life and have given me a deep understanding of the ground-level issues—from park maintenance to housing affordability—that the City of San Jose must address.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

As a dedicated resident of District 3, my primary community interest lies in the intersection of urban innovation, fiscal transparency, and neighborhood revitalization. Having personally volunteered alongside Mayor Matt Mahan in citywide park clean-ups and supported local housing initiatives through Habitat for Humanity, I am deeply invested in the 'back-to-basics' approach of ensuring San Jose is clean, safe, and functional for all families. Professionally, as a Technical Program Manager at Google, I am passionate about bringing data-driven efficiency to municipal governance—specifically in areas like airport logistics, housing development, and smart-city infrastructure. My goal is to serve as a bridge between the South Bay's tech-forward identity and the ground-level needs of our diverse neighborhoods, ensuring that San Jose's growth is both sustainable and inclusive of the Indian-American community and the residents of the downtown core

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.

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.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

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

Three Critical Issues Facing the City of San Jose

- 1. Housing Affordability and the "Missing Middle"** San Jose remains one of the most expensive housing markets in the world. While the city has made strides in permanent supportive housing, we must address the "missing middle"—ensuring that the teachers, first responders, and tech professionals who power our economy can actually afford to live here. The Council should prioritize streamlining the entitlement process and using data-driven zoning to increase density near transit hubs like Diridon Station.
- 2. Public Safety and "Back-to-Basics" Urban Maintenance** A world-class city must be clean and safe to thrive. The Council must continue to address the staffing shortages within the SJPD to improve response times and invest heavily in the 'BeautifySJ' initiatives. As a resident of District 3, I see firsthand that blight, litter, and unmanaged encampments impact the economic viability of our small businesses. We need a "results-first" approach to cleaning up our streets and parks.
- 3. Economic Revitalization of the Downtown Core** The shift to hybrid work has fundamentally changed the foot traffic in Downtown San Jose. The Council needs a proactive strategy to transform Downtown into a 24/7 destination that isn't just dependent on office workers. This includes supporting the "San Jose Entertainment Zone" concept, improving parking and transit accessibility, and incentivizing a diverse mix of retail, arts, and nightlife to ensure our city center remains the cultural heart of Silicon Valley.

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

The Three Most Critical Challenges for SJC (2026–2031)

- 1. Digital Transformation & Modernizing Passenger Experience** As a "Silicon Valley" airport, SJC must lead in seamless, tech-driven travel. The challenge is integrating AI-driven logistics, biometric security, and real-time data to reduce "friction" (wait times and congestion) without compromising passenger privacy or safety.
- 2. Sustainable Infrastructure & Fleet Transition** The aviation industry is under immense pressure to decarbonize. Over the next five years, SJC must manage the infrastructure shift toward Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and prepare for the electrical grid demands of ground-support electrification and future electric short-haul aircraft.
- 3. Economic Resilience & Competitive Positioning** With remote work and fluctuating business travel, SJC faces stiff competition from SFO and OAK. The challenge is maintaining financial stability by diversifying revenue streams and ensuring the airport remains the preferred hub for the world's leading tech companies located in our backyard.

What I Bring to the Table ----- As a Technical Program Manager at Google, I specialize in solving exactly these types of complex, multi-layered challenges. Here is how my background directly addresses SJC's needs:

- Strategic Execution:** In my professional role, I lead cross-functional teams to deliver massive infrastructure projects on time and under budget. I am trained to look at the Airport Master Plan not just as a document, but as a series of milestones that require rigorous risk management and stakeholder alignment.
- Data-Driven Problem Solving:** I don't rely on guesswork. I bring a 'metrics-first' approach to the Commission, using data to evaluate the ROI of new technologies and ensuring that every dollar spent on airport modernization translates into a measurable improvement in efficiency or passenger satisfaction.
- Local Stakeholder Perspective:** As a resident of District 3, I live in the flight path and understand the delicate balance between airport growth and neighborhood quality of life. My experience on advisory boards like IEEE Spectrum and UC Irvine has taught me how to represent community interests while pushing for global-scale technical excellence.

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 Strategy: Data-Driven Mitigation and Transparent Communication The key to balancing these two roles is transparency backed by technical data. A world-class airport doesn't just grow; it grows intelligently. To be a good neighbor, SJC must proactively mitigate the 'externalities' of aviation—noise and environmental impact—through cutting-edge technology and constant community engagement. This includes: Incentivizing Quieter, Cleaner Fleets: Using landing fee structures to encourage airlines to prioritize newer, quieter aircraft (like the Boeing 737 MAX or Airbus A320neo) that have a smaller noise footprint. Precision Flight Paths: Leveraging modern GPS-based navigation (NextGen) to keep aircraft on strict corridors that minimize noise over the most densely populated residential areas of District 3. Real-Time Public Dashboards: Providing the community with easy-to-access, transparent noise-monitoring data so residents feel heard and informed, rather than sidelined." How to Resolve Conflicts The Resolution: The "Long-Term Value" Framework "If a direct conflict arises—for example, a proposal for a new international route that brings high economic value but increases late-night noise—I would resolve it using a Long-Term Value (LTV) Framework: Technical Validation: First, I would task city staff to provide data on the specific impact. Is there a way to move the flight to a 'shoulder' hour that is less disruptive? Mitigation Offset: If the economic benefit to San Jose is undeniable, I would advocate for a 'Mitigation Offset'—ensuring that the revenue generated from that growth is directly reinvested into community benefits, such as expanded home soundproofing programs for impacted D3 residents or green-space improvements. Collaborative Governance: I believe in 'no surprises' governance. I would resolve conflicts by ensuring that neighborhood leaders are brought to the table during the planning phase, not after a decision is made. My goal is to find the 'Middle Path' where Silicon Valley remains globally connected without sacrificing the livability of the city center.

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?

How to Engage Silicon Valley Business Leaders and Communities 1. The "Corporate Travel Partnership" Model The City and SJC should formalize a Corporate Travel Coalition with San Jose's largest employers (Google, Adobe, Zoom, etc.). By aligning the travel policies of these companies to prioritize SJC over SFO or OAK for specific routes, we provide airlines with the 'guaranteed demand' they need to justify adding new international and long-haul flights. We must market SJC not just as a 'convenience,' but as a productivity tool for the Valley's workforce. 2. Regional "Economic Connectivity" Branding To engage the broader community, we must rebrand the airport's growth as a direct win for the local economy. New routes mean more high-quality jobs, increased hotel tax revenue for city services, and better global connectivity for our diverse immigrant communities. We should use data-driven storytelling to show that a thriving SJC funds our parks, libraries, and public safety." What I Can Do Personally to Help Achieve This Goal "Personally, I will act as a Strategic Liaison between the Commission and the tech ecosystem: Leveraging my Professional Network: I will use my position within Google and my connections across the Silicon Valley tech community to gather 'voice-of-the-customer' data. I can help the airport understand exactly which global routes are most needed by our engineers and executives. Advocating for SJC-First Policies: Within my professional circles and advisory boards (IEEE, UC Irvine), I will champion SJC as the premier gateway for Silicon Valley, encouraging peers and organizations to choose our local airport to drive regional investment. Community Bridge-Building: As a resident of District 3, I will personally host or attend neighborhood forums to explain the benefits of airport growth. I can translate complex technical plans into clear community benefits, ensuring that our neighbors support expansion because they see themselves as stakeholders in the airport's success

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

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

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

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

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]

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Measure T Community Oversight Committee: Submitted

CyberVoz

Employer

Founder

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Dow Jones/Newscorp

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Research & Analysis Associate Director

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 have a Bachelors in Government and Spanish. My education exposed to me to the inner workings of our government; how it works, why it works, and the history behind it. I am bilingual in English and Spanish and the ability to communicate with a broader population is always helpful when working with the public. My education has exposed me to different points of view from people with different backgrounds which is invaluable when serving the public and would serve me well as part of the Measure T Community Oversight Committee.

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.

My background includes entrepreneurship and public service. From 2012 to 2018 I owned and operated a small business and was a Realtor in the community we lived in at the time. From 2018 to 2025 I was a FBI Special Agent that investigated national security matters and cyber crime. I was based within the San Francisco Division of the FBI, specifically San Jose. Currently, I am the founder of a cybersecurity education and consulting firm and continue within Real Estate. I am well versed in the topic of public safety, working with and serving the public. As a Special Agent with the FBI, my investigations included matters of public safety, I completed regular training in various aspects of public safety, and maintained working relationships with local and state authorities. I understand what it takes and how to be a public servant. My combination of public safety and entrepreneurship experience provides unique and valuable knowledge that can be an asset to the Measure T Community Oversight Committee.

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.

I maintain expertise in public safety, public service, knowledge of the legal system, business operations, leadership, cybersecurity, and community outreach. My bilingual skills (English and Spanish) allow me to communicate and understand a broader base of people which is valuable when serving the public's needs.

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 Measure T Community Oversight Committee because I want to continue to serve my community. I am a service oriented person. I'm invested in my community through my volunteerism and want my community to prosper. As a member of the Measure T Community Oversight Committee, I can be a steward of funds that will have a positive effect on the community and contribute to prosperity. I can help ensure that the voter-approved funds are used for their intended purpose.

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.

N/A

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

Elvis Chan

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Ethan Sanchez

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.

I am a volunteer instructor for U.S. Citizenship classes at the Edenvale Library within the San Jose Public Library system. I also serve as a board member and coach for Almaden Youth Basketball.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests, in general, revolve around service. As a board member and basketball coach, I volunteer my time helping the basketball organization expand and provide opportunities for kids in the community to play basketball. As a volunteer instructor for U.S. citizenship courses, my instruction has directly helped multiple people become naturalized U.S. citizens. The mission of CyberVoz is to provide simple, clear, and actionable cybersecurity information to the population most vulnerable to cyber attacks—older adults and seniors. I believe a thriving community, in part, is one where there are opportunities available for everyone and community members can gain skills to improve their lives.

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.

In 2018 I served as a member of the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) for the City of Las Cruces, NM. The CIAC was tasked with advising city council on the City of Las Cruces' long-range capital improvement plan.

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 understand that many times the methods that work in one sector won't always work in the other from my experience working in the public and private sectors. As a former FBI Special Agent, I am versed and experienced in dealing with aspects of public safety and I understand what it takes to be a public servant. I am invested in my community as a volunteer with the San Jose Library system, as well as through my involvement with community organizations. I understand how to work with the public and provide services. As an individual with bilingual skills, I can serve and work with a larger population. It enables me to be able to take in more viewpoints from a larger group with diverse backgrounds. My entrepreneurial background has strengthened my understanding of business principles, including the importance of fiscal responsibility and accountability.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

To act as financial stewards for the voters to ensure the \$650 million in bonds is spent according to voter approved purposes and in ways that benefit the public.

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

Public safety, homelessness, economic growth/cost of living.

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?

N/A

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?

None

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

No

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

I have past employment experience working for the county government in Colorado and the federal government as part of the FBI and Social Security administration. During my time with working for the county or federal government, I worked a multiple other government 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?

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

N/A

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 *

[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*

Daniel _____ Cao _____
First Name Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose _____ CA _____ 95129 _____
City State 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 1

Mobile: _____
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

3-5 years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

County of Santa Clara
Employer

Policy Aide
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

Current Employer of Spouse

County of Santa Clara

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[Redacted]

Spouse's Job Title

Occupational Therapist

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.

Cupertino High School, August 2006 - June 2010, high school diploma. UC Berkeley, January 2011 - December 2013, Public Health B.A. UC Berkeley, August 2014 - May 2016, Masters in Public Health Epidemiology & Biostatistics. My education helps me be comfortable reading reports, understand health impacts from proposed projects, and bring a lens of critical thinking and questioning into my research.

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.

Health Services Institutional Review Board Member for Santa Clara Valley Healthcare, August 2017 - June 2018. Prevention Program Analyst and Mental Health Program Specialist for Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department, June 2018 - March 2021. Rosemary Kamei for City of San Jose District 1, March 2022 - June 2022. Policy Aide for Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, April 2021 - Current. Santa Clara County Democratic Party Issues Director, March 2025 - Current. My employment history provides a strong background in local government, politics, and working knowledge of the factors that influence decision-making in government. As a policy aide and mental health program specialist, I understand how decisions made by elected officials and government leaders are applied to individual programs. I also have an understanding of how policies from each level of government affects service implementation and delivery. From a political perspective, I have better understanding of how communities, interest groups, and political agendas affect policies and projects that become law and guide government work. Together, I have the tools to understand Planning Department projects and reports, ask good questions, and make sound decisions given a set of information.

Languages Spoken

English, 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.

I have skills and working knowledge of budgeting, project/program development, project/program implementation, community engagement, healthcare systems, social service programs, research and evaluation, contract management, developing recommendations, event planning.

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 would like to continue being a member of the Planning Commission because I want to address land use issues in the City of San Jose and address our homelessness crisis, housing affordability issues, and make our built environment more conducive to a productive and healthy lifestyle. One specific objective I have as a member of this Commission is to make it easier for the younger generations, myself included, to afford living in San Jose. Currently, it isn't realistic for many younger people to live in San Jose and start families due to the high cost of housing. Another objective is to ensure we do our best to both protect the environment while making it easier for housing developments to be approved.

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.

I have worked as a policy aide for Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee for the past five years, giving me a firm grasp of reviewing policies, programs, and reports from County administration to practice preparing for Planning Commission meetings. Now, I also have six months of experience being a Planning Commissioner and reviewing the reports from administration and understanding how the Commission operates. I am a big believer in making informed decisions, so it is important for me to understand different perspectives on a particular issue and factor in a broad set of information before making a decision.

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

Otto Lee

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg

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.

My current community involvement includes working as a policy aide for Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee to address important county services such as healthcare, social services, veteran services, and education. Under healthcare, I am helping Supervisor Lee and the County of Santa Clara address the impacts of H.R. 1 to the County's budget and healthcare services to the poor and marginalized within our County. I also volunteer to be the Issues Director of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party. In this role, I support the local democratic party by voting and participating as an Executive Board member and work closely with the Board to guide the party. Last but not least, I proudly serve as Planning Commissioner for San Jose District 1.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests can be summed up in one broad idea: help make the community stronger and more vibrant. My life's mission is to help others, and after exploring a couple different career paths, I've landed on government and politics as my desired career choice. Working in government since June 2018, I have learned that the fabric of our community is developed and strengthened through our local government agencies. Elected officials, appointed commissioners/board members, and government workers have important roles in ensuring public safety, improving the built environment, and offering opportunities for communities to grow and become more vibrant. I am a government worker supporting an elected official and, now, I am starting to serve as an appointed commissioner. I want to continue this work as a Planning Commissioner and learn what it takes to be effective in my role, and I also want to continue my career in public service to learn how to be the most effective agent I can be, with the vision of making the community stronger and more vibrant.

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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 as a Planning Commissioner for the City of San Jose representing District 1 since September 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.

I have a variety of experiences, training, knowledge and skills which qualify me for the San Jose Planning Commission appointment. I have a deep understanding of local government and what it takes to make high quality decisions to incrementally improve society. From the perspectives of both a county staff member at the Behavioral Health Services Department dealing with program implementation and as a policy aide with Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee supporting policy decision-making, I've been trained to understand how administration operates and how an elected official and decision-making body operates. I have working knowledge of policy analysis, making policy recommendations, and what it takes to implement new policies and programs. As the campaign coordinator for then-candidate Rosemary Kamei for San Jose City Council in spring 2022, I was exposed to land use issues in San Jose such as the El Paseo project and the Costco Westgate project. Teaching at San Jose State University for four years allowed me to practice good public speaking skills and how to be confident in front of people. With my experience in football with the California Golden Bears and San Francisco 49ers, I learned about having a strong work ethic and a blue-collar attitude.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

My understanding of the purpose of the Planning Commission is to work with the General Plan to make improvements particularly through the General Plan 4-Year Review Task Force, advise the San Jose City Council for land use issues, work closely with the Planning Director and Department, and help physically develop the City of San Jose to make it a safer, affordable, efficient, and more vibrant city.

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

The Council should address housing affordability since younger generations like myself are increasingly being priced out of the city. Another issue is improving alternatives to driving to reduce traffic and need for parking including public transportation, ridesharing, biking, and walking. Last but not least, the Council needs to find more ways to connect city residents to each other and build stronger, more resilient communities. Especially for residents who typically don't engage civically, it's important to build the sense of community and promote more opportunities for these residents to meaningfully engage with city government, neighborhood leaders, and with each other.

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 on policy and programs related to cultural development in San Jose by advocating that City Council work with various ethnic communities, neighborhoods, businesses, and coalitions/groups to lift up their interests and concerns in the decision-making process.

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you meet the requirements for appointment to this commission?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

In almost eight years working in county government I have worked with all of the healthcare and social service departments in Santa Clara County as well as the Office of the County Executive and Office of the County Counsel. During this time I have also developed relationships with many of the 31 school districts in Santa Clara County and city/state/federal elected officials' offices. As a Planning Commissioner over the past six months, I have worked with the City of San Jose Planning Department staff as well as staff from various departments to support decision-making during Planning Commission meetings and General Plan 4-Year Review Task Force meetings.

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

Major public policy issues that I have been involved in through Santa Clara County as a policy aide as either author or co-author are: declaring mental health and substance abuse as a public health crisis, creation of a Valley Health Center located in the West Valley, Veteran Services Office staffing increase, mobile dental services for veterans, affirm prior recognition of the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam as the official flag of the Vietnamese American community in Santa Clara County and oppose the display of the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on County-owned flag poles, and Lunar New Year as a County holiday. Other major county policy issues in which I've served as policy aide in an advisory role are: child welfare reform, CalAIM implementation, examining local impacts of H.R. 1, veteran suicide prevention program implementation, and integrative medicine implementation. With these county policy issues and more, I also played the role of community engagement to ensure particular populations and organizations have an avenue to provide feedback to Supervisor Otto Lee and the Board of Supervisors to support decision-making. As a Commissioner representing District 1 on the City of San Jose Planning Commission, a major public policy issue that I have been involved in is the General Plan 4-Year Review Task Force. In this task force, I have provided feedback to Planning Department staff on major issues such as urban village strategy and residential capacity with upcoming topics such as residential capacity/jobs-to-employed resident ratio and missing middle/small multifamily housing.

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

A leadership role I have assumed in the last five years is becoming the Issues Director of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party (SCCDP). In this role, I am a participating member of the SCCDP Executive Board that meets monthly to discuss and vote on resolutions, activities, and bylaws to build, sustain, and use collective power to enable good democratic candidates to win elections at all levels and to fight for important democratic values such as first class schools, affordable healthcare, quality jobs, safe communities, a clean environment, and honest and open government. In this role I also participate in monthly Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee meetings. As Central Committee members bring up issues that they want to address, I work with our SCCDP Chair and the Central Committee members on creating and amending resolutions to be voted on by the Executive Board and Central Committee.

Anything else you would like us to know?

If approved as a commissioner again, I will continue to bring my charisma, work ethic, and dedication to the San Jose Planning 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 *

[Redacted Signature]

[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*

Melissa (lisa) _____
First Name

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

District 4

Mobile: _____
Primary Phone

Home: _____
Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

Google
Employer

Sr Technical Program
Manager
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Retired

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

NA

Spouse's Job Title

Retired

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

small IBM 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.

CSU-East Bay (BA), University of the Pacific (MBA), Stanford (Cert)

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 Alarm Company, Director, 1984-1999 Inreach Internet, President, 1999-2008 Rotary of Sunnyvale, Secretary, 2004-2008 South Bay Yacht Club, Various, 2010-Present (volunteer) Google, Sr. Technical Project Mgr, 2011-Present

Languages Spoken

English, and some Spanish

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

Some recognition for volunteer efforts.

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 interested in ensuring San Jose is successful into the future, as a resident, and soon as a senior citizen.

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?nodetd=TIT2AD_CH2.08BOBUCO to see if the board for which you are applying has special seats.

I volunteer for South Bay Yacht Club, my partner, Dean McCully is training to be a SCVWD Water advocate and we love San Jose.

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.

I work for Google, but not related to Real Estate or property decisions.

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

Roy Hays

Melissa (Iisa) Bickford

Reference 1 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 1 Email address

[Redacted]

Reference 1 Phone

[Redacted]

Reference 2 Name

Joy Beeson

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.

I volunteer at Reid-Hillview Airport for the Young Eagles program, at South Bay Yacht Club as the Commodore this year, I do community service work with google.org and with a few other non-profits as time and energy permit. I am currently the Vice Chair of the City of San Jose Planning Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

As a long-time resident of San Jose, I have a strong desire to see our community strengthen and grow, even in these trying times. I believe everyone deserves an opportunity to have reasonable costs of living, a safe place to live and a government that support these things. I think there are always multiple ways of looking at and solving problems and that our city deserves people who are committed to being good stewards of our assets and inventory.

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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.

Melissa A Bickford [Redacted]

Melissa (lisa) Bickford

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 on several non-profit Boards but no public entities.

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 a business degree, I ran my own business in Stockton CA for 15 years, I understand bot business and personal issues related to planning and I'm eager to learn more!

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

To understand the city's plan, to help make decisions that guide our future growth, development and support opportunities to help build a better San Jose.

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

Homelessness Downtown revitalization Support for senior citizens and children

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'm not really an arts person, but I recently volunteered to plan trees and clean city streets, did a creek cleanup and painted some graffiti over. My husband has volunteered for multiple festivals and we always buy a few things when local artists are present to support their work.

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.

We need art, science, education and a well-rounded community with music, laughter and joy. San Jose needs to continue to invest in music, art and cultural activities that support our entire community.

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

Yes, the City should have an active role that supports and increases our ability to present music, art and cultural activities across the city. This is not really my area, but having community leaders willing to work with non-profits to bring events and activities is a must.

Melissa (lisa) Bickford

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

I think every citizen of San Jose as an obligation to know and support policies and programs they believe in. I reach out to my City Councilman and their staff whenever I have a concern. I've recommended to D3 Councilman to support a new Cinco de Mayo festival and support areas of the city that need more visible support.

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?

As the Commodore of the South Bay Yacht Club, I manage a historic building in San Jose and so would not put myself forward for the Historic Landmarks 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.

I am the Commodore of the South Bay Yacht Club, follow historic preservation in San Jose, and hope we can continue to support our historic areas and the buildings that are historically significant.

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?

None

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

No

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

Some experience related to the South Bay Yacht Club

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?

Usually listening to community concerns and trying to find common ground and places where we agree and can align in order to make progress.

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

None, really. I have provided input and support for changes to our homeless support policies.

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

Which Commission?

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

I am the Commodore for the South Bay Yacht Club for 2025 and 2026. I have supported the club in other roles over the past 10 years or so.

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

I would respect the various opinions, seek to understand those opinions and evaluate whether any data supports the opinion.

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

I'm not yet a senior, but my husband is and I am fast approaching.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I enjoy the SJ Planning Commission and hope to continue on that 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 *

[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*

Luis
First Name

Arguello
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 5

Home: [Redacted]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

LIUNA Laborers Local 270

Employer

Assistant Business Manager

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Not applicable

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

[REDACTED]

Spouse's Job Title

Homemaker

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

Spouse is not retired nor does she receive a 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.

My educational background directly equips me to serve effectively on this commission. I earned an A.A. in Social & Behavioral Sciences from San Jose City College and a B.A. in Psychology from San José State University, graduating with honors from both institutions. My coursework emphasized research, ethics, behavioral analysis, and community engagement, all of which support thoughtful, informed decision-making. My time as a Mental Health Ambassador at SJSU strengthened my ability to communicate across diverse communities, approach issues through an equity lens, and understand the human impact of public policy. This educational foundation allows me to analyze complex issues, listen objectively, and contribute solutions rooted in evidence and community needs.

Luis Arguello

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.

My professional experience has prepared me to serve this commission with leadership, accountability, and community-focused insight. I currently serve as the Assistant Business Manager for LIUNA Local 270, where I oversee multimillion-dollar budgets, manage staff, negotiate contracts, and lead policy advocacy efforts that impact thousands of working families in the region. In this role and previous leadership positions, I have managed large-scale operations, participated in public policy development, represented constituents, and collaborated with city and county agencies. I also serve in leadership roles within regional Building and Construction Trades Councils, which gives me deep exposure to planning, workforce development, public infrastructure, and community investment issues. My prior work as a crisis counselor strengthened my ability to navigate sensitive issues, engage respectfully with diverse community voices, and maintain professionalism under pressure.

Languages Spoken

Spanish and English

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

Budgeting and financial oversight of multi-million-dollar operations
Community outreach, public advocacy, and stakeholder engagement
Workforce development, apprenticeship administration, and training
Negotiation, conflict resolution, and policy analysis
Crisis intervention and trauma-informed communication
Experience collaborating with city, county, and state agencies
Strong understanding of labor issues, housing needs, and economic equity
Bilingual communication with Spanish-speaking communities

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 commission because I have dedicated my career to public service, community advocacy, and improving the lives of working families. Growing up in San José, raising my family here, and serving thousands of local workers have given me a deep commitment to this city's future. My objective is to ensure that community voices—especially working-class families, immigrants, and underrepresented residents—are reflected in the City's policy decisions. I want to contribute to fair, transparent, and equitable outcomes, strengthen community trust in local government, and help San José continue growing responsibly and inclusively.

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 not applying for early education seat.

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.

I am employed by LIUNA Local 270 and associated with regional Building and Construction Trades Councils. Decisions related to development, public works, infrastructure, labor standards, or economic policy could potentially intersect with labor interests. My roles include: Assistant Business Manager, LIUNA Local 270 Sergeant-at-Arms, Northern California District Council of Laborers Vice President, Santa Cruz/Monterey Building and Construction Trades Council Trustee, Santa Clara/San Benito Building and Construction Trades Council I will follow all conflict-of-interest rules, including recusal when appropriate.

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

Bryan Berthiume

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Monique Del Toro

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.

Assistant Business Manager, LIUNA Local 270 Business Agent & Apprenticeship Coordinator, LIUNA Local 270 Mental Health Ambassador, San José State University Rape Crisis Counselor, YWCA Suicide & Crisis Counselor, Santa Clara County SACS Program Political and community advocate for worker rights, housing equity, and public infrastructure Delegate and officer in multiple Building and Construction Trades Councils Supporter and volunteer in local election campaigns, community events, and worker outreach programs

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

My community interests center on workforce development, public safety, mental health access, and expanding opportunities for working families. I am committed to strengthening San José's economic foundation while ensuring that residents—especially underrepresented communities—have access to affordable housing, good jobs, quality education, and safe neighborhoods. I believe that civic engagement, thoughtful planning, and equitable policy decisions are essential to building a stronger, more inclusive city.

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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.

Luis Arguello [REDACTED]

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 serve in multiple governance and leadership roles, including trustee, vice president, and delegate across regional Building Trades Councils and union organizations. These roles require policy review, budget oversight, conflict resolution, and participation in formal decision-making processes similar to city commissions.

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.

15+ years in labor leadership, public policy work, and organizational management Oversight of \$30M+ annual budgets Experience working directly with city and county leaders Extensive training: Negotiation Mastery (Harvard), Benefit Plan Administration (IFEB), labor law, arbitration, crisis communication Deep knowledge of San José's workforce, economic needs, and community challenges Strong communication skills and bilingual outreach capability

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The San José Planning Commission serves as an advisory and decision-making body on land use and development matters, including zoning, permits, and long-term planning policies. It plays a critical role in shaping the City's growth by reviewing development proposals, certifying environmental impact reports, and making recommendations to the City Council on the General Plan, zoning regulations, and capital improvement programs. The Commission also acts in a quasi-judicial capacity by hearing appeals and making determinations on certain permits, ensuring that decisions are fair, transparent, and consistent with the City's policies and regulations.

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

Housing affordability and the need to increase housing production at all income levels Balancing economic development with environmental sustainability and infrastructure capacity Ensuring equitable growth that benefits working families and underserved communities

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 last twelve months, I have actively participated in several arts and cultural events in San José that reflect the city's diversity and creative energy. San Jose Jazz Summer Fest - I attended this event to support one of the city's most established cultural festivals and to experience its broad mix of music, culture, and community engagement. Folkloric dance events and cultural performances - I attended these events to celebrate and support cultural traditions represented within our community, particularly events highlighting Latino heritage and identity. Cinco de Mayo community celebration events - I not only attended but also ensured that we participated as sponsors. I was drawn to these events because they bring together families, culture, and local businesses while honoring important historical and cultural traditions. Local pop-up art events - I regularly attend pop-up art installations and exhibits because they highlight emerging local artists and make art more accessible to the broader community. Food and cultural street fairs - I participate in these events because they blend culinary arts, culture, and community gathering, showcasing the diversity that makes San José unique. What draws me to these events is the opportunity to actively support local artists and cultural organizations, strengthen community engagement, and ensure that cultural celebrations remain accessible and well-supported across all neighborhoods.

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.

The arts provide significant value to the community by strengthening social cohesion, fostering cultural identity, and supporting economic development. Arts programming brings people together across backgrounds, creates shared experiences, and provides a platform for underrepresented voices. In addition, a strong arts sector supports local businesses, attracts tourism, and contributes to neighborhood revitalization. In a diverse city like San José, the arts also play a critical role in reflecting the lived experiences of its residents and preserving cultural heritage. They help build pride in community identity while encouraging innovation and creative expression.

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

Yes, the City of San José should have an active role in arts and cultural development. The City is essential in ensuring equitable access to arts programming, supporting local artists, and maintaining a strong cultural infrastructure. This role should include funding grants for artists and organizations, investing in public art, supporting cultural districts, and ensuring that arts programming is accessible in all neighborhoods, including underserved communities. The City should also facilitate partnerships between schools, community organizations, and arts institutions to expand exposure and participation. An active City role ensures that arts and culture are not limited to private markets but are treated as a public good that benefits the entire community.

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

I can contribute by bringing a balanced perspective grounded in community advocacy, organizational leadership, and experience working with public agencies. In my professional role, I regularly engage in policy discussions, evaluate program impacts, and represent stakeholder interests in structured decision-making environments. I understand how to assess community needs, analyze policy proposals, and communicate effectively between residents, organizations, and government bodies. I also bring experience in coalition-building and negotiation, which is critical when balancing competing priorities in public policy. In advising City Council, I would focus on ensuring that cultural development policies are equitable, financially responsible, and responsive to the needs of diverse communities throughout 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?

The purpose of historic preservation in San José is to protect, preserve, and celebrate the city's cultural, architectural, and historical heritage while ensuring that growth and development remain balanced and context-sensitive. Preservation helps maintain community identity, supports education about local history, and contributes to economic vitality through tourism and neighborhood stability. The Historic Landmarks Commission plays a critical role by identifying and designating historic resources, reviewing proposed alterations or demolitions of landmarked properties, and advising the City on preservation policy. The Commission ensures that development decisions respect historical significance while aligning with the City's long-term planning goals.

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 have not served in a formal historic preservation role, my professional experience includes extensive participation in public planning processes and engagement with public agencies on policy, infrastructure, and workforce-related matters. I regularly work with city, county, and state agencies, participating in structured decision-making processes that require balancing community needs, regulatory compliance, and long-term planning objectives. Through my leadership and advocacy work, I have engaged in discussions related to development, community impact, and public investment priorities—skills that directly translate to historic preservation review processes in San José.

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?

My involvement includes supporting community-based educational initiatives and advocating for equitable access to public resources that support families and working parents. I recognize libraries and early education systems as foundational public services that promote literacy, workforce readiness, and long-term community success. I have supported policies and programs that expand access to these services and improve their reach to underserved populations.

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

Yes, I would be fully willing and committed to attending local events and meetings as a representative. I view community presence as an essential responsibility of public service and an important way to stay connected to residents and stakeholders.

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

I regularly work with city, county, and state agencies in my current role, particularly on matters related to public works, workforce development, and compliance. This includes collaborating with public officials, navigating regulatory processes, and advocating for policies that benefit both workers and the broader community. I have experience building working relationships with agency staff, participating in formal hearings, and ensuring organizational compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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?

Although this questions mentions Parks and Recreation commissioner. I believe the answer for Planning Commissioner would apply to any commissioner role. I would approach the situation with calm, transparency, and respect for all perspectives. My first priority would be to ensure that all community members feel heard and that concerns are acknowledged without dismissiveness. I would encourage structured dialogue between staff and the community, focusing on clarifying facts, identifying specific points of disagreement, and exploring possible compromises where appropriate. If tensions escalated, I would help maintain order by reinforcing meeting protocols and keeping the discussion focused on the issue rather than individuals. Ultimately, I would work toward a decision-making process that is fair, informed, and grounded in both community input and staff expertise.

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

I have been actively involved in labor relations, workforce development policy, and public infrastructure investment discussions. In my role as Assistant Business Manager of LIUNA Local 270, I have participated in negotiations, policy advocacy, and coalition-building efforts that influence local and regional decision-making. My responsibilities have included representing members in discussions with public agencies, contributing to policy recommendations, and ensuring that workforce and community impacts are considered in public projects. I have also engaged in political endorsement processes and legislative advocacy efforts at the local and regional level.

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

A major issue facing older adults in San José is housing affordability and stability, particularly as rising costs place long-term residents at risk of displacement. Additionally, social isolation and access to accessible services remain significant concerns. The Commission's role is to support policies and programs that promote age-friendly communities, improve access to essential services, and ensure older adults can remain safely and affordably housed. This includes advocating for inclusive programming, accessible public spaces, and partnerships that expand support networks for seniors.

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

As Assistant Business Manager of LIUNA Local 270, I lead organizational strategy, oversee staff, manage financial operations, and represent thousands of members in negotiations and policy discussions. This role requires accountability, leadership, and the ability to make informed decisions that impact a large and diverse constituency.

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

I approach differences of opinion with respect, professionalism, and a focus on facts. My experience in negotiations and dispute resolution has taught me the importance of listening carefully, understanding different perspectives, and working toward balanced solutions. I believe strong decisions come from open dialogue and thoughtful consideration of all viewpoints.

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

My understanding of senior issues comes from direct engagement with community members, exposure to public policy discussions, and experience working on issues related to housing, healthcare access, and public services. Through my professional and civic roles, I have seen how policy decisions directly impact older adults, particularly in areas such as affordability, mobility, and access to support services. I also bring a strong commitment to equity and service, ensuring that senior residents' voices are included in broader planning and decision-making processes in San José.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I bring a unique perspective that combines lived experience, professional leadership, and a deep commitment to the San José community. My background in construction, labor, and public service allows me to understand the real-world impacts of planning decisions. I am committed to serving with integrity, transparency, and a focus on what is best for the long-term future of our city.

(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*

Pierluigi _____ Oliverio _____
 First Name 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?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple> *

District 6

Mobile: _____
 Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

OneStream

Employer

FP&A Strategist

Job Title

Current Employer Address

Birmingham, Michigan

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.

SJUSD K-12, Willow Glen High School San Jose State University BA and Teaching Credential

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.

San Jose City Council Mar 2007-Jan 2017 San Jose Planning Commission 2019 to present

Pierluigi Oliverio

Languages Spoken

English, Italian, 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.

California PTA Honorary Service Award, Silicon Valley Shakespeare Companion of Honor, Willow Glen Children's Theater President Award

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 appreciate the opportunity provided to me by the city council to serve on the planning commission and have enjoyed contributing to the betterment of our community. I am willing and able to continue with both the responsibility and time commitment going forward. During my time on the commission, I have consistently supported professional planning staff and our established city goals by voting for all projects which had the support of planning staff. This includes affordable housing, market rate housing, commercial, industrial, and conditional use permits. Planning staff recommendations follow the General Plan and/or pertinent Specific Plan/Urban Village and the commission works to implement policies established by the city council. On more than one occasion, I have had the opportunity to provide historical context on several applications that have been under consideration for 10 to 20 years and the city council ultimately supported those same projects unanimously. I have also supported professional planning staff by ensuring land use applications are processed without delay so the city council has more options to schedule city council hearing(s). In the past, prior planning commissions delayed agenda items unnecessarily which ultimately impacted the city council with limited calendar options or having to endure a really long council meeting to meet state deadlines. I periodically express, as needed, the distinction between commission's narrow scope of responsibility and city council's vast latitude and flexibility. I have shared that only the city council can create new ordinances or implement creative out of the box solutions for contentious land use items. I have completed all AB1234/AB1661 trainings, filed all FPPC forms consistently, and attended American Planning Association conference. I also follow guidance from city attorney regarding brown acts and as directed by the city attorney to not attend interest group events meant to persuade commissioners. Prior to serving on the planning commission, I reviewed countless land use entitlements across the entire city, listened to hundreds of hours of testimony, and attended community meetings in every council district. I believe a good planning commission is a strong asset to any city, since proposed projects that implement a modern General Plan often have significant community opposition due to increased densities, heights, traffic, and reduced parking requirements. Having a planning commission which is knowledgeable and implements the city's goals enables the city council to have a smoother process with public hearings. From my first hand perspective, I have found citywide representation on the planning commission to be positive the same way it has been for the city council. The discussion from fellow commissioners has been thoughtful and respectful. It is important that commission members respect and civility include professional planning staff.

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.

Born and raised in San Jose, as the son of immigrant parents who were both teachers. My Mother taught Italian at community centers and public schools while my Father taught adult immigrants to speak English at churches such as St John Vianney and Sacred Heart. Our family lived in an apartment for approximately ten years before my parents bought their first and only home. I mention this for background to share our family is of modest means and understands the immigrant experience which is an immense strength for San Jose. Neither I, nor my family, have any financial interests in real estate besides our respective primary residences. I served as member of General Plan 2040 Taskforce (four years) and General Plan 2040 Update Taskforce (approximately 1 year). Currently, I am keenly interested how local government through land use could further support elder care for seniors and make certain that government proceedings and the associated documentation are accessible for everyone, including the disabled community.

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

Dave Sykes (former SJ City Manager)

Reference 1 Address

San Jose, CA

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Norberto Duenas (former SJ City Manager)

Reference 2 Address

San Jose,CA

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

Serve on board of Willow Glen Neighborhood Association. Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee, General Plan 2040 Task Force and City Council.

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

To continue making San Jose a great place to live.

Question applies to Civil Service Commission,Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices,Planning Commission

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,Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices,Planning Commission

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.

Prior to the Planning Commission, I served on council committees, liaison to city commissions, and multi jurisdictional bodies for ten years. I have found overall it is better to listen than be verbose, humor can dispel tension, and congeniality and patience are good attributes.

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.

Understand Brown Act and Roberts Rules of Order. Planning Commission recommendations to City Council must comply with federal/state law, city ordinances, and follow General Plan, Specific Plans, and Urban Villages. Keep meetings on task and move PC agenda items to City Council.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council. Planning commissioners review professional staff recommendations on applicant proposals, listen to applicant, listen to public testimony, reviews environmental impact reports, and clarifies commissioner/community concerns with planning staff and city attorney. In some cases, the Planning Commission is the final body to make a decision such as an appeal from Director's Hearing and Conditional Use Permit. I understand how findings must be made in certain circumstances with evidence to be compliant and avoid litigation. The Planning Commission also reviews the CIP budget and provides feedback. From time to time, it may be important to provide context to community members during the meeting regarding the city's goals so the audience understands why an application was approved or denied.

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

Jobs-Housing-Environment: The Planning Commission does not control what applications come forward as those are initiated by private property owners and in limited cases government entities. The Planning Commission must act within federal/state law and city ordinances. Adherence to San Jose 2040 General Plan, Specific Plans, and Urban Villages should be respected. The City of San Jose has had a documented jobs housing imbalance since at least 1976 as proclaimed by then Mayor Janet Gray Hayes. The 2040 General Plan has a goal of preserving industrial and commercial land so as to provide a tax base to pay for city services and provide reasonable commutes for San Jose residents. Deviation from General Plan goals should be deferred to the City Council. In addition, the City Council has adopted a plan for 25,000 units of housing, of all income levels, mostly in the center of our city. These infill housing units will include increased densities which are widely accepted as beneficial to the environment. As land becomes more scarce, encroachment on riparian corridors, hillsides, and the urban service boundary should be respected per city ordinance. The State Legislature has also recently passed numerous news laws impacting cities discretionary process and planning commission should heed guidance from city attorney when making recommendations.

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

N/A applying for planning commission not arts commission

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 applying for planning commission not HLC

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 applying for planning commission not HLC

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 applying for planning commission not library commission

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

N/A applying for planning commission not library commission

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

Extensive both in elected and appointed positions.

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?

N/A applying for planning commission not parks commission

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

N/A applying for planning commission not parks 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?

N/A applying for planning commission not senior commission

Pierluigi Oliverio

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

Was elected unanimously as chair of planning commission. Board member Willow Glen Neighborhood Association.

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

N/A applying for planning commission not senior commission

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

N/A applying for planning commission not senior commission

Anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application for planning commissioner. I would continue to look for ways to leverage my experience and knowledge to make recommendations to the City Council that produce positive outcomes throughout the City of San Jose. Significantly, during the ten years I served on the San Jose City council, I never missed a council meeting, and worked diligently to earn the reputation of being responsive and attentive to the needs of constituents. I am available to meet with any councilmember or with any group(s) a councilmember may suggest however as stated previously I believe commissioners should follow and implement land use applications based on currently established dictates of the city council. Below is an email sent to me by retired City of San Jose planner Michelle Yesney who was a recent a planning commissioner during my tenure. Email titled: "Thanks" "Pierluigi-Thank you very much for the insights you provided at the hearing on Middlebrook Gardens. I think we all felt there was something troubling about denying a permit without a "real" planning-based reason, and you were able to bring that issue to the surface. Your experience on the Council was especially helpful, as you pointed out the differences in the decision-making roles of the two bodies. Michelle" And an email from Alex Shoor of Catalyze SV Email titled: Thank you for your comments "Pierluigi, I've been meaning to email you to thank you for your comments at the Planning Commission late last year - when the Charities Housing project on Blossom Hill was being voted on - asking staff to pursue higher densities on projects such as this one. I really appreciate what you said. I think it came through loud and clear and had a real impact. - Alex"

(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*

Michael First Name Young Last Name

[Redacted] Email Address

[Redacted] Street Address

[Redacted] Suite or Apt

San Jose City

CA State

95124 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 9

Mobile: [Redacted] Primary Phone

Mobile: [Redacted] Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

Retired

Employer

Retired

Job Title

Current Employer Address

n/a

Current Employer of Spouse

Retired

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.

CalPERS

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.

Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California, Management, 1988-1989, B.A. Management 1989.
Cabrillo College, Aptos, California, Fire Science, 1978-1979, A.S. Fire Science 1979.
University of California Santa Cruz, History, 1973-1977.

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.

Fire Chief, City of Mountain View, 2006-2008. Battalion Chief, City of Mountain View, 1987-2006. Fire Captain, Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Marshal, City of Campbell 1981-1987. Firefighter, City of Santa Cruz, 1977-1981. Seasonal Park Ranger, County of Santa Clara, 4/2010-10/2010. Type 2 Incident Command Team Member, United States Forest Service, 2012-2015. Volunteer, Sacred Heart Community Services, San Jose, 2009 to present.

Languages Spoken

English; limited conversational Spanish

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

Commendation, City of San Jose, 6/19/2018 for work as the Co-Chair of the group who formed and started the District 9 Leadership Group.

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 love the City of San Jose and have been honored to serve on the Planning Commission, helping to make the city a better place for all of our residents. I have lived in the Cambrian Park neighborhood since 1985. My wife and I raised our children here, and they attended local public schools. I love living in San Jose and in Cambrian Park, and hope to stay here for the rest of my life. I would be honored to serve the city and the residents of D9 if I am reappointed to the Planning Commission. I have a passion for both land use and social justice issues. I follow land use and new development projects in the city quite closely. I have been involved actively in the development review for the Cambrian Park Plaza project. I feel I have a good understanding of the concerns of residents, city staff, advocacy groups, and developers when it comes to land use and development. I look forward to the challenge of ensuring that projects that come before the Commission meet the spirit and intent of the City's General Plan. I very much look forward to the opportunity to serve in the dynamic, growing, and exciting city that I love.

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 refer to my resume for additional information.

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

Michael Young

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

Richard Alameda

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Jim Carter

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

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

I am currently serving as the Planning Commissioner for District 9. This request is for reappointment. It has been an honor to serve on the Commission, and I look forward to an opportunity to serve for another term. I take my position very seriously, and work hard to always be prepared for each meeting. I review the staff reports carefully, and on occasion visit the site of the project myself to gain a better perspective. I have great respect for our Planning Staff and always take their recommendations seriously. I make myself available to meet with concerned neighbors or the project applicants upon request. I try to take an openminded approach to any project during our review. I actively participate in the discussions, and ask appropriate questions to the applicant. My only criteria for making a decision on a project is whether it is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and would be in the best interest of the residents of San Jose. I humbly ask for your consideration of this request. I look forward to serving again should I be reappointed.

Michael Young

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

I am a longtime resident of San Jose, and have lived in my current home in Cambrian Park since 1985. My children attended local public schools from elementary through high school. I served for 31 years in local government fire services with the Santa Cruz, Campbell, and Mountain View Fire Departments. I served as a Firefighter, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief and retired as the Fire Chief in Mountain View. I served 23 years in middle and upper management and have extensive experience working cooperatively with other city departments, the City Manager, and City Council on major projects. I served as the Fire Marshal in two departments, and in that role I worked closely with Planning and Building staff on many land use projects. This experience has helped me greatly in understanding the challenges of various perspectives on major land use decisions. I feel I have a good understanding of the roles and organization of the various departments and elected officials in the City. I love San Jose and plan to live here for the rest of my life. I am very proud of our city; it is one of the best large cities in the country. It would be an honor to serve on the Planning Commission for an additional term. Thank you for your consideration.

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

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 am currently serving on the Planning 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 believe that my 31 years of local government Fire Department experience with the cities of Santa Cruz, Campbell, and Mountain View will allow me to effectively understand and evaluate development projects, the intent and requirements of the General Plan, and land use issues facing the City of San Jose. From 1985-1987, I worked as the Fire Marshal for the City of Campbell. In that role, I was responsible for working with the Planning Department on review and approval of fire and building code requirements related to new construction and property developments.. With the City of Mountain View, I served two years as the Fire Marshal and two years as the Fire Chief. In both these roles I was involved in project review as well as providing input to the Planning Department regarding changes and updates to the city's General Plan as it related to fire safety. I have extensive experience working with city Division Managers and Department heads in both Campbell and Mountain View on numerous development projects of various sizes and complexities. I believe I have a good understanding of how city departments are impacted and work together on land development projects. In my roles as Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, and Fire Marshal, I worked together collaboratively with city staff, residents, labor groups, and other stakeholders on land use issues. In my previous role on the Neighborhoods Commission, I participated in many neighborhood association and district leadership group meetings. This has given me a good sense for the concerns of residents and the challenge of balancing competing priorities and concerns for new development projects.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Planning Commission is charged with ensuring that development projects follow the requirements, intent, and spirit of the 2040 General Plan. We review projects that require approval beyond the Planning Director level. We serve as the decision makers for administrative hearings on various topics. The Commission reviews and approves changes to the General Plan; currently serving as the Task Force for the 2040 Plan update. We are an advisory body to the City Council on major projects.

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

1. Increasing our Housing capacity for both market rate and affordable housing..
 2. Continuing our proactive homelessness services to provide shelter to anyone who needs it
 3. Economic development to increase employment and tax revenues for the city.
-

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 enjoy the Viva Calle walks, as they help me to learn about all neighborhoods of the city. I also enjoy attending the open air concerts downtown.

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.

Art and music are definitely part of a vibrant and active city. I love the murals downtown, and the art pieces on new projects. I love music and am so glad to see the city pursuing a concert series at Saint James park. The City should definitely have a role in promoting arts and music activities.

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

We have a pressing need to revitalize our downtown after the increased vacancy rate resulting from the Covid pandemic and other economic factors. Cultural activities downtown such as concerts, fairs, art activities, and others are crucial to bringing more people downtown to support our small businesses, restaurants, and clubs.

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

On the Planning Commission, I have been a strong supporter of additional housing, employment, and retail for both downtown and other neighborhoods of San Jose. Strong and vibrant neighborhoods encourage residents to develop neighborhood initiatives which often support cultural activities.

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?

As a relatively young city compared to others in our state, it is vitally important that we preserve our historic buildings. The Historic Landmarks Commission reviews any project which involves a building which has been classified as historically significant. Their role is to ensure that the applicant has made a strong effort to preserve this historic features of the building. They review historically designated projects before we do, and make a recommendation to us and the City Council whether the project should move forward as is or be modified.

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.

On the Planning Commission, I have worked actively with Planning Staff in a collaborative effort to ensure the best projects possible. During my tenure, we have reviewed several historically significant projects, and I have appreciated hearing input from the Historic Preservation Officer and the Historic Landmarks Commission.

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?

I'm an active user of our city library system.

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

Not applicable.

Please describe your experience in working with governmental agencies.

Please see my statements above regarding my local government background.

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?

Not applicable.

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

I am currently serving with my fellow Commissioners as the Task Force reviewing and updating the 2040 General Plan.

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

Not applicable

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

Please see my statements above.

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

Not applicable

What makes you knowledgeable about senior issues in the community?

Not applicable

Anything else you would like us to know?

It has been an honor to serve on the Planning Commission representing District 9. If reappointed, I commit to working collaboratively with my fellow Commissioners in all of our work. I look forward to the importance and challenge of ensuring that projects meet the intent of the General Plan. I would do this by considering each project on its merits with great respect for the work done by the Planning Staff. I would also consider the input and concerns of all stakeholders in the process: the developer, neighborhood residents, labor and advocacy groups, and residents of the city as a whole. My entire life has been dedicated to public service, and I consider this a capstone of that work. If selected I promise to serve with dedication, energy, open mindedness, in a spirit of kindness and collaboration.

(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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