

Applicant Information

Name	Yuriana D Valencia
Are you a Sunnyvale resident?	Yes
How long have you lived in Sunnyvale?	3 YEAR
Description Area	Residence Notice:Unless otherwise noted, your principal place of residence must be in Sunnyvale. You must live in Sunnyvale at the time of appointment and at all times during service on a board or commission.
Current Main Residence	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Are you currently a registered voter in Sunnyvale?	No
Have you ever served on a City of Sunnyvale board or commission?	No
Have you attended a meeting of the City Council, or a board or commission?	Yes
Briefly describe what you learned by watching or attending a meeting of the City Council, board or commission. What improvements would you suggest?	I had the honor of participating in the request submitted to the Human Relations Commission to obtain support for the International Ibero-American Festival, held last year. Additionally, I actively contributed to the petition for the provision of temporary lodging for people experiencing homelessness, reaffirming my commitment to social welfare and the strengthening of community initiatives.
Have you attended meetings of the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying?	Yes
How many meetings have you attended?	1

Board or Commission Selection

First Choice	Human Relations Commission
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Applicant Qualifications

What motivated you to apply for this board or commission?

My greatest motivation for applying to this commission is my deep commitment to the well-being and growth of our community. Throughout my journey, I have had the privilege of advocating for those in need, supporting initiatives that celebrate our culture, and working toward a more just and inclusive future. I have seen firsthand how empathy and collaboration can transform lives, and I am driven by a passion to continue creating spaces where every individual feels valued, heard, and supported. Serving on this board/commission would allow me to amplify my efforts, champion causes that touch the heart, and strengthen programs that truly make a difference.

What skills or attributes can you bring to this board or commission?

I bring a combination of skills and attributes that can significantly contribute to the work of this board/commission. As an educator and community leader, I have a strong ability to organize, coordinate, and promote the development of initiatives that positively impact society. My experience in managing educational programs, entrepreneurship, and community service has allowed me to develop leadership skills, effective communication, and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, my commitment to equity, inclusion, and social well-being drives me to create spaces for dialogue and collaboration, seeking innovative solutions that address the community's needs. Thanks to my background in education, business, and volunteer work, I have the ability to connect with different sectors, understand their concerns, and work as a team to achieve positive and lasting change.

The primary role of a board or commission member is to provide advice to City Council on policy issues that are within the scope of the board or commission. What steps would you take to effectively exercise this specific board or commission role?

To effectively fulfill my role on this board/commission and provide meaningful advice to the City Council on policy matters within our scope, I would take the following key steps:

- 1.- Thorough research and analysis: I would ensure a deep understanding of the issues and challenges affecting the community by conducting research, gathering relevant data, and analyzing trends that could influence decision-making.
- 2.- Active listening and collaboration: I would maintain open communication with residents, local organizations, and fellow board/commission members to understand their perspectives and concerns. Collaboration and idea-sharing are essential to proposing informed and equitable solutions.
- 3.- Proposal of initiatives and solutions: Based on collected information and community dialogue, I would work on developing recommendations and policies that address real needs, prioritizing equity, inclusion, and positive impact.
- 4.- Active participation in meetings and deliberations: I would attend board/commission meetings regularly, contributing proactively with well-founded ideas and ensuring that decisions are made with knowledge and responsibility.
- 5.- Continuous monitoring and evaluation: I would follow up on the recommendations implemented, assessing their effectiveness and adjusting strategies as needed to achieve optimal results.

My approach would be centered on a commitment to community well-being, transparency in decision-making, and the pursuit of sustainable solutions that enhance the development and quality of life of residents.

Education - List college degrees, majors and any relevant training or experience that demonstrates your ability to effectively serve on this board or commission.

Education and Training:

- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education - Anáhuac University of Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico.
- Diploma in Folk Dance - Anáhuac University of Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico.
- Intensive and Formative Courses in Business Creation and Development - Various Institutions.

Work Experience:

- Over 10 years of experience in elementary education in Mexico, serving as a teacher at Rector Miguel Hidalgo School in Morelia, Michoacán, where I designed educational programs and promoted children's well-being.
 - Currently working at Ellis Elementary School in Sunnyvale, California as a part-time childcare provider, ensuring a safe and enriching environment for children.
 - This summer, I will take on the role of paraeducator at Ellis Elementary, reinforcing my commitment to education and student development.
 - Community leadership and volunteer coordination, actively participating in social projects and supporting vulnerable populations.
 - Experience in entrepreneurship and business management, allowing me to develop strategic skills in leadership, communication, and decision-making.
 - Spanish teacher for children and adults, fostering accessible education and cultural exchange.
- This combination of academic background and practical experience in Mexico and the United States has prepared me to contribute effectively to this board/commission, bringing expertise in education, community development, entrepreneurship, and leadership.
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Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

Throughout my journey, I have been actively committed to serving my community and strengthening social connections through various initiatives.

- Advocacy and Social Support: I have participated in petitions and initiatives aimed at supporting cultural events and social causes. Notably, I contributed to the request for assistance from the Human Relations Commission for the International Ibero-American Festival and advocated for temporary housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - Education and Mentorship: As an elementary school teacher in Mexico, I played a vital role in shaping young minds and fostering a positive learning environment. In the United States, I continue my commitment to education at Ellis Elementary School in Sunnyvale, California, first as a part-time childcare provider and soon as a paraeducator during the summer.
 - Community Leadership: My passion for strengthening community relationships is reflected in my volunteer projects and my leadership in a Latino parents' group. Through this group, we come together to support one another, share resources, donate items we no longer need, and find essential goods for those in need. This initiative helps us build a strong support network and promotes the well-being of our families.
 - Entrepreneurship and Empowerment: As the founder of YUMAR Beauty, I actively engage in mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs, offering guidance on business development, branding strategies, and customer service. I believe in the power of sharing knowledge to foster professional and economic growth.
- Through these diverse roles, I strive to create a meaningful impact and contribute to the well-being of my community in educational, social, and family spaces.

Description Area

The City has a Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials and an Attendance Policy (7.2.19), 2 G (II) that appointed members are required to follow.

Do you have any concerns related to the above code and policy?

No

Are you willing to accept a temporary appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term?

Yes

Board or Commission-Specific Questions

Human Relations Commission

Category One: I'm a Sunnyvale resident.

Yes

What do you think are major equity challenges facing the Sunnyvale community?

Like many communities, Sunnyvale faces several equity challenges that affect residents' access to resources, opportunities, and overall well-being. Some of the major issues include:

- Affordable Housing and Homelessness: The high cost of living in Sunnyvale makes housing unattainable for many individuals and families. Additionally, there is a growing need for support services for people experiencing homelessness, including shelters and long-term housing solutions.
 - Educational Access and Support: While Sunnyvale has strong schools, disparities remain in access to educational programs, resources, and extracurricular opportunities, especially for students from lower-income families or non-English-speaking households.
 - Community Representation and Inclusion: Ensuring that diverse voices-especially those from underrepresented communities-are heard in local decision-making processes is crucial. Representation in civic boards, commissions, and leadership roles plays a significant part in shaping inclusive policies.
 - Economic Inequality and Workforce Opportunities: Small businesses and lower-income workers may face barriers in accessing financial support, job training, or entrepreneurship opportunities. Strengthening economic mobility is essential for long-term stability.
 - Access to Health and Social Services: Many residents struggle to find affordable healthcare, mental health support, and basic services. Expanding programs that provide assistance to vulnerable populations can make a significant difference.
 - Lack of Awareness About Available Resources: Although there are many programs designed to assist residents with housing, food, employment, and healthcare, many people are unaware of these services or how to access them. It is essential to improve outreach and ensure that information about available resources reaches the communities that need them most.
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Describe your experience working with historically marginalized communities. How have your actions benefited these communities?

My work with historically marginalized communities has been more than just service-it has been a journey of compassion, resilience, and deep connection. Every action I take is driven by the belief that no one should feel unheard or unsupported, and that equity is built through collective effort, kindness, and empowerment.

- Championing Education and Opportunity: As an elementary school teacher in Mexico, I have guided children through the challenges of learning, helping them build confidence in their abilities. Now, at Ellis Elementary School in Sunnyvale, California, I continue supporting immigrant and bilingual students, ensuring they feel seen, valued, and capable. Education is not just about lessons-it's about belonging, and I strive to make every child feel that they belong, no matter their background.

- Building a Network of Support: I lead a Latino parents' support group, where families come together not just to exchange resources, but to uplift each other. We donate items, find necessities for those struggling, and-most importantly-we remind one another that we are not alone. These moments of solidarity are powerful; they turn hardship into hope.

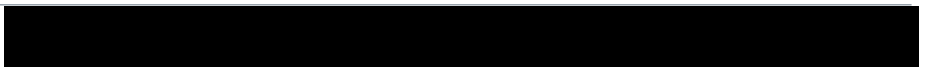
- Extending a Hand to Those in Need: My work with unhoused individuals has been profoundly humbling. Whether participating in Sunnyvale Resource Fairs to connect people with vital services or visiting shelters to bring meals and essential items, I have witnessed the immense strength of those facing hardship. A simple act of kindness-a warm meal, a listening ear, a donated jacket-can restore dignity, and I believe in the power of community to heal.

-Empowering Others Through Entrepreneurship: Through YUMAR Beauty, I mentor aspiring entrepreneurs, especially women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds. I help them dream bigger, build businesses, and reclaim their futures. When people realize their potential, they rewrite their stories-and that is where real change begins.

Every effort I make is rooted in the idea that we rise by lifting others. I carry this commitment with me in every project, every conversation, and every action. The communities I serve have given me purpose, and I will continue working tirelessly to ensure that their voices are heard, their struggles are acknowledged, and their opportunities are expanded.

Demographic Information

Your age



Your gender

Description Area

LGBTQIA+ Identity

Race or Ethnicity (select all that apply)

Do you speak a language other than English?

Which languages?

Household Income

Residence - Are you a

Do you live in a

Do you have any other identities* you would like to share with us?

Your Agreement

Description Area

IMPORTANT NOTICE – READ BEFORE SIGNING:By selecting both “Yes” and “Submit Form” below I am adding my digital signature to this application. I am also agreeing with the following statements:All statements I have made on this application are true and correct.I authorize the City of Sunnyvale (City) to investigate the accuracy of this information.I release the City from all claims and liabilities arising from such investigation.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application will be grounds for the City to deny my appointment. A false statement discovered later, will be grounds to dismiss me from my appointment at any time.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application could lead to criminal charges. Charges could fall under California Penal Code, Section 115 or other applicable law.

I agree

Yes

Your full name

Yuriana Valencia Landa

Date

Apr 22, 2025