

Form Name:
Unique ID:

Boards and Commissions Application
1308228129

Date Received: 1/23/25
Voter registration verified:
On: 1/24/25
By: MH

Applicant Information

Name	Winnie Lam
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Are you a Sunnyvale resident?	Yes
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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.
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Current Main Residence	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Sunnyvale, CA 94086
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Email	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 15px;"></div>
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Phone	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
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Are you currently a registered voter in Sunnyvale?	Yes
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When was the last time you voted? Month/Year	11/2024
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Have you ever served on a City of Sunnyvale board or commission?	Yes
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Check all that apply	Currently serving
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Name of board or commission currently serving	Arts Commission
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Have you attended a meeting of the City Council, or a board or commission?	Yes
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Briefly describe what you learned by attending a meeting of the City Council, board or commission. What improvements would you suggest?

My learnings:

- City of Sunnyvale puts forth a genuine amount of time and effort to gather input from the community. City Staff is responsive and respectful to comments from Commissioners and the public.

- No one single individual can unilaterally dictate policy changes. There is a well thought out process to evaluate Study Issues, in order to prioritize the issues of utmost benefit to the community.

My improvement suggestions:

- Council and Commission meetings can sometimes run very long, well into the late night. I've attended Council meetings that run until midnight. At that point, Council members are probably tired and less productive. The public would also not be able to participate as effectively. If there is a lengthy agenda and the meeting is expected to run for more than 3 hours, we could consider specifying the maximum amount of time allowed for each agenda topic.

Have you attended meetings of the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying?

Yes

How many meetings have you attended?

I've attended over 40 meetings. This is the result of having served on the City of Sunnyvale's Arts Commission since June 2021. This includes Special Joint meetings between the Arts Commission, Board of Library Trustees, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Further, I've also represented my neighborhood in Murphy Park by speaking about traffic safety issues at the Sunnyvale City Council meeting in July 2024, along with several of my neighbors.

Board or Commission Selection

First Choice

Board of Library Trustees (R)

Apply for another board or commission?1

Yes

Second Choice

Sustainability Commission

Applicant Qualifications

What motivated you to apply for this board or commission?

I've been leading community art projects at the Sunnyvale Library with Staff for over 4 years. The most notable project is the Gingerbread Village, which has become an annual tradition since 2021. The community, including many kids, filled up the guest book with over 50 pages of heartwarming comments, expressing their gratitude for the makers of the Gingerbread Village.

I'd like to expand my contribution to the Library and the community beyond the arts.

Through the Sunnyvale Library ballot Measure E, we heard a lot of valuable feedback from the community about their vision for how the Library can serve them even better. While Measure E did not pass, I would like to work with Staff and other Library Trustees about how we can address the community's vision for the Library, such as additional space and programming for kids and teens. This can potentially be achieved through fundraising, budgeting from the City, or other means.

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

1. Community outreach
 - I've demonstrated a track record in engaging with the community to create art projects that Library patrons appreciate. These community participants include schools, such as Sunnyvale Middle School, Wilcox High School, Kings Academy, and Santa Clara High School. Community participants also include makers from local non-profits, such as Fabmo and Cake4Kids.

2. Sustainability & community engagement
 - Sustainability is a key value for Sunnyvale, as demonstrated by Sunnyvale building the first Platinum LEED certified City Hall in the country. I incorporate Sustainability as a core theme in the community art projects that I launched at the Library over the past few years. For reference, I've been working as a Sustainability professional for my day job for 13 years.
 - For example, I led the community to make a Spaceship to celebrate the Library's Space Camp event. The Spaceship was made from 300 egg cartons donated by the community, and painted through a community workshop at the Library.
 - For the Library's Summer Reading Program in 2024, I led the community to create an 8 feet wide Hot air balloon mural, made from recycled bubble mailers (e.g. from Amazon deliveries) donated by the community.

3. Diversity & community engagement
 - Sunnyvale has a highly diverse population. In the community art projects that I've led at the Sunnyvale Library, we incorporate diversity as a core value as well. For example, I partnered with the group "Pink Brushes" to make community art. "Pink Brushes" is a group who met at the Sunnyvale Library for English as a Second Language purposes. In addition, I created artwork to celebrate the Library's Asian Night Market event in the summer of 2024.

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?

1. Channel input from Sunnyvale residents.
 - I will continue to engage with the community and channel input from Sunnyvale residents. I will broaden the scope of my engagement well beyond art, since the Library serves the community across a variety of needs for kids, teens, adults and seniors.

 2. Learn from Library Boards & Commissions in nearby cities.
 - There are Board of Library Trustees and Commissions in nearby cities, such as Mountain View and San Jose. I will seek to learn what worked well in these communities, and partner with City of Sunnyvale Staff and Council to evaluate what may be a fit for Sunnyvale.
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Education – List college degrees, majors and any relevant training or experience that demonstrates your ability to effectively serve on this board or commission.

Bachelor of Science, Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

- Received Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019 "in recognition of an exemplary career, dedication to sustainability and service to community".
- Received National Engineering Entrance Scholarship and Sir Sandford Fleming Medal for academic excellence.

Masters of Science, Energy Policy & Climate at The Johns Hopkins University.

- Served as alumni advisor in 2020, for a graduate student's capstone thesis research on renewable energy.

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

1. City of Sunnyvale Arts Commission.

- I have been serving on the Arts Commission since 2021.

2. City of Sunnyvale - Dept of Public Safety (DPS).

- I completed community art projects for the Halloween Pet Parade in 2024 and the Tree Lighting Celebration in 2024. Specifically, I decorated Officer Montgomery's motorbike, which kicked off the Halloween Pet Parade. I also created a custom made holiday wreath for the DPS fire truck, which transported Santa for the Tree Lighting Celebration.

3. Humane Society Silicon Valley

- I have been involved with the local non profit Humane Society Silicon Valley for over 10 years. As an Ambassador for Humane Society, I have recruited dozens of volunteers for special events, and ran annual fundraisers for them that raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations.

4. Boards & Councils

- In addition to local organizations, I serve on the following Boards and Councils:
 - World Wildlife Fund (international non profit). National Council member. June 2017 to Present.
 - Stanford University. Bits and Watts initiative of the Precourt Institute. Advisory Council member. Jan 2019 to Sep 2019.
 - University of Waterloo, United College. Board of Governor. Oct 2022 - Present.

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

Board of Library Trustees

Community demographics and technology are constantly changing. What do you think are the principal issues the Sunnyvale Public Library may be addressing over the next few years?

1. Close the digital divide.

Technology has powered tremendous innovation in Silicon Valley. At the same time, technology is not equally accessible to everyone. The Library already offers Maker Services and lends Tech equipment to Patrons. If I join the Board of Library Trustees, I would identify ways to further close the digital divide.

2. Foster community and human connection through face-to-face interactions.

While technology has made our lives better in many ways, it has also contributed to more isolation. The 19th and 21st US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy stated that "loneliness is more widespread than other major health issues in the U.S today. Our epidemic of loneliness and isolation is a major public health concern".

(Source:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/sg-social-connection-general.pdf>)

Sunnyvale Public Library is a magical place that brings people together across all age groups, ethnicities and demographics. Thus, the Library can generate highly positive impact in alleviating isolation and fostering a sense of togetherness, through its wide-reaching in-person community programs.

Sustainability Commission

Category One: I'm a Sunnyvale resident. Yes

Category Two: I'm a Sunnyvale business community member.* No

Sustainability is a new and emerging concern in many communities. What do you think are the primary sustainability policy issues this commission will be addressing over the next few years?

Policy #1: Transportation emissions
- Transportation contributes to 46% of Sunnyvale's Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and is the largest contributor category. (Source: <https://sunnyvaleclimateaction.org/scoreboard>). The Policy priority shall focus on approaches to reduce transportation emissions. This can be in the form of building Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure. Another method can be to allow permitting for higher density housing to be located in close proximity to where people work, while simultaneously building public transit infrastructure to support the increase in residential density. Thus, the Sustainability and Planning are closely intertwined.

Policy #2: Commercial / Industrial emissions from gas usage
- Commercial and industrial emissions from gas usage contributes to 21% of Sunnyvale's Greenhouse Gas Emissions. We can enact policies to incentivize businesses to reduce their gas usage. One method can be providing rebates to businesses that install heat pumps and remove their gas heating infrastructure.

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Demographic Information

Your age 45-64

Your gender Female

Description Area LGBTQIA+ Identity (LGBTQIA+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the "+" is an all-inclusive way to include additional terms used to describe one's gender, romantic, and sexual identities for those who do not identify with heterosexuality or the gender binary.)

LGBTQIA+ Identity No, I am not part of the LGBTQIA+ community

Race or Ethnicity (select all that apply) Asian

Do you speak a language other than English? No

Household Income Over \$161,670

Residence - Are you a Homeowner

Do you live in a Single Family Home

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

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 Winnie Lam

Date Jan 23, 2025
