

Applicant Information

Name	Madeline N Chang
Are you a Sunnyvale resident?	Yes
How long have you lived in Sunnyvale?	16 years
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?

From attending a City Council meeting, I noticed that while many important issues are covered, the discussions can be long-winded and repetitive. Although it's important that everyone has their voice heard, it can sometimes slow down progress and dilute the key points. I would suggest improving meeting efficiency by setting stricter time limits for comments and encouraging speakers to stay on-topic. The clerk could also provide a short summary of what was said on the screen (both for online and in-person), at the end of each item, so the public can better understand decisions. To make meetings more efficient and accessible, I'd suggest introducing a few tools to better engage the public. First, allowing public input through pre-meeting online forms or surveys could help gather community feedback ahead of time, reducing repetition during live sessions. This is especially helpful for youth members who may be unable to stay for the entirety of the meeting, if they have school the next day. For complex agenda items, short pre-recorded videos explaining the topic would help residents understand the issues before tuning in. This could also be in a text format. Another idea is to create a dedicated page on the city's website to track public suggestions - showing whether an idea was implemented, discussed further, or paused - to improve transparency. During meetings, a real-time fact-checking sidebar or livenote could explain terms, policies, or past decisions being referenced. Finally, a "Meeting Highlights Digest" shared via email or social media the next day would make the outcomes and information about what was discussed more accessible for people who couldn't attend.

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

No

Board or Commission Selection

First Choice

Human Relations Commission

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'm passionate about making local government more accessible, inclusive, and representative - especially for youth and underrepresented communities. The Human Relations Commission's focus on equity, inclusion, and community-building aligns closely with the advocacy work I've done through climate organizing, education reform, and civic engagement. I see this as a chance to bring fresh ideas to the table and uplift the voices that are often left out. I'm also excited to learn from others on the commission and contribute to projects that genuinely make a difference in people's everyday lives

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

I bring a strong mix of leadership, communication, and community outreach skills to the table. Through my work in local campaigns and school district-wide initiatives, I have learned how to follow through with ideas and work with a variety of people. I'm especially skilled at breaking down complex topics so they're easier to understand - whether that's through public-facing graphics, clear writing, or organizing youth panels. I also have experience coordinating large groups of volunteers and leading projects focused on equity, education, and climate justice. Most importantly, I bring a youth perspective and a commitment to amplifying community voices that aren't always heard in government spaces.

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 advise the City Council, I would start by thoroughly researching the issues at hand - including reviewing relevant data, hearing from subject-matter experts, and understanding community perspectives. I believe it's important to listen actively during public comment, especially to underrepresented voices, and to ask thoughtful questions that help clarify how policies will affect different groups. I would also begin by reviewing policy proposals through both an equity and impact lens, asking who benefits, who's left out, and how the policy supports long-term inclusion. I'd also suggest organizing occasional listening sessions or focus groups with community members, especially from underserved neighborhoods, to gather deeper insights beyond a more formal public comment.

To stay informed and transparent, I'd propose creating a brief summary of commission recommendations for the public - making our advice more accessible and increasing accountability. This can be published on social media for more accessibility. Lastly, I'd collaborate with student leaders and local organizations to gather youth and community input early in the policy process, not just after a proposal is finalized. That way, we can deliver recommendations that better serve our community.

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

N/A

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

I have been actively involved in a range of community activities and civic organizations, aiming to create a positive impact and engage others in meaningful change. As the founder of the Sunnyvale Youth Advisory, I've worked alongside other youth to voice youth concerns and advocate for policies that better serve young people in our community. We have worked on various community projects, including the creation of an after school literacy intervention program for elementary schoolers, conversion of invasive species to natives, and more.

My experience extends to political campaigns, where I supported Evan Low's congressional campaign and Patrick Ahrens' campaign for State Assembly. In these roles, I helped with event coordination, voter outreach, and organizing volunteers. I also served as an Intern Manager for the Santa Clara Democratic Party, where I led phone-banking efforts, coordinated events, and conducted research on sister districts to guide strategy. I played a key role in organizing the Youth Takeover event, empowering young people to have a voice in local politics and advocating for youth-driven resolutions.

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?

Major equity challenges facing the Sunnyvale community include disparities in transportation access, particularly for students, and unequal distribution of resources across different neighborhoods. Many students, especially those from low-income backgrounds, face significant barriers to reliable transportation, limiting their access to educational opportunities, extracurricular activities, and even employment. This gap often exacerbates existing inequalities and restricts social mobility.

Another key issue is unequal access to community resources, particularly educational support and extracurricular programs. While some areas of Sunnyvale have a lot of access to enrichment activities, others face large shortages. To solve this, I'd suggest expanding after-school programs and tutoring services in underserved areas, ensuring that all students have access to the same opportunities regardless of their neighborhood. Creating stronger partnerships with nonprofits and local businesses could help bridge this gap and make resources more accessible to all.

Describe your experience working with historically marginalized communities. How have your actions benefited these communities?

My experience working with historically marginalized communities is rooted in my involvement with an afterschool intervention program designed to support students from low-income and underserved backgrounds. I worked closely with students who faced academic challenges due to factors like limited access to resources and lack of personalized support. By developing new and engaging strategies to make learning more interactive and accessible, I helped these students improve their academic performance in areas like reading and math.

One of the key strategies I implemented was creating hands-on, fun learning activities that not only helped students grasp difficult concepts but also sparked their interest in learning. An example of this would be a "journal" the students are all keeping that they will be able to take home to their parents. This approach helped build their confidence and encouraged more active participation in class. Through this work, I contributed to giving these students a stronger foundation for success, demonstrating how creative, engaging solutions can be impactful in addressing educational disparities.

Sustainability Commission

Category One: I'm a Sunnyvale resident.

Yes

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?

Over the next few years, I believe one of the primary sustainability policy issues this commission will be addressing is water conservation and management. With ongoing droughts and climate change, ensuring that our water resources are used efficiently and equitably will be crucial. This includes developing policies to promote water conservation in both residential and commercial sectors, as well as enhancing the infrastructure for water recycling and reuse.

Additionally, the commission may need to address issues like energy efficiency, particularly in buildings and transportation, as well as waste reduction. As the community grows, finding ways to reduce waste, encourage recycling, and transition to renewable energy sources will be key in making Sunnyvale a more sustainable city. I also see potential for focusing on green spaces and urban planning to ensure the city continues to grow while preserving its environmental health.

Description Area

View the Climate Action Playbook

Have you read the above version of the Climate Action Playbook?

Yes

What are your thoughts on the Playbook? How might the actions ("Plays") be improved?

One improvement could be to focus on expanding access to clean energy and sustainable transportation options for low-income and marginalized residents, who often face barriers to adopting green technologies. Additionally, public outreach and education on the Playbook's initiatives could be strengthened to engage a broader range of residents and ensure that everyone understands the benefits of these actions and how they can contribute.

Another area of improvement could be to incorporate stronger accountability measures. Ensuring that progress is regularly tracked, reported, and adjusted based on results will help maintain momentum and make sure that the Playbook's goals are actually being met. It might also be beneficial to create more localized strategies within the Playbook that address specific needs of different neighborhoods, ensuring a tailored approach to sustainability.

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

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

Madeline Chang

Date

Apr 24, 2025