

Applicant Information

Name	Sharon Morkatz
Are you a Sunnyvale resident?	Yes
How long have you lived in Sunnyvale?	11 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	
Email	
Phone	
Are you currently a registered voter in Sunnyvale?	Yes
When was the last time you voted? Month/Year	4 Months ago and 6 month ago
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?	Watching a Sunnyvale City Council meeting gave me a deeper appreciation for how local government functions and how community input plays a critical role in shaping policy. The meeting was well-organized and transparent, with opportunities for public comment on various issues including housing development, traffic safety, and public art initiatives. I was especially impressed by the thoughtful discussions among council members and their responsiveness to resident concerns. I'd love to see more events that showcase the talent of local artists-young and old-from all areas of the arts, creating a vibrant and inclusive celebration of creativity in our community. We must ensure these experiences are accessible and affordable, so everyone feels welcomed and inspired to take part,

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

How many meetings have you attended? 3 meetings

Board or Commission Selection

First Choice Arts Commission

Applicant Qualifications

What motivated you to apply for this board or commission?

As someone who's passionate about fostering creativity and building community through the arts, I've always admired Sunnyvale's dedication to integrating art into public spaces. The city's emphasis on celebrating both its cultural diversity and technological roots resonates deeply with me. I'm excited by the opportunity to contribute to a commission that not only supports local artists but also enriches the daily experiences of residents through public art installations and community programs.

I've seen firsthand how art can transform public spaces, spark conversations, and bring people together. By serving on the Arts Commission, I hope to help expand these opportunities-whether by promoting new public art initiatives, supporting emerging artists, or creating more accessible and engaging cultural events for the community.

Ultimately, my motivation comes from wanting to give back to a city that has inspired me, while using my creative background to help shape Sunnyvale's evolving artistic landscape.

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

As a woman-owned general contractor with a professional background in home design spaces and contracting, I bring a strong sense of spatial awareness, aesthetics, and practical execution to the Arts Commission. My work has always been rooted in creating environments that are both beautiful and functional, qualities that are essential when planning public art installations and community spaces.

In addition to my design career, I studied acting for three years and performed in theater productions, which gave me a deep appreciation for the performing arts and the emotional power of storytelling. This experience allows me to connect with artists and audiences alike, understanding how art moves people.

I have a profound love for aesthetics, beauty, and design, and I'm passionate about creating spaces that inspire and uplift. I also deeply appreciate artists and their work, and I would be honored to support and advocate for creative voices in the Sunnyvale community.

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?

Stay Informed and Engaged

I would make it a priority to stay up to date on relevant policies, ongoing city projects, and community needs. This means attending meetings regularly, reviewing materials thoroughly, and doing additional research when needed to make well-informed decisions.

Listen and Collaborate Thoughtfully

I believe effective advice comes from listening-not just to fellow commissioners, but also to community members, artists, and city staff. I would encourage inclusive dialogue, respect different perspectives, and seek common ground that serves both artistic vision and public interest.

Bridge Practicality and Creativity

With my background in home design and contracting, I understand the logistics behind bringing ideas to life-budgets, timelines, materials, and permits. I would apply this knowledge to help evaluate proposals realistically, ensuring artistic projects are inspiring and implementable.

Bring Community Values Forward

Art should reflect and enrich the community it lives in. I would advocate for projects that are inclusive, accessible, and culturally relevant to Sunnyvale's diverse population. I'd also encourage opportunities for local artists to participate and be celebrated.

Uphold the Mission of the Commission

Ultimately, I would remain committed to the mission of the Arts Commission-supporting policies and projects that enhance Sunnyvale's cultural landscape and advising the City Council with integrity, creativity, and a community-focused mindset

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

Professional Experience:

Business owner of Home Design and Spatial Planning and contracting

I have a professional background in home design, where I create beautiful, functional spaces that reflect both aesthetic sensibility and client needs. This experience has sharpened my eye for design and deepened my understanding of how visual elements interact within a space, skills that directly apply to evaluating and advising on public art.

Licensed General Contractor

Sharon Stone Design is my business name. As a licensed general contractor, I bring in-depth knowledge of construction, permitting, budgeting, and project management. These skills are essential for understanding the feasibility and implementation of public art and design projects.

Licensed Stone and Tile Contractor

My specialized work in stone and tile adds another layer of material and structural expertise, especially relevant for durable and visually impactful installations in public areas.

Together, these experiences blend creative vision, technical expertise, and practical project execution-making me well-equipped to contribute effectively as a member of the Sunnyvale Arts Commission

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

Community Event Hosting

My husband and I love bringing people together, and our home has become a welcoming hub for Jewish community events. I personally designed and remodeled our house, including a spacious backyard that's ideal for gatherings. We've hosted several events for local organizations-some with over 100 guests-where we prepared all the food ourselves and created a warm, beautiful environment. These events have helped strengthen community bonds and celebrate shared values through art, food, and connection.

Support for Women Artists and Women-Owned Businesses

I'm especially passionate about uplifting women in the creative and business communities. I make a conscious effort to support local women artists and women-owned businesses-whether it's through promoting their work, attending their events, or offering my home as a venue for gatherings that celebrate their achievements. I believe in creating platforms that empower women and help their voices and talents shine in our community.

Local Arts and Culture Advocate

I regularly attend art exhibits, performances, and cultural events in Sunnyvale and surrounding areas. I volunteer at art-related events and enjoy being part of conversations that promote creativity and inclusion.

Neighborhood Design and Beautification

As a home designer and licensed contractor, I share ideas with neighbors and support small beautification projects that make our streets and public spaces more welcoming and inspiring.

Civic Engagement

I stay engaged with local issues by attending City Council and commission meetings, and I encourage others in my community to do the same. I care deeply about creating a vibrant, inclusive city through art, culture, and thoughtful community design.

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

Arts Commission

What role do you think public art plays in a city?

Public art plays a vital role in shaping the identity and spirit of Sunnyvale. In a city that blends innovation with cultural diversity, public art serves as a visual and emotional connector-it brings people together, sparks curiosity, and makes everyday spaces feel more human, inspiring, and meaningful.

Art in public spaces transforms ordinary streets, parks, and buildings into places of beauty and reflection. It creates a sense of place and belonging, reminding us that we are part of a community with shared stories and values. It also gives local artists a platform to express those stories, and encourages residents to engage with the city in new and creative ways.

In my view, public art should reflect the richness of Sunnyvale's diverse population, highlight its innovation and creativity, and celebrate both its history and future. It should be accessible, thought-provoking, and inclusive-welcoming people of all backgrounds to experience and participate in it.

As someone who values beauty, design, and artistic expression, I believe public art is not just decoration-it's an essential part of a thriving, livable, and inspiring city

**How might the City strengthen
art programs in the community?**

Create More Opportunities for Local Artists

The City can strengthen its art programs by offering more grants, exhibitions, and public art opportunities specifically for local artists-especially women and underrepresented creatives. Showcasing their work in community spaces not only uplifts their voices but also strengthens the cultural identity of Sunnyvale.

Expand Community-Based Art Events

Hosting more neighborhood-level art events, such as pop-up galleries, open studios, cultural nights, or outdoor performances, would bring art directly to the people. These events could rotate across different neighborhoods and even include spaces like private homes or backyards-something I've personally done and would love to see more of!

Integrate Art with Everyday Public Spaces

Public art doesn't have to be limited to sculptures or murals. Art can be integrated into sidewalks, benches, utility boxes, transit stations, and parks. These small touches can elevate daily experiences and foster a deeper connection with our city.

Partner with Local Schools and Youth Programs

Developing youth art programs in partnership with schools or community centers can nurture creativity early. Creating mentorship opportunities with professional artists would also help young people see viable paths in the arts.

Promote Women Artists and Creative Entrepreneurs

The city can intentionally spotlight and support women artists and business owners through dedicated art showcases, speaker series, and collaborative events that celebrate and empower their contributions.

Make Art More Accessible and Inclusive

Providing multilingual promotion, ADA-accessible events, and art that reflects the diversity of Sunnyvale's residents ensures that everyone feels seen, heard, and welcome in the city's cultural life

The Sunnyvale Public Art collection includes sculptures and other physical art. As an Arts Commissioner, how would you prioritize the inclusion of visual, literary, interactive and performing arts to embody the cultures of our diverse community?

Sunnyvale is home to a vibrant mix of cultures and voices. By supporting a variety of art forms-murals that tell cultural stories, poetry installations in public spaces, or live performances rooted in global traditions-we can make sure our public art truly reflects everyone in our community.

Create Opportunities for Performing and Literary Arts

Having studied acting and performed in theater myself for 13 years, I know how powerful the performing arts can be in creating shared emotional experiences. I'd advocate for outdoor performances, storytelling nights, and poetry readings in public spaces-activating our parks, plazas, and even libraries as cultural stages.

Support Interactive and Experiential Art

Art that invites participation-like community-created mosaics, touchable installations, or digital art that responds to movement-can deeply engage people of all ages. These types of works make art feel more accessible and personal.

Collaborate With Diverse Artists and Organizations

I would prioritize working with artists from different cultural backgrounds and partnering with local community groups, schools, and cultural organizations. Their voices should guide the types of art we support so we can create work that is both meaningful and representative.

Balance Tradition With Innovation

While sculptures and physical art remain important, I believe the city can also explore new media and digital formats, integrating tech-inspired interactive art that reflects Sunnyvale's innovative spirit alongside its cultural heritage.

My goal would be to ensure that every resident-no matter their background or age-can find something in the public art collection that resonates with their identity, sparks curiosity, and invites them to be part of the city's evolving creative story.

Description Area

If you are appointed to the Arts Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing and Human Services Commission or the Planning Commission, you must electronically file the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), which will be a public record. Statement of Economic Interests - Form 700 Understanding of Filing Requirement I understand and agree that if I'm appointed to the Arts Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing and Human Services Commission or Planning Commission I must electronically file the Fair Political Practices Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). This form reports my economic interests and those of my spouse or domestic partner, if applicable. I understand this will be a public record.

Radio Button

Yes

Demographic Information

Your age

Your gender

Description Area

LGBTQIA+ Identity

Race or Ethnicity (select all that apply)

Short Answer

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

Sharon Morkatz

Date

Apr 23, 2025
