



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

August 31, 2020

The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California

Interviews of Candidates for the Human Relations Commission and Public Art Commission

On Monday, August 10, 2020, City Council selected the following applicants to interview for the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and the Public Art Commission (PAC). The City Council will be scheduled to vote to appoint candidates on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Human Relations Commission

The six HRC applicants to be interviewed are as follows: 10-minute interviews

1. Nilofer Chollampat 6:20 P.M.
2. Sunita de Turreil 6:00 P.M.
3. Sofia Fojas 6:50 P.M.
4. Curt Kinsky 6:30 P.M.
5. ~~David Villaseca Morales~~ This application has been withdrawn
6. Paula Rugg 6:10 P.M.
7. Lestina Trainor 6:40 P.M.

There is one open position (Xue resignation), with a partial term ending May 31, 2021 on the Human Relations Commission

Public Art Commission

The four PAC applicants to be interviewed are as follows: 10-minute interviews

1. Marilyn Gottlieb-Robert 7:10 P.M.
2. Hsinya Shen (Incumbent) 7:40 P.M.
3. Harriet Stern 7:20 P.M.
4. Nia Taylor (Incumbent) 7:30 P.M.

There are two open positions (Shen, Taylor) with three-year terms ending May 31, 2023 on the Public Art Commission.

Copies of the applications have been provided to the City Council and are attached to this staff report. Some personal information has been redacted at the request of the applicants.

Background

Human Relations Commission ([Municipal Code Section 2.22](#))

2.22.010 Membership

There is created a Human Relations Commission composed of five members who are not council members, officers or employees of the city, who are residents of the city, and who shall be appointed by the city council.

2.22.050 Jurisdiction

(a) The Human Relations Commission has the discretion to act with respect to any human relations matter when the commission finds that any person or group does not benefit fully from public or private opportunities or resources in the community, or is unfairly or differently treated due to factors of concern to the commission.

(1) Public or private opportunities or resources in the community include, but are not limited to, those associated with ownership and rental of housing, employment, education and governmental services and benefits.

(2) Factors of concern to the commission include, but are not limited to, socioeconomic class or status, physical condition or handicap, married or unmarried state, emotional condition, intellectual ability, age, sex, sexual preference, gender identity, race, cultural characteristics, ethnic background, ancestry, citizenship, and religious, conscientious or philosophical belief.

(b) The commission shall conduct such studies and undertake such responsibilities as the council may direct.

Public Art Commission ([Municipal Code Section 2.18](#))

2.18.010 Membership

There is created a Public Art Commission composed of five members who are not council members, officers, or employees of the city, and who shall be appointed by the city council

2.18.070 Jurisdiction

(a) Art in Public Places. The public art commission shall perform the duties and shall have the responsibilities specified in [Chapter 2.26](#) of this title.

(b) Additional Duties. The public art commission shall perform such other duties and undertake such other responsibilities as the city council may direct from time to time.

(c) Interaction with Other City Bodies. If the functions of the public art commission overlap the functions of another city committee, commission, board, task force, or the like, the director of arts and culture, in cooperation with the public art commission and such other city body, shall devise a procedure for coordinating such functions to avoid duplication of efforts, to maximize cooperation between the city bodies, and to utilize the expertise of the various city bodies in a manner most compatible with the public welfare.

(d) Interaction with City Departments. The chief building official shall determine whether a proposed work of art is a mural or a sign under Section 16.20.011(a)(10) of this code prior to review by the public art commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: HRC and PAC Applications- Interviews (PDF)

Department Head: Beth Minor, City Clerk

HRC and PAC Applications

Board and Commission Interviews- August 31, 2020

Human Relations Commission:

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2. Sunita de Turreil 6:00 P.M.
3. Sofia Fojas 6:50 P.M.
4. Curt Kinsky 6:30 P.M.
5. Paula Rugg 6:10 P.M.
6. Lestina Trainor 6:40 P.M.

Public Art Commission:

1. Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts 7:10 P.M.
2. Hsinya Shen (Incumbent) 7:40 P.M.
3. Harriet Stern 7:20 P.M.
4. Nia Taylor (Incumbent) 7:30 P.M.

Human Relations Commission

Personal Information – Note: The HRC regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name:

Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? **Yes** **No**

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? **Yes** **No**

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? **Yes** **No**

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? **Yes** **No**

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? **Yes** **No**

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Human Relations Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

Employment

Present or Last Employer:

Occupation:

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1242 characters)

1. What is it about the Human Relations Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1449 characters)

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Human Relations Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

4. Human Relations Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. (690 characters)

Human Services Needs Assessment [LINK](#)

Muni Code 9.72 – Mandatory Response Program [LINK](#)

Community Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

California Government Code Section 6254.21 states, in part, “No state or local agency shall post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the Internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual.” *This consent form will not be redacted and will be attached to the Application and posted to the City’s website.*

The full code can be read here: [LINK](#)

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

___ I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City’s website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

OR

___ I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City’s website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address:

Cell Phone:

___ Home / ___ Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) _____

Date: _____

Human Relations Commission

Personal Information – Note: The HRC regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: SUNITA DE TOURREIL +

Address: +

Cell Phone: +

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: sunita@chocolatedividends.org +

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Human Relations Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: PALO ALTO CORONAVIRUS REPORT +

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

MASTERS of SCIENCE, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND HUMAN GENETICS

Worked at UCSF with dying patients with Creutzfeldt Jakob disease, collaborating with nurses, orderlies, local businesses, doctors, scientists all working together to develop a diagnostic test.

Founded and built a business that built diverse community in Palo Alto between 2010 and 2018 (The Chocolate Garage) and addressed bringing transparency, accountability and activism to the cocoa supply chain. Also lead luxury educational trips to the global south, to educate and open minds towards other cultures.

Single mom to two kids going to school in Palo Alto.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Self-employed, HAPPY CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCES LLC



Occupation: ENTREPRENEUR



Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1242 characters)

Volunteer at Addison Elementary School with Project Cornerstone (social emotional learning) and other activities at Addison and Girls Middle School.

Started attending City Hall Meetings in early 2020. Spoke at one, inquiring about a police incident that I observed.

Trained as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in 2005-2006.

Multiple community events through my social enterprise, around educating around supply chains, around using your purchasing choices to bring about change in the world.

1. What is it about the Human Relations Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

I am open, curious, smart and I desire seeing stronger more resilient and inclusive communities, where we move from love and not from fear.

I have excellent interpersonal skills, I am used to working with different parties, with different backgrounds and goals. I speak English, French and Spanish, and bring a cultural understanding with this language fluency.

I feel I bring different cultural experiences and practices, having traveled a great deal in both the global south, as well as the global north.

I give people the benefit of the doubt, and believe that humans are decent and are doing the best they can with the tools that they have.

I think all these skills are needed for the Human Relations Commission, and I would dedicate myself to listening to more of the community I would be serving. I want to see a Palo Alto that helps everyone feel like they are welcome, they belong and are safe.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1449 characters)

I am interested in seeing more transparency and accountability around diversity, so that we include more voices, and more compassion in our city policies.

I am interested in this as a biracial cisgender woman raising two white identified kids, as a single mom in a culture of white male supremacy. My white kids voices will likely be more listened to, and heard, than their black and brown friends and family members.

In addition to raising them to understand their white privilege and then be moved to use that privilege to help protect and give voices to those who aren't being listened to, I want to take part in our local community, as a minority biracial resident of Palo Alto.

I have benefited from much of the privilege that is bestowed upon affluent white families, having immigrant parents with graduate degrees and growing up in Canada and getting a graduate degree. I want to be aware of this privilege and use my skills to listen to those who have less voice.

I also want to use my immigrant experience to bring a fresh look at our cultural short sightedness and broaden the conversations we are having and the solutions we are considering.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Human Relations Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

I want to ensure that the recent policies around diversity and improvements to the policing systems in Palo Alto continue to be evaluated and improved upon.

I think continuing to invite community members and various experts in this area to speak on panels, and answer HRC members questions, to dig deeply into these issues, and come up with creative and compassionate solutions, is one way to more deeply understand the legacies of our past, and find new ways to build better systems for the future.

I think engagement with organizations already started by our local youth, and deep listening and learning from our next generation of leaders, is critical. Engaging them to help us achieve our goals, and guide our solutions.

4. Human Relations Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. (690 characters)

Human Services Needs Assessment [LINK](#)

Muni Code 9.72 – Mandatory Response Program [LINK](#)

Community Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

I do not have experience with any of these documents.

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Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) SUNITA DE TOURREIL



Date: July 9, 2020

Human Relations Commission

Personal Information – Note: The HRC regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Sofia Fojas +

Address: 3371 Park Blvd, Palo Alto, CA 94306 +

Cell Phone: (650) 339-5596 +

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: s1fojas@gmail.com +

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

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Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

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3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Human Relations Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

I am an arts administrator for the Santa Clara County Office of Education and have teaching credential in Music as well as a Master's of Educational Leadership and an administrative credential. I am a 26-year veteran in public education and have worked in schools serving students of color living in poverty. I have been involved in racial equity work in the arts both at the local level, state level in my work with the California Alliance for Arts Education and at the national level on the Racial Equity Committee for the National Guild for Community Arts.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Santa Clara County Office of Education +

Occupation: Arts Coordinator +

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1242 characters)

My work in public education has always been focused on students needing the most supports. I began as a music teacher in Stockton and then took a job in San Jose where I taught in arts programs funded under the Desegregation order in the 1970s. I have been a champion of arts and culture in my tenure as a teacher and served on the Bay Section Board of the California Music Educators' Association (CMEA) and the State chapter of CMEA as the Multicultural Representative, connecting teachers to cultural arts organizations in professional development sessions toward expanding what the arts could be in reaching students and families of color. In 2008, I was in the first class of First Act Silicon Valley's Multicultural Arts Leadership Initiative, a training program for young arts leaders. I served on the board of the California Alliance for Arts Education for two years in 2017 and am a member of the Racial Equity Committee on the board of the National Guild for Community Arts Education. In my current position, I and my new team will be delivering professional learning through a strong equity lens in supporting districts using a model of shared leadership between higher education, K-12 and arts organizations in the county.

1. What is it about the Human Relations Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

As a 26-year veteran in public education and a child of immigrants, I first became aware of the work of the Human Rights Commission in my work in San Francisco in 2016. I had several opportunities to work with members of the SF HRC staff around the development of equitable arts experiences for students in the Bayview. I have always been civic minded and have been aware of my acquired privilege through education and my influence and positional authority in the arena of arts education locally, at the state level and nationally. In my work around arts equity and particularly in these times of racial disparity, the pandemic and economic instability, I see the inequities played out in education as a symptom of a larger systemic imbalance. My interests in serving families have extended beyond education to address issues in housing, health access, economic opportunity and crime and social justice issues. The Human Rights Commission is an important vehicle for addressing these issues in Palo Alto and I want to bring my experiences and skillset in education as a voice on the Human Rights Commission.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1449 characters)

I have been particularly interested in the reexamination of police services in our cities in light of the death of George Floyd as it relates to '8 Can't Wait'. As an educator, I have seen the increased presence of the police on our school campuses, especially apparent in schools where students of color are present. Palo Alto has always been a city in a bubble but I have been made aware of the unequal treatment of people of color in our city. I am a proud member of the Ventura neighborhood and am very much aware of its poor reputation even as it is the neighborhood founded on redlining and segregation. I am interested in looking at the role of the police in our city and finding ways to disrupt the racialized outcomes that people of color and those living in poverty encounter in their interactions with police.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Human Relations Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

The specific goals I would like to address on the Human Rights Commission are: '8 Can't Wait' and reexamining the role of the police; homelessness and the unhoused; and youth development and diversity in moving away from a culture of excellence and competition, towards the development of empathy and social emotional learning. I imagine engaging the arts organizations and funders in this region to develop programs for community members to have conversations with each other through arts activities and experiences. We have Stanford University in our midst to bring in as a partner in this work as well as a arts and culture organizations in the county who would gladly pivot towards civic engagement while we are sheltering in place. The schools could also be a partner in this work around youth development and well-rounded education and the building of empathy through the arts to prepare for a 21st century world that is sure to look different than what we know to exist now.

4. Human Relations Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. (690 characters)

Human Services Needs Assessment [LINK](#)

Muni Code 9.72 – Mandatory Response Program [LINK](#)

Community Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

While I have heard about a couple of these documents, I have no direct experience with them.

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Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) Sofia Fojas  Date: 07/21/2020

Human Relations Commission

Personal Information – Note: The HRC regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Curt B. Kinsky

Address: 1675 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Cell Phone: 4088939273

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: curt.b.kinsky@outlook.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Human Relations Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

30 years with Ernst & Young, a global professional services firm

21 years as a Principal leading multi-racial, gender diverse teams in delivering international tax services

17 years abroad (Amsterdam, Milan, London, Paris, Shanghai, and Hong Kong) with exposure to multi-cultural teams and issues

Bachelor of Arts (1985; double major) in English and History from Kenyon College

Master of Management (1996) in Marketing from Kellogg Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University

Master of Arts (degree not yet conferred; 1987) in International Relations from The University of Chicago

INSEAD Executive Education

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Ersnt & Young LLP



Occupation: Principal, International Tax Services



Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1242 characters)

I have been an active volunteer with All Star Project Development School for Youth in San Francisco. Here we bring forward underprivileged high school student and provide them opportunities for workplace advancement they would not otherwise have.

Honestly, my Palo Alto community involvement to date has been minimal to nonexistent. I view this application to the HRC as a first step towards engagement. NOW means now. I have to get involved; contribute to my community. After three decades of professional services experience at the highest levels across the globe, I know I have much to offer.

1. What is it about the Human Relations Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

In my business career, I have led teams across the globe with members from diverse ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, and gender characteristics. This has given me insight into the fundamental societal issues of the day. Given the extraordinary tumult we are living through, I believe my experience at finding common ground amongst diverse team members will prove invaluable to the Commission.

To me, at this point in time, the bottom line is very simple: NOW means now - I have to find a way to be involved and to make a contribution. I honestly believe my proven ability to team and find common solutions amongst diverse members is accretive to the important work of the commission.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1449 characters)

8 Can't Wait

The July meeting of the Commission was an important public forum discussion regarding policing in our community.

I believe the implementation of 8 Can't Wait is extremely important and needs to be done now. However, this cannot be the only steps taken to reform our approach towards policing. Many are skeptical of these reforms citing they are too superficial to have any meaningful impact. While this premise remains to be proven, it none the less demonstrates the need to do more and think/act deeper.

However, I believe we cannot go from a standing start to a full sprint without taking a few initial accelerating steps. We need to create positive momentum by putting in place the 8 reforms and using this as a platform to evolve further. We cannot afford the time to ignore these relatively straightforward recommendations at the expense of laborious discourse on deeper changes.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Human Relations Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

Goal #1: Civil community discourse.

If we are to accomplish any fundamental changes in our society, they must be premised on coalescing people with diverse views. We have to improve our capability to listen. I would accomplish this goal by leveraging my team building capabilities and cross cultural acumen to build positive consensus around issues.

Goal #2: Diversification without coercion

Palo Alto has diversity in its population and thinking. However, from the outside, it appears a Wonder Bread society. We have to find ways to bring forward the diversity resident in our society. In doing so, we need also to adhere to goal #1 and not force people into positions just to demonstrate diversity. There has been some internal conflict on the HRC and this has led to a lack of confidence in the workings of the Commission.

4. Human Relations Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. (690 characters)

Human Services Needs Assessment [LINK](#)

Muni Code 9.72 – Mandatory Response Program [LINK](#)

Community Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

I do not have experience with these documents.

However, in my three decades of work in professional services, I have operated under strict governance guidelines (some of which I have helped define/write) and thus am comfortable working in environments such as those described in the three links above.

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Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) Curt B. Kinsky  Date: _____

Human Relations Commission

Personal Information – Note: The HRC regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Paula Rugg

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Home / Office Phone: [Redacted]

E-mail: Bonnie94306@yahoo.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

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Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

BA in Education MA in Education Administration. Public School Administration - 23 years.
s. CERT - Fremont and Palo Alto

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Fremont Unified School District

Occupation: School Principal

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1242 characters)

I am a Board Member and Operations Lead for the Democratic Volunteer Center. My main tasks are encouraging volunteers to engage in the democratic process, register voters, walk precincts, and host speaker events. I have been a member of the League of Women Voters. Helping my neighbors in times of a disaster is important to me. Through the Office of Emergency Services I was trained to be a PANDA and recently became a Block Preparedness Coordinator in Midtown.

I appreciate what Palo Alto offers in the fine arts as a member of the Cantor Arts Museum and by taking painting classes at the Pacific Art League. I stay informed about our community's issues through the Midtown Residents Association and by attending or watching on cable TV City Council meetings. I enjoy learning at the Palo Alto Adult School, am a member of the Ross Road YMCA and shop and dine locally. I am proud to be a Palo Alto Resident and Homeowner for 22 years and that my son is a Gunn High School graduate.

1. What is it about the Human Relations Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

My interest in serving as a member of the Human Relations Commission stems from my lifelong focus on social welfare, social interaction, and social justice, and a 40 year career as an educator. The culmination of my worklife was my final 18 years as the principal of Ardenwood School, a very large (840

+ students) elementary school, in Fremont. I had the joyous opportunity to lead the school's integration of a character education program which over the 18 years transformed an ordinary school into an extraordinary one. Responsibility, caring, honesty, respect for others, citizenship, planning and decision making, problem solving, and integrity were our guiding values. These "8 Great Traits" were taught by teachers, modeled by adults, and committed to by all members of the school community (including parents). Gradually the campus became a safer, more tolerant, more welcoming environment. Not only did grades increase and student misconduct decrease, the positive school climate was palpable and led to the school receiving a California Blue Ribbon Distinguished School Award. I have a deep desire to have my town be as good as it can be. I want to use my experience in building consensus with various constituents around values based decision making to develop Palo Alto to an even better place to call home.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1449 characters)

The Safe Parking Pilot Program was brought to my attention a few months ago through my congregation's social action committee. Immediately I emailed my support of the Pilot Program to the City Council and soon watched the Members' discussion on TV. I walked around my neighborhood and visualized vehicles in the large most of the time empty parking lots of 4 churches within a five minute stroll of my home. I imagined how neighbors might respond; the good, the bad, and the ugly. Economic disparity resulting in homelessness and people sleeping in their vehicles is growing in our community and throughout the Bay Area. Wishing it away or ignoring it, is not a solution. It is not an easily addressed issue by a single social service agency or by a local government. It is a problem that takes a multigroup coordinated effort with advanced community awareness and engagement to even try to make an impact. I am pleased the City of Palo Alto has developed the Safe Parking Pilot Program and would diligently work on helping it succeed. The success of the program requires a tolerant citizenship willing to work and live respectfully with others.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Human Relations Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

I would like to see the Human Relations Commission take a role in the Safe Parking Pilot Program. Working with City Staff, program providers, congregations, and Palo Alto residents around this issue is a concrete way to bring the words of the HRC mission statement "a community where civility, respect and responsible action are the norm" in to motion. The HRC can work with the stakeholders to promote awareness of the Program; host forums, knock on doors, meet with Residents Associations and congregation members, facilitate press announcements, post on Social Media, etc. The communication must reach as many residents as possible to avoid those who come to the table late and slow the process down to a halt. The communication must actively address concerns and fears and lead to workable solutions. This means premeetings with facilitators and presenters about respectful listening and use of procedures for effect civil discourse around sensitive issues. The process and successful implementation of the Safe Parking Pilot Program can then be used to establish dialogues and protocols which will benefit implementation of future HRC goals.

4. Human Relations Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. (690 characters)

Human Services Needs Assessment [LINK](#)

Muni Code 9.72 – Mandatory Response Program [LINK](#)

Community Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

I do not have experience with these documents.

Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

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Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

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OR

I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City’s website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address: Midtown Resident

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: Bonnie94306@yahoo.com

Signature: (Please type or sign) Paula Rugg

Date: May 8, 2020

Human Relations Commission

Personal Information – Note: The HRC regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Lestina Trainor

Address: 32 Roosevelt Circle

Cell Phone: 203 482 2262

Home / Office Phone: 203 482 2262

E-mail: lestina.trainor1@gmail.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Human Relations Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

Boston College, BA

Fordham University School of Law, JD

Member of the Bar: New York, Connecticut

Attorney 1998 - 2016

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Self

Occupation: Attorney

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1242 characters)

Board of Directors, Family & Children's Aid 2005 - present

Guided executive team through tremendous growth and expansion over 15 years. Active in developing board governance, overseeing agency programs, acquisition of real estate and most recently, creating a task force to evaluate and implement changes to address systemic racism and inequity agency-wide, including on the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors, League of Women Voters, Redding CT 2013 - 2019

In the wake of the Newtown Elementary school shooting, collected state-wide gun violence data and prepared a comprehensive study. Regular speaker at luncheons & panel discussions.

Board of Directors, Connecticut Against Gun Violence 2013 - 2017

Founding member of "March for Change," a grassroots movement demanding sensible gun legislation. Organized Valentine's Day 2013 protest at the the state capitol building in Hartford attended by approximately 10k. Testified before state congress on multiple occasions.

Board of Directors, Ridgefield Academy 2006 - 2008

Drafted school mission statement for Diversity & Inclusion. Organized/hosted fundraisers.

Chairperson, The Fresh Air Fund 2009 - 2016

Recruited and vetted families in Connecticut to be summertime hosts to chil

1. What is it about the Human Relations Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

I recently moved to Palo Alto from the east coast. However, I've spent a lifetime visiting Palo Alto to see my grandparents and other relatives. So in some respects, moving here feels a bit like coming home.

I have always been an active participant in my community. I inherited this trait from both of my parents. Mom still tutors a linty of ESL students at the Mitchell Park and Rinconada libraries—though she's well past retirement age; and dad too, was an active volunteer teaching music in east bay schools until he passed away in 2009. I am eager to find my own volunteer opportunities in town. Not only do I love lending my talents to help make my community a better place, but I love meeting other people who share the same interest.

Specifically, the HRC appeals to me because I have always been interested in advocating for vulnerable populations. My parents adopted a 3 year old boy when I was six. From that day on, I got an up close view of the many social/societal problems that surrounded the circumstances of his adoption: why he was up for adoption in the first place; the effects of foster care and multiple placements, the resulting setbacks in education and socialization that my brother faced. It really shaped our entire childhood. It also sparked my desire to study law with the intent of practicing child advocacy. Although my first job offer led my law practice in a different direction, I have continuously satisfied my need to serve and advocate for children through my volunteer work.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1449 characters)

I just recently became aware of the HRC last week when I watched a Zoom Virtual Town Hall presented by Embarcadero Media entitled "Race, Policing and the Color of Justice," sponsored by Palo Alto Online. I believe Police Chief Bob Jonsen mentioned the HRC in connection with his anticipating input from the Commission. I was so impressed by the discussion and panelists that I immediately set out Googling each of the speakers and researching ways that I could possibly get involved with the conversation. The next day I happened upon a You-Tube Q & A with Reverend Kaloma Smith, Chief Jonsen and City Manager Ed Shikada. I was further intrigued, inspired and energized by the panelists' intelligence, optimism and willingness to engage on the tough subjects of systematic racism and policing. In my volunteer work I have chaired several Diversity & Inclusion Committees, drafted mission statements and policies pertaining to equity, and evaluated institutions for implicit bias, etc etc. Law school only deepened my understanding of issues surround racial justice, constitutional law, and the criminal justice system. With a father who hailed from Birmingham, Alabama and who had been a student activist and personal associate of Martin Luther King, Jr. I have been "studying" this topic for as long as I can remember. I believe my voice would add great value to the HRC on this topic and beyond.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Human Relations Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

I would love to see the Human Relations Committee come up with a list of recommendations to be adopted by PAPD that effect significant and meaningful change. The goal: to have a reimagined system of policing in Palo Alto where (ultimately) all residents feel safe and protected by PAPD. In just in the short time that I have been a resident, I have been made aware of several police incidents that definitely warrant further 'unpacking.' I have also been told about, and read several accounts by, residents who defiantly have a deep (and warranted) distrust of the police. I feel strongly that now is the time to make significant changes to benefit the community as a whole. I loved the enthusiastic general consensus of Chiefs Jonsen, East PA Chief Pardini and former East PA Chief Ron Davis, on the Embarcadero Media Virtual Town Hall, that NOW is a unique opportunity to enact swift, meaningful and impactful change.

I believe this can be accomplished by gathering as much anecdotal evidence as we can. Looking for patterns; looking at existing policies and procedures and evaluating if they are being followed or not. Then exploring how some existing procedures may be problematic because they have a disparate impact on Black people and POC.

I understand that PAPD is already quite close to meeting 8 Can't Wait standard. Good, but I think we can go beyond that baseline. I'd also love to explore what changes could possibly be achieved by challenging police union policies & state laws that sometimes diminish the authority of local police chiefs.

4. Human Relations Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. (690 characters)

Human Services Needs Assessment [LINK](#)

Muni Code 9.72 – Mandatory Response Program [LINK](#)

Community Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

I have not worked with the specific documents attached. However in my capacity as an attorney I am accustomed to working with whatever document comes across my desk. I very much enjoy the process of digesting new information and interpreting/analyzing same.

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OR

I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City’s website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) Lestina Trainor

Date: July 6, 2020

Public Art Commission

Personal Information – Note: The PAC regularly meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts

Address: 763 East Charleston Road (seasonal)

Cell Phone: 305-323-9242

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: m427@bellsouth.net

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Public Art Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

My active career in the arts includes exhibits in the United States and in Spain, Nigeria, England and Austria. 1980-2006 I was tenured Professor of studio art and art history at Miami Dade College, Miami FL; I taught a Master Class as a 1994 Visiting Artist at Harvard University. MFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Miami in 1977. Published work includes an invited essay in the proceedings of a conference at the Museum of Science and Natural History published 2015 by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. I was a Teaching/Research Fulbright Scholar to the University of Jos in Nigeria, 2000-2002.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Miami Dade College (Ret.)



Occupation: Active professional artist



Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1311 characters)

2006-2011
Executive Board, Interdisciplinary Sound Arts Workshop (iSAW), South Florida Composer's Alliance.
2006
Co-Producer, "Kwagh-hir", video documentary filmed in Nigeria. Director, Charles Recher.
2006
Academic Reviewer, "Janson's History of Art, Western Tradition, 7th Edition" (Pearson/Prentice Hall)
2004-2005
Invitee, National Science Foundation Math/Art Workshop; U Indiana & Franklin & Marshall College.
2002
Editorial review, "Story" by Harold Scheub, "Africa Today", Indiana University Press.
2002
Referee, "African Studies Review", the African Studies Association Journal.
1998
"Fulani Astral Traditions and the Epic of Gilgamesh; A Comparative Study", Sub-Saharan Literature panel, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL.
1998
Site Ethnographer, "Internationalizing New Work in the Performing Arts", Ford Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts.
1995
Illustrations for "Deftere Ledde E Pudi" [Atlas of Fulani Traditional Botany], Fary Silaat Ka, ARED Press, Dakar, Senegal.
1983-1986
Founding Director, Miami Waves Film & Performance Festival, Miami FL

Over time I've served on many cultural panels, including those managed by the Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, and National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

1. What is it about the Public Art Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

I am an experienced artist, arts educator and cultural activist with a record of service in a variety of community settings. Even though I am new to Palo Alto, I have noticed that the Public Art Commission has promoted art as an enriching source of community pride and enchantment, which is what inspired me to submit this application.

Here are two concrete examples that are compatible with my experience and whose challenge interests me:

Assuming interest from within Palo Alto's artistic community, I'd like to develop workshops in the history, theory and practice of the public art idiom.

I'd like to support creation of an artwork intended to encourage awareness of the relation between the Palo Alto landscape and the overhead skyscape. For example, a large scale "treasure hunt" model of our solar system with durably cast scale models of the sun and planets. An artist might envision the commission as flat images in sidewalks or on the sides of buildings, or as durably cast objects (for example, a pumpkin for sun, lemon for Saturn, etc.) mounted atop pedestals set in to-scale distances apart.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1518 characters)

I was working on an installation in a building that overlooked the NYC Federal Courthouse where Richard Serra's "Tilted Arc" had just been installed; quite a few of the judges and lawyers who labored there were all hair-on-fire over it. I thought Serra had an interesting point to make--both for the piece itself and for the rumpus he fully intended to raise. The resulting controversy was healthy--both for the questions it addressed to those laboring in the halls of justice, and for publicizing the essential difference between "plop art" and site-integrated art.

The furor created, on the other hand, by the "Digital DNA" sculpture Adriana Varella and Nilton Maltz installed in Lytton Plaza, while possibly ennobled by references to the "Tilted Arc" controversy, was fundamentally different. Personally, I liked the piece and its regional evocations, and I really liked it that the community was hotly engaged pro and con in this egg-sistential controversy-- besides, how often does an art work get a crusading editor to do its PR for it. However, because I assume Ms. Varella was aware her work would likely be exposed to wear, I felt the real issue was the choice of materials and finish; which left the Commission with the difficult but necessary work of deaccession.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

I'd love to see the Commission keep on doing what it's been doing, and I'd love to be able to contribute to the effort.

4. Public Art Commission Members work with the document listed below. If you have experience with this document, please describe that experience. Experience with this document is not required for selection. (759 characters)

Public Art Master Plan [LINK](#)

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Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts

Date: 2020 May 4

Please email all completed applications to Jessica.Brettle@CityofPaloAlto.org or City.Clerk@CityofPaloAlto.org
City Clerk's Office: 650-329-2571

Public Art Commission

Personal Information - Note: The PAC regularly meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Hsinya Shen

Address: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: 650-888-7052

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: Hsinyashen@yahoo.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Public Art Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: I currently serve on the Public Art Commission.

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

I have served on the Palo Alto Public Art Commission for the last 3 years and would love the opportunity to continue to contribute based on all I have learned in the last 3 years.

Outside of the PAC, I am a life long student and appreciator of the arts. I studied Art History at Wellesley College. I have spent significant time renovating properties and landscape and community building within Palo Alto. I have a demonstrated interest in community betterment and improvement through the arts.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Akamai Technologies, Inc.

Occupation: Attorney

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: *(1311 characters)*

I have served on the Palo Alto Public Art Commission for the last 3 years and would love the opportunity to continue to contribute based on all I have learned in the last 3 years.

Outside of PAC, having served on the board of a community bank for nearly a decade, I have supported community reinvestment and outreach programs. Also, leveraging my legal background, I have provided community pro bono legal support, including citizenship drive.

1. What is it about the Public Art Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? *(1518 characters)*

I believe art can cultivate the human spirit, enhance communication, and promote relationships and community building. While Palo Alto is a suburban city in size and location, it has an international draw and reach. Daily, Palo Alto also draws talents from neighboring towns and brings together a wonderfully diverse population, many of whom welcome the opportunity to get to know the city and connect with the community.

As a Palo Alto resident, I have often enjoyed artistic contributions from individual families and businesses. Supplementing these efforts, I believe the Public Art Commission, by investing in different areas of Palo Alto with diverse public art projects, can create spaces and foster opportunities for people to meet, connect, participate, and enrich our community.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1518 characters)

One particularly impressionable project for me was by a developer on University Avenue. This developer insisted on spending its 1% public art commitment onsite and ended up proposing a public art sculpture in a dangerous and invisible location, both endangering pedestrians and detracting from the beauty of the building. It is always the individual developer's choice whether to contribute their 1% public art commitment to the in-lieu pool. If we can show how successful public art projects funded by in-lieu fund improve the city overall, we can hopefully inspire future developers to fulfill their public art commitment with a contribution to the in-lieu fund when their onsite options are limited.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

As a member of the Public Arts Commission, I would like to continue to support projects like California Ave. Master Plan and policies related to important issues like deaccession that will allow us to update public art projects in Palo Alto systematically. Palo Alto is a diverse city by population. Palo Alto Public Art projects reflect its population's diverse prospective, and it would be important to continue to ensure diversity in our public artworks.

4. Public Art Commission Members work with the document listed below. If you have experience with this document, please describe that experience. Experience with this document is not required for selection. (759 characters)

Public Art Master Plan [LINK](#)

I have a great appreciation for the Public Art Master Plan. It helps Palo Alto public art team to support an incredibly rich portfolio of short, medium, and long term projects all over Palo Alto. Adhering to the missions and visions outlined in this plan will help the public art team continue to deliver exciting public arts to the city.

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Address: C/O City of Palo Alto

Cell Phone: 650-888-7052

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: Hsinyashen@yahoo.com

Signature: (Please type or sign) Hsinya Shen

Date: 4/20/20

Public Art Commission

Personal Information – Note: The PAC regularly meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Harriet Stern

Address: 1675 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Cell Phone: 408-893-5199

___ Home / ___ Office Phone:

E-mail: jacobeatrice@gmail.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes ___ No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ___ Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes ___ No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

- 1) engage in business with the City,
- 2) provide products or services for City projects, or
- 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ___ Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? ___ Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Public Art Commission?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ___ Community Group | ___ Daily Post |
| ___ Email from City Clerk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Website |
| ___ Palo Alto Weekly | ___ Flyer |

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

BA, Art History, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
 MA Studies, Modern Art History ,Theory and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 Diploma, Interior Architecture, Inchbald School of Design, London
 Internships: Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, IT
 Chicago Park District, Archives Department; Art Institute of Chicago, Department of 20th Century Art
 Teaching Assistant, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 Assistant Director, White Pine Gallery, Chicago
 Corporate Art Consultant, Merrill Chase Galleries, Chicago and Corporate Artworks, Schaumburg, IL
 Curator, IBEW Local 1245, Vacaville, CA

Employment

Present or Last Employer: My last full-time employer was Corporate Artworks now located in Arlington Heights, IL. There I served as an Art Consultant. Since living in Palo Alto I have free-lanced
Occupation: as a curator for the IBEW Local 1245 in Vacaville.

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

In my community I have taken a number of classes at Pacific Art League, Mid-Peninsula Media Center, The Art Center.

I attend lectures and music at Stanford, visit arts programming often at all sorts of venues from open studios to the Anderson Collection and everything in between. We attend lots of community and regional theater. I have kids in PAUSD since 2018.

I try to stay active and up to date with local and school affairs. For example I have been one of those people writing letters about the airplane noise! Palo Alto Weekly subscriber!

My volunteering has been around school for the most part. I try to do one long-term commitment a year coupled with as many one-off assignments possible. To give an example, these are my recent longer term volunteer commitments:

Odyssey of the Mind Coach, Elementary Division, The Harbour School, Hong Kong, World Championship Qualifiers, 2017

All Students Matter, Ravenswood School District, Weekly Literacy Volunteer, 2018/19

Palo Alto High School, Weekly Career Counselling Center Volunteer, 2019/2020

1. What is it about the Public Art Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

A first time visitor comes to Palo Alto City Hall and sees our new Black Lives Matter mural and engages with Cache Me If You Can.

They keep walking and see many examples of art around our city. With these public art works Palo Alto signals that creativity and expression are celebrated here. These art works project our community's values and vision. The Public Art Commission serves a critical role in the direction of this vision—aesthetic and cultural. My specific interest in serving on The Commission is to maintain the public's trust and the responsible management of our community's collections, future acquisitions and programming pursuant to our vision.

It is my opinion that art should be integral to our city. Palo Alto should support our local artists. We should engage partners to build support for public art and I would like to help create awareness about the program and the collection with community outreach.

My experience as a Corporate Art Consultant would serve me well as a Commissioner as I often commissioned artists to create site specific work. I have worked in both commercial and not-for-profit art environments.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#).

The Commission has addressed some interesting subjects recently that will be ongoing.

One which particularly resonates is that of cultural and racial equality in the field of public art.

The BLM mural project was immediate and inclusive, relevant and responsive.

How about reaching across the 101 and working with our brothers and sisters in EPA to create something together?

Expanding the reach and flexibility of public art interests me.

One issue I thought would come up was censoring Cece Carpio's image of Assata Shakur but was happy to learn there were only letters in support of keeping the mural as it stands.

Another issue that interested me was City Council's recommendation to reduce the Public Art Commission from 7 to 5 Commissioners.

What is the net gain in that and is it just a recruitment issue? I would think that the PAC works best with seven diverse points of view to put forth recommendations to City Council, especially as we seek cultural and racial equality in Palo Alto's future public art goals. Isn't the river mightier with many tributaries than fewer?

As for the BLM mural, which is a huge success and a source of civic pride, it literally would have been difficult to achieve with fewer physical bodies on the Commission. All the Commissioners worked overtime to make that happen seemingly overnight-- quite a remarkable effort at anytime but doubly so given our very unusual world in 2020.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

World standards of public art and place-making are changing by the minute as we become more culturally and racially aware.

It is quite interesting that two years ago our own community renamed two middle schools because some inquisitive students discovered that they are named after some old racists and whose ideologies were incompatible with our current civic vision.

This year third-rate Jim Crow-era monuments are being toppled from their plinths and the Washington Redskins are finally being renamed—(when did Stanford drop the name Indians?). The Public Art Commission must always be sensitive that the permanent public art Palo Alto creates today will be judged well in 100 years time. In the same breath, as a student of art history, I revere monuments left by less than perfect societies of the past. How can we not be touched by the magic of Venice or magnificence of Michelangelo's Pieta or Sistine Chapel? Those sublime Vermeers and the riches of the Rijks Museum, all funded less than ethically if we consider them through or 21st C. lens. These are the challenges those who leave lasting marks, no matter the sector, must consider.

It is an exciting time to be engaged in public art, to change-up the dialogue, to re-direct the discourse.

How the world communicates has changed so much since Palo Alto's Public Art Program was established; it has changed so much in the past six months! Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals by Zoom?

For me, the future of public art in Palo Alto reaches a wider community. It speaks to more people— engages across classes, races, ages and genders. Maybe that is through social media and Submittable. Permanent installations need to reflect diversity.

Perhaps that means physically going into places we didn't go before and creating flash events and ride-alongs.

Maybe it is making more temporary, ephemeral art that reacts to current events and that taps into the pulse of the moment.

No doubt the future of public art is more racially and culturally equitable in acquisitions and programming.

The recent BLM mural is a great example of a new wave of public art in PA—responsive, nimble, loads of submissions, exciting and creating lots of interest and civic pride. (This is a great way to increase recruiting for the Public Art Commission as well).

I would also like to see Palo Alto teaming with neighboring communities to create art and build friendship and trust.

4. Public Art Commission Members work with the document listed below. If you have experience with this document, please describe that experience. Experience with this document is not required for selection.

Public Art Master Plan [LINK](#)

Yes, I am familiar with the Master Plan. I attended a focus group with the authors and have read the final document. I know that we are about halfway through the ten year plan. The Master Plan has effectively established a professional approach to our Public Art Program and its administration. The goals and timeline are very clearly stated. The Cubberley Artist Studios are included in the Master Plan as a point of discussion. It is my very strong opinion that if Cubberley is used for something else in the future, Palo Alto should maintain subsidised artist studios somewhere within our city limits. Artists enhance diversity of our community. They can't afford to be here without our support.

Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

California Government Code Section 6254.21 states, in part, "No state or local agency shall post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the Internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual." The full code is attached. *This consent form will not be redacted and will be attached to the Application and posted to the City's website.*

The full code can be read here: [LINK](#)

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City's website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

OR

I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature:  Date: 07/21/20

Public Art Commission

Personal Information - Note: The PAC regularly meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Nia Taylor

Address: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Home / Office Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you or your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you learn about the vacancy on the Public Art Commission?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: current commissioner

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: (621 characters)

Current Public Art Commissioner (Since May 2014)

Art Educator

MA in Visual Arts Administration

Minor in Art History

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Congregation Sherith Israel

Occupation: Membership & Development Manager

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations: (1311 characters)

Commissioner, City of Palo Alto Public Art Commission, May 2014 - present

Volunteer, Friends of Lafayette Park, 2014 - present. Once a month I clean and beautify Lafayette Park in San Francisco. The park is 3 blocks from my current place of employment.

Volunteer, Jewish Family and Children's Services, 2010 - present. I help the organization package and deliver food packages for homebound seniors during Jewish holidays.

1. What is it about the Public Art Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? (1518 characters)

With a background in visual arts administration, art education, and art history, I love creating, talking, and viewing art in all its forms. I am a firm believer that art, as much as possible, should be free and accessible to all people, hence the reason I initially decided to apply for a position on the Public Art Commission. Since my tenure, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my fellow commissioners, public art advisors, architects, and community members, to procure, and protect, public art that will beautify and enhance the City of Palo Alto.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archived video from the Midpen Media Center: [LINK](#) (1518 characters)

Although I enjoy all aspects of being on the Public Art Commission, I have become particularly interested in our Percent for Art in Private Development Program. I especially like that it encourages developers to a) support artists and the visual arts, and b) promote art as a cultural resource for the community. Since joining the commission in 2014, we have supported a number of Percent for Art in Private Development projects, many of which are currently on public view. If given the opportunity to continue for another term, I hope that I will be able to inspire more private developers to seek and display public art that is thought provoking and positively invites public interaction.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this? (1656 characters)

Goal #1: Develop a marketing campaign (e.g. bus and newspaper ads, banners, poster, etc.) that would promote and enhance the visibility of our wonderful collection.

Ways to meet goal: Contact local media outlets (Weekly, PA Daily Post, blogs) and ask if they would publicize some of the works in our collection and/or enable us to place a low-cost and/or free ad promoting the collection.

Goal #2: Enhance California and University Avenue by adding art inside empty store fronts and/or art onto construction barriers.

Ways to meet goal: Ask artists (local and non-local, professional and novice) to submit 2-D works of art which we could hang inside empty storefronts and/or onto construction barriers. (Fun fact: I had the pleasure of being on a panel to choose art for a construction barrier behind California Avenue. It was a huge success.)

4. Public Art Commission Members work with the document listed below. If you have experience with this document, please describe that experience. Experience with this document is not required for selection. (759 characters)

Public Art Master Plan [LINK](#)

I was on the commission when the Master Plan was being developed. I have also had the great pleasure of being on the commission to implement many of the suggested recommendations. I hope that I will have the opportunity to continue turning suggested recommendations into actions should I be chosen to complete another term on the PAC.

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Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: (Please type or sign) Nia Taylor Date: 3.31.2020