

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 12 January 2023, 6:47am
Receipt number 1
Related form version 5

Personal Information

Name Allison Huynh

Address

City

Postal Code

Cell Phone Number

Home Phone Number

Email Address

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

No

California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

Do you/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 this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

No

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

City Website

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

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

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.

Personal and Job Experience

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

Stanford University BS
Stanford University Senior Fellow

Prolific art collector specializing in living women artists and artists of color. Works include originals by Yayoi Kusama, Susan Rothenberg, Kuhlindie Wiley and up and coming young female artists of color including Chloe Ryoko Wong.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

Volunteer Science and Computer Science teacher at Synapse School.

Lead Coordinator and Fundraiser for Palo Alto High School TEAMS program. 2022-2023

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

To enrich our community with Art, inclusivity and different modalities for creative expression.

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

As a city with a strong focus on science and technology; I think it's important to develop and fund more programs to support young emerging artists such as visual arts, musical theater, music and alternative modalities to deep technology and computer science heavy curriculum

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I would like to create a fund for public project works whether through a voluntary basis or a small city tax to fund artists and creativity. I believe this will allow the city to increase the long term vitality and creative spirit of the town beyond being ground zero for silicon. valley

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](#)

I don't have experience w this plan

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Allison Huynh



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

1/12/2023

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 15 March 2024, 8:46pm
Receipt number 10
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Amber J Smith

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

No

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1. Engage in business with the City;
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3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

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No

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

Email from the City

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

I'm a Mixed Media Mosaic Artist that explores the theme of endangered animals, disadvantaged people, and at risk habitats using materials that can be unfriendly to our environment. My goals are to raise awareness and create dialogue about the way our contemporary lifestyle adversely affects the environment, our social fabric, and our personal well being. My artistic practice incorporates recycled and repurposed materials, usually treated as mosaic tiles, to bring attention to the overuse of plastic that are abundant and is having an adverse effect on our climate.

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

Bachelor of Fine Arts at UC Berkeley,
Art studio space at Art Bias in San Carlos.
Awarded Palo Alto ArtLift Microgrant in 2022 - Cuppa Joe
Website: www.asmerakiartstudio.com

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

Community Events: Cuppa Joe Neighborhood Art Project at Hoover Park - community members were encouraged to collect their used Keurig cups for the making of Cuppa Joe - a 4ft tall coffee cup on 8ft diameter saucer made from over 4000 Keurig Cups. Installed in Hoover Park July - October 2022

Midtown Residents Ice Cream Social: Art Activity**

Ventura Residents Ice Cream Social: Art Activity**

**Activity included art projects where kids used recycled materials to make sea turtles and learn about endangered animals and the importance of recycling

May Fete Parade: Community members were encouraged to contribute to the making of a mural by affixing recycled bottle caps onto an image of an endangered humpback whale, participants were encouraged to collect bottle caps for the project, and all participants signed an artist page.

Parent Volunteer: Barron Park, Fletcher Mid, and Gunn
Co-Chair Annual Fundraising Auction 2013-2016
PTA Board Member 2014-2018
Event and Fund Raising Photographer

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I call Palo Alto my home. I would like to see it grow in its outward celebration of its unique diversity and culture — Where all residents are seen, represented, and valued.

As an artist, I'm relatively new in the public art space, but I've had a passion for it my entire life. It is what I'm called to do. Public art is powerful in its ability to shape community, spark dialogue, and foster a sense of identity and belonging among residents. It can beautify urban spaces, convey cultural heritage, provoke thought, and even address social or political issues. It should be chosen carefully so that it is appropriate and welcomed warmly by its residents.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe

I'm excited by the various artworks discussed on Feb 15: two murals and 20 utility boxes. I have waited expectantly for the painting of utility boxes

why you are interested in it.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

to come to Palo Alto for quite some time. I am thrilled the funding has finally come through. These colorful little boxes have the ability to add so much character to a street or intersection. They are memorable and unique, and they celebrate the artists local to our area.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

Murals have the ability to create destinations on a map. They are memorable. I would like to see more murals in Palo Alto that celebrate the unique nature of the Silicon Valley melting pot that results from our diverse community.

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](#)

I have no experience with the Public Art Master Plan, but after reading through it, I felt the goals set forth were quality objectives.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Amber J Smith



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/15/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 11 March 2024, 6:51pm
Receipt number 11
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Claude Ezran

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

No

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Do you/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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Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

No

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

Email from the City

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Retired high-tech executive

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

- Retired high-tech marketing executive, 30+ years of experience in Silicon Valley companies such as Intel, 3Com, Adobe, and start-ups, mostly at the Director and VP level.
- Extensive experience working collaboratively in teams
- MBA, Harvard Business School
- MSEE, Ecole Superieure d'Electricite (France)
- BS. Advanced mathematics and physics

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

- Human Relations Commission, including Vice-chair and Chair: 2008-2014
- Founder and Organizer of Palo Alto World Music Day: 2009-2019
- Member of the Board of Directors, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation (PARF): 2010-2020
- Graduate of the Palo Alto Citizen Police Academy: 2019
- Member of the Community Advisory Group to the Police Chief: 2010-2012
- Member of Steering Committee for Measure A (school parcel tax): 2005
- Treasurer of the Palo Alto PTA Council: 2004-2007
- Member of the Board of Directors, Cable Co-op: 1992-1998

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I have extensive experience in the arts, and I will bring a different and broad perspective:

- Took art classes at The Louvre Museum
- Visited art museums in about 80 countries and in many US cities
- Most extraordinary museum ever visited: Savitsky Museum in Nukus, Uzbekistan. World-class avant-garde soviet art that was forbidden under Stalin
- I am about to visit the extraordinary National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan
- Attended the huge Art Basel Miami show in 2019
- Attended several big local exhibitions of Bay Area artists,
- Participated in Burning Man 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023. One of the key attractions of Burning Man, at least for me, is seeing all the incredibly creative pieces of art, some of which end up as public art (San Jose, San Francisco and Reno are examples of cities that have displayed Burning Man art)
- Took ceramics classes at the Art Center and at Paly (Adult Education)
- I collaborated with many artists when I was organizing Palo Alto World Music Day

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

Murals to be painted at the Cubberley campus and Fire Stations 4 and 5. Quite frankly, public art in Palo Alto tends to be bland and unremarkable. I would like to see more of a wow factor, more creativity.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to

Public art in Palo Alto tends to be bland and unremarkable. It is barely

see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

noticeable, not memorable, and does not trigger conversations. I would like to help bring more of a wow factor, more of a sense of wonder, more creativity to Palo Alto. Let us make Palo Alto more of a destination, not just for its restaurants but also for its art, a bit like what I accomplished with World Music Day. I would also love to explore the opportunity of hosting some of the highly creative and stunning art pieces from Burning Man artists.

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.

I read it.

[Public Art Master Plan](#)

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

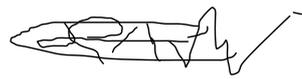
Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

Yes

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Signature

Name of signatory: Claude Ezran



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/11/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 17 March 2024, 10:18am
Receipt number 16
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Harriet Stern

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

I am an arts professional, having spent years working in the fine art field. I received two PA Artlift Microgrants, one for Andre Thierry to play "Accordion Soul Music" in Mitchell Park (2021) and the other for "Pets of Palo Alto--A Family Portrait Project" (2022) displayed at Mitchell Park. Recently I curated "We Are What We Eat" the Neighbors Abroad exhibition at the PA Art Center (2024). I am a nonprofit community relations professional (Curator of Community Kindness for the Magical Bridge Foundation). I am also a parent to two teens, a caretaker for my father and partner to my wonderful husband. I try to be an active and compassionate friend. I manage two homes. I am a dog mom, a news junkie, an avid audio book, podcast and radio listener. My extended family is in the Bay Area from Mill Valley to Corillitos. We see each other often. I love to watch soccer, especially the World Cup. I go to the gym. Travel is a passion. I meticulously plan our family trips. These are my occupations.

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

BA, Art History and the Integrated Program of Humane Studies, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
Graduate 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, Washington D.C.;
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, IT;
Chicago Park District, Archives Dept.;
Art Institute of Chicago, Dept. of 20th Century Art
TA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Asst. Director, White Pine Gallery, Chicago
Corporate Art Consultant, Merrill Chase Galleries and Corporate Artworks, Schaumburg, IL
Between 1996-2010 and 2016-2018 I was a expatriate spouse with my husband in six cities: Amsterdam, Milan, London, Paris, Shanghai, Hong Kong.
Curator, IBEW Local 1245, Vacaville, CA
Curator of Community Kindness, Magical Bridge Foundation, Palo Alto

Please 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, follow local visual and performing arts, including attending King Residency and Artlift workshops. My kids attended PAUSD since 2018. My volunteering centers primarily around school. These are my recent longer term volunteer commitments: Odyssey of the Mind Coach, Elementary Division—2017 World Championship Qualifiers, All Students Matter Literacy Volunteer, Ravenswood School District 2018/19, Palo Alto High School, College Career Center/Career Speaker Series Volunteer 2019/20/21/22/23, The Reach Foundation Mentor, Santa Clara HS and SJSU 2020/21/22/23/24, Campaign Volunteer 2020, Palo Alto HS Class of 2025 Parent Lead 2021/22/23, Administrator of Sister Cities International, Youth Artists and Authors Showcase 2022/23/24, Neighbors Abroad Arts Organizer 2023/24. I also volunteer one-off where needed, for example at CodeArt.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

Our public art reflects Palo Alto's values and vision. In PA we welcome all and encourage open expression and creativity. The Public Art Commission serves a critical role in guiding first impressions of our city. I would like to serve on the PAC to:

- 1.reach segments of the community not currently engaged by the public art program and build greater awareness about the program and the collection.
- 2.guarantee that the community trusts that decisions made around public art are completely transparent and accountable.
- 3.support local artists and arts professionals and promote art within the community.
- 4.continue the long-term plans of in the Public Art Master Plan and New Cal Ave Plan and strategize future long-term needs for the collection and programming.

As a lifelong collector and professional in the arts, I have practical experience working with artists, end-users, framers, printers and installers on project development, proposals, acquisitions, commissions, and installations.

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

Recently Stephen Galloway presented his proposal for an art piece to be installed at Fire Station No. 4 on the corner of Middlefield and East Meadow. Almost daily I pass by there. I look forward to the renovation of the firehouse and Mr Galloway's piece, Commonweal. Commissioners asked great questions. Commonweal was enthusiastically approved. Given the scale and format of the piece and its placement on the building, my concern is that it may not read as clearly from the street as the current renderings show. A mock-up would help inform the issues for all.

The material selected is like an old fashioned sign, baked porcelain on steel. In this case; colorful, luminescent and durable. Wonderful. It was great to see Joe Saxe as the project manager. I had only seen him preparing/ installing art. His representation of PA on this project is commendable. He is obviously well invested in the process, working with Stephen, the end-users, build/design team, fabricators and doing PA proud.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I would like to see the Public Art Commission seek out underserved populations to engage in public art. I would collaborate with senior citizens or disabled populations to introduce public art in terms meaningful to them. Another idea would be to encourage cooperative projects between East Palo Alto and Palo Alto. I would like to create rolling grant for Palo Altans who wish to create public art projects. This would mean selectively funding a number of small grants available to PA citizens with an idea they would like to share with the public. There is great potential to work with our International Sister Cities on art exchanges as evidenced by the response for We Are What We Eat. I would love for Public Art to be collaborative with Cubberley Artists. They are producing some amazing work. Besides the open studio days, there should be other exhibition opportunities. As a Commissioner I intend to attend community art events, meetings when invited and grant recipient openings.

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](#)

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 three-quarters 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.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

- [Pets of Palo Alto PAPA.docx](#)
- [Andre Thierry Artlift Microgrant.docx](#)
- [Sister Cities International YAAS 2023 participants.docx](#)
- [We Are What We Eat Art Exhibit PDF2- NEIGHBORS ABROAD.pdf](#)
- [IMG_3040.jpeg](#)
- [IMG_3037.jpeg](#)
- [IMG_3042.jpeg](#)
- [IMG_3041.jpeg](#)
- [IMG_3039.jpeg](#)
- [IMG_3034.jpeg](#)

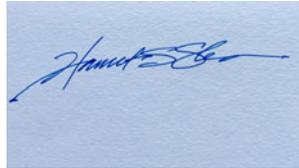
Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

Yes

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Signature

Name of signatory: Harriet Stern



Uploaded signature image: [IMG_4120.jpeg](#)

Date Completed

03/17/2024

Pets of Palo Alto – A Family Portrait Project



On Display: October 2022 outside Mitchell Park Community Center

Arts professional Harriet Stern in collaboration with photographer Federica Armstrong held a series of community photo sessions across various outdoor locations in Palo Alto to photograph families with their pets. The project concludes with an exhibition of the photographs at the Mitchell Park Community Center Basketball Court displayed during the month of October.

Project Website

Photo credit: Federica Armstrong

Related Information

- [Instagram](#)

Andre Thierry: Zydeco Live Performance

SATURDAY
AUG 28, 5-7 PM

MITCHELL PARK
PALO ALTO



FREE
CONCERT

ACCORDION SOUL MUSIC

ANDRE THIERRY

SPONSORED BY PALO ALTO PUBLIC ART ARTLIFT MICROGRANT

Mitchell Park Bowl: August 28th, 5 - 7 PM

Masterful on all accordion types, Andre Thierry is a phenomenal award-winning musician who has been capturing the attention of music lovers all over the world. Andre Thierry and his band deliver energetic performances, blending his own electrifying sounds with stirring dance beats. Put your best dancing shoes on as Thierry's soulful rhythms will get you moving.

I heard Andre on the radio, contacted him and wrote the grant proposal for him to play.

Sister Cities International's Young Artists and Authors Contest

Showcasing Young Artists and Authors from
Palo Alto and Surrounding Communities



Sister Cities International, the national non-profit that serves as the umbrella membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States, is presenting its annual **Young Artists and Authors Showcase**. This annual art and writing competition encourages young people aged 13-18 to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, writing, photography, and music. The theme for 2023 was "Peace by Piece: Food Security in my Community."

The competition has six categories: Classic Art, Digital Art, Photography, Essay, Poetry, and Musical Composition. Winners receive cash prizes and will have their artwork displayed on the Sister Cities International website and other places.

Scroll through the gallery below to see the local submissions from the 2023 contest and stay tuned for 2024:

ART - CLASSICAL MEDIUM CATEGORY



Bread for Always

PrismaColor pencil on paper

Maya Caran, age 15

"Bread is an important food that connects many cultures around the world, but made from humble ingredients using a simple process. Throughout history, family cooks performed the familiar routine of bread-making each and every day so that their loved ones could depend on its sustenance. Their techniques were passed down from generation to generation, but somehow, much of this tradition has been lost today.

I created this image of a little girl delighting in learning how to make bread from her grandmother because I hope it will rekindle interest in bread-making, and with it, the security of self-sufficiency."



Equal Food for All

Acrylic paint and pencil on paper
Meher Birari, age 12

"In this world, food insecurity and unequal amounts of food are very common. The wealthy parts of society have access to varieties of food, and in great amounts, yet waste so much. While the poorer parts of society barely have scraps to stay alive. Why is the world like this? Food is food after all. It is a basic necessity needed to survive and can go away easily, yet people treat it as replaceable. Not just this, but food holds a special place in everybody's hearts. This is what inspired my artwork, EQUAL FOOD FOR ALL."



Thief

Soft pastel and colored pencil on paper
River Wu, age 15

"A person is eating a sandwich, on that sandwich is field of dead crops where a skeleton stands, hungry. My community is the one that is eating, the bread is made out of wheat, that wheat could be from local farms but also could be from farms in South Africa and South Asia where there are large farms that produce lots of wheat that the rest of the world eats. The effects of climate change on those farms are extreme weather conditions that make it more difficult for them to grow crops, the crops that not only feed them but also what they sell to make a living. My community takes the little amount of crops due to weather and leave those families struggling in poverty and hunger. And my community has added to climate change and global warming much more than they have, we have stolen so much from them and while they are struggling we are still able to eat well. Donations and other acts can help these families, and reversing climate change and global warming will not only help these families but help our world."

ART - DIGITAL MEDIUM CATEGORY



Helping Hands

Adobe Fresco

Maya Caran, age 15

"The vibrant diversity of vegetables being grown in the community garden by my neighbors inspired me to create this image. I was amazed by the multi-cultural spectrum on display: the many shades of emerald from Asian leafy greens, reds of tomatoes and Central American peppers, yellows and oranges of American squash. Grandmothers worked side by side with young children to grow an abundance of food. I learned that local food security organizations here use community gardens to support families by offering gardening workshops, supplies, and resources. Because fresh produce is usually too fragile for food banks to distribute, the helping hands of my neighbors come together to grow

crops that provide a welcome supply of healthy fresh vegetables to those in need."



Leftovers

Procreate

Polina van Hulsen, age 15

"My artwork was inspired by the concerning effects of food waste in my community. There are many places where food is not as plentiful as it is in my community and through my artwork, I wanted to acknowledge the fortunate position that we have as a community that has food security. Each year, nearly 119 billion pounds of food is wasted in the United States, meaning that about 40% of all food in the U.S is wasted, and this percent continues to increase. When I learned about this statistic, I was shocked and was inspired to create this artwork, which depicts someone throwing their dinner into the trash. There are large negative effects when wasting foods, not only does it waste money, but it also negatively effects the planet as resources and energy are wasted as well. I think that it is incredibly important to decrease food waste by creating a meal plan, storing food correctly, and saving leftovers after each meal. While some people have enough food security to throw foods out, others do not have enough to eat. I want us to acknowledge the importance of saving food so that we work together towards a sustainable and food secure society with enough food for all."

MUSIC CATEGORY

Starving for the Moon

Piano and Noteflight

Carson Packard, age 16

[Listen here](#)

"My main goal with this piece was to illustrate the beauty of music and how instrumentals can have just a message about food security just as strong as a song with vocals. The piece builds, just like the ever-growing problem of world hunger, but each section that builds also represents the efforts against world hunger and protecting food security. Each section is not only growing hunger but also each effort against hunger growing stronger. Sonically, the piece gets crowded and dense, portraying the rumble of empty stomachs. At other times, the piece is light and beautiful, illustrating the dreams of many unfortunate children who can't do what they're destined to because of hunger."

Resilience

Original music

Parker Smith, age 14

[Listen here](#)

"Many things inspired me to write a song on food insecurity. One in particular was when I visited Kenya last December. Seeing the less fortunate villages made me realize how lucky I am to know where my next meal is coming from and that I can have three meals a day, every day. Another reason was because I wanted to bring awareness to all social issues including food insecurity, and music is a wonderful platform to do that. Music has the power to inspire people, and that was the goal of my song. Many musicians in the past have written about social issues, which was very inspiring to me. For example, Queen wrote *Is this the World we Created...?* addressing food insecurity. Although I intentionally made my song an instrumental song, I think that the feelings towards insecurity are portrayed. I believe that music and social issues go hand in hand, and communities can promote both. A primary example on how they can do this is through fundraiser concerts. Communities can also raise food drives, education programs, and food pantries that can be enhanced with music to create a more welcoming environment. I chose to name this song Resilience because of how strong people who struggle from food insecurity are. They have to overcome adversity and be able to withstand difficult situations. They have to adapt mentally and physically. When I wrote my song, the first emotion that came to me

while listening was *Resilience*. The song reminds me of people not giving up and staying on their feet."

ESSAY CATEGORY

Cows and Climate Change: An Uncertain Future

Maya Abouav, age 13

"I chose to write this essay because climate change matters to me. I think about it often, and I observe the silent rise it follows as it affects each and every part of our lives. I know a handful of things about food security when it comes to our species' future, so I figured this would be a great opportunity to make my voice heard and spread the word that climate change is more than heat."

Walking into a restaurant today, it's likely you'll find numerous ways to ingest caffeine. With sugar, with foam, and of course, with milk. So many kinds of milk. Almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk - one might wonder what sudden epiphany the public had to implement this many alternatives. And it's not just the milk industry - that restaurant likely serves a vegan or veggie burger, too. Why all the choices? The answer may be climate change.

When we think of climate change, we think of dry deserts, rising seas, and extreme seasons. But the fact of the matter is that climate change affects every aspect of our daily lives - particularly when it comes to food security. We try hard not to think about it. The human brain prioritizes the near and the obvious, a double edged sword that we carry in our pocket. One that has brought us to this day and yet may be our demise.

Most of us have met a vegetarian or vegan person at one point or another. While their motives all differ, a common reason for the diet is to boycott the unsustainable meat farms that hurt the climate. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, 37% of human methane emissions are from our current livestock practices (Agriculture and Aquaculture: Food for Thought). But with a growing population and more mouths to feed, it feels counterintuitive to alter our farming practices when, if anything, we need to use them more. Raise more animals, feed more children. In protest, our vegan friends boycott the system and find other foods to eat.

But there's a problem - many vegan folks still like milk. Beef, too. And this is fine, but if we won't consume animal products, we must replicate our own. Thus, all the alternatives on the restaurant menu. But while the western world can avoid

cow products, not all countries can afford such luxuries.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, beef makes up a quarter of all meat consumed. It provides essential proteins that are hard to replicate. If we suddenly banned eating cow products from unsustainable sources, we'd be setting ourselves decades back in the battle against hunger. The wealthy's methods only fix the problem for the wealthy themselves.

So, developed countries leave the developing world to fix the problem. The financial gap between countries has caused inordinate frustration and bitterness across the globe. Food alternatives offer one of many ways to better the climate, but if we can't sync ourselves with the rest of the world, the progress we make is in fact, futile. Wealthy countries need to lend a helping hand to poorer ones consistently and without fail. We can give money to start alternative dairy and meat production in other countries. We can boycott unsustainable farming practices.

We can save the Earth and stop hunger - it's not hopeless. But if we really want to achieve them both, we need to prove it.

Busy as a Bee

Taarini Kadambi, age 13

"I was at a honey farm, and found it really fascinating how honey bees put so much effort into creating their delicious honey."

Food security is crucial for the survival of all species. An amazing example of food security within the natural world is shown by *Apis Mellifera*, more commonly known as the honey bee. Honey bees create and store enough honey during months when flowers are blooming, thereby securing food for when they need it. These honey bees collaborate as a colony to produce honey.

When bees form their colony, they create tightly-packed hexagonal honeycomb using beeswax. This is a team effort. These hexagons are an efficient use of space, allowing maximum number of cells in the smallest available area. Hexagons provide strength and stability, as they are tightly packed, ensuring no wasted material. This shape is also easy to construct. Honey bees can travel as far as a mile away from their hive to find flowers. In addition, they show other colony members exactly where the flower patches are in relation to the hive. This allows the other bees to go find that patch and collect more nectar. Collaboration allows them to make even more honey during the year.

The bees proceed to ingest the nectar they collect from the flowers. Their stomach enzymes help digest the nectar, and convert it into honey. Bees regurgitate honey into the honeycomb. The colony works all spring and summer, so when winter comes, they have food to nourish themselves. Honey does not rot or go bad when stored in honeycomb, so it can stay there until it is needed. In 1922, preserved honey was found in Egyptian tombs, and it was perfectly edible.

When the snowy blanket of winter arrives, the bees can no longer go out and collect nectar, as all the flowers have died. For nourishment, the bees break open the honeycombs they filled with honey in the previous months, and eat the honey. This honey lasts them through the winter, and into the spring, when they make more honey.

In regions with snowy winters, local beekeepers can harvest summer honey only, as this is the only time of year where honey is manufactured by the bees. However, in other areas, where there isn't snow during winter, there is both a summer and winter harvest, as bees can collect nectar throughout the year.

Bees have an extraordinary way of making sure they have enough food for when the time comes, and they are truly remarkable and incredible little insects. As a result of storing honey for such a long time, these creatures have a secure food bank, for when the need arises. This way, they've ensured their survival.

These amazing creatures have shown that they have the capability to build a storage facility, create food, and preserve it perfectly, all with minimal waste. A perfect lesson in food security for us human beings. Don't you agree?

POETRY CATEGORY

A Poem About Food

Jacob Kinsky, age 15

"I was inspired to write my poem because food security is an issue that is prevalent in my area. I thought that this project would be an interesting experience, and that the issue I would write about would be one that is relevant to my community."

Amidst the field of budding sprouts
Farmers farm to feed our mouths
Their produce taken from their fields
To be plated for our meals.

Food is universal human right
Regardless of race, gender and creed.
Its guarantee is consistent
Except for those who live a life of inconsistencies.

Its a problem faced by many
A universal human right,
followed by a universal human question?
How to guarantee consistency?

Everyone is different
People live different lives
Yet everyone has one thing in common,
The need for food.

But that begs the question:
If everyone needs it, why doesn't everyone have it?
There is no answer, no remedy, no solution.
a wound that will never heal, regardless of how many fields you plow.

The universal human question.
Where there is no solution
Can there even be improvement?
It is after all a universal human right.

We Are What We Eat

We Are What We Eat: Culinary Heritage of Our Sister Cities

A Special Exhibit at the Palo Alto Art Center

February-March 2024

In cooperation with Palo Alto arts champion and volunteer curator Harriet Stern, Neighbors Abroad was proud to showcase food-themed art from all eight of our international Sister Cities at the Palo Alto Art Center in early 2024. Through the universal languages of art and photography, *We Are What We Eat* explored how traditional cuisine and modern variations can tell the story of a country and its culture. From the preparation of traditional Oaxacan food to the downing of whole herrings at a Dutch festival, the food and traditions depicted in the art prompted viewers to consider the role of food in defining a place and its people.

Our opening reception offered more than just a feast for the eyes. In typical Neighbors Abroad form, our scrappy group of volunteer board members pulled together a delectable spread of international small bites. More than 150 community members—including Mayor Greer Stone, Vice Mayor Ed Lauring and City Councilmember Lydia Kou—joined us for the celebration, which included a presentation from our Linköping, Sweden artist, **Joanne Posluszny-Hoffsten**, who traveled to Palo Alto for the exhibit, along with her whimsical sculpture depicting "Meatballs with Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Peas and Lingon Jelly." The Enschede, Netherlands photography club with which we collaborated published a wonderful **summary of our exhibit** (in Dutch). *We Are What We Eat* ran concurrently with the Art Center's exhibition *In Feast or Famine*, which featured diverse works from artists pondering how food impacts identity, community, history, health, food equity, sustainability, and agriculture.

A huge "thank you" to our event sponsors: The Graduate Hotel, Hassett Hardware, HE&C Tea + Pot, and Taste restaurant.

Pictured above is a portion of "Still Life with White Asparagus" by Heidelberg artist **Giuseppe Blasotta**. Below is a photo gallery showing some of the highlights of our opening reception and the art submissions we received from our Sister City friends:



Palo Alto Mayor Greer Stone, far left, Linköping artist Joanne Posluszny-Hoffsten, center, and Sally Beermus



Marc and Ragni Pastrel, co-founders of the Albi-Palo Alto Sister City relationship, enjoy Albi's contributions to the exhibit.



Neighbors Abroad President Sarah Burgess and Palo Alto Mayor Greer Stone, a much appreciated supporter of the city's Sister City projects.



News coverage of our exhibit in the Albi local press!



News coverage of our exhibit in the Heidelberg local press!



Board member Jeannet Kiessling has many talents, not the least of which is her ability to whip up gorgeous platters of delicious appetizers.



Exhibit curator Harriet Stern in front of the Albi, France portion of the exhibit.



HE&C Tea + Pot served delightful Chinese teas at the opening reception.



Haringparty collection, 2014-2019, by Richard Morsman (Courtesy of Fotoclub De Zoeker, Enschede, the Netherlands)



Bibinka is a Philippine cake that is made with rice flour, water, and sometimes other ingredients (such as butter, sugar, cheese, or coconut) and that is traditionally cooked between banana leaves.



Fotos de Tlayudas, 2023, by Ruben Morales (submission from Oaxaca, Mexico)



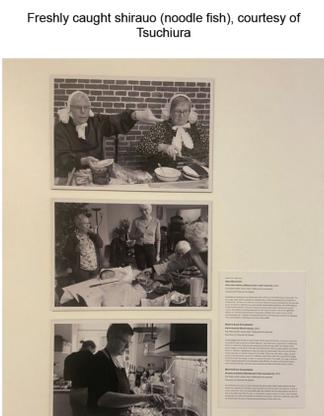
Freshly caught shirauo (noodle fish), courtesy of Tsuchiura



A photography submission from Yangpu depicts tangyuan filled with fresh meat, red bean paste and black sesame paste.



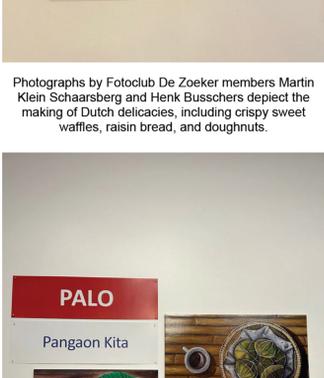
Photo of Wang Pinru, a student from Yangpu Erihan Primary School, eating his favorite food, tangyuan in sweet soup.



Photographs by Fotoclub De Zoeker members Martin Klein Schaarsberg and Henk Buschers depict the making of Dutch delicacies, including crispy sweet waffles, raisin bread, and doughnuts.



In this two-photo spread, Albi photographer Sébastien Pioch documents a city contest for the best cassoulet of the region.



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ABOUT NEIGHBORS ABROAD

Neighbors Abroad fosters Palo Alto's domestic and international engagement through friendship, education, commerce, and sustainability.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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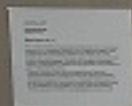
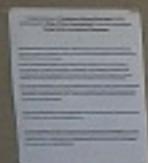
ORGANIZATION

Neighbors Abroad
355 Alma Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Phone: (650) 503-3343
EIN: 94-6103013

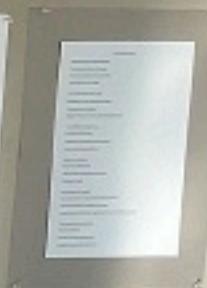
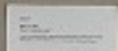
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Sister Cities International



Young Artists and Authors Showcase 2023



Peace by Piece: Food Security in my Community



Dinner at MY House-



106



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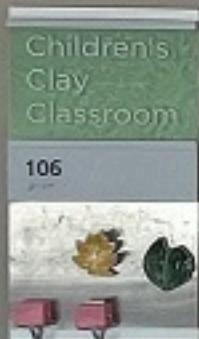
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106



106





Food Habits at Home

Wishes of 2019

1. I wish I could be a professional chef. I would love to cook for people and see their reactions to my food. I would also love to travel and try different cuisines from all over the world.

2. I wish I could be a professional athlete. I would love to compete and win. I would also love to travel and see the world.

3. I wish I could be a professional musician. I would love to play music and see people enjoy it. I would also love to travel and see the world.

4. I wish I could be a professional scientist. I would love to discover new things and help people. I would also love to travel and see the world.

5. I wish I could be a professional teacher. I would love to help people learn and grow. I would also love to travel and see the world.

Wishes of 2020

1. I wish I could be a professional chef. I would love to cook for people and see their reactions to my food. I would also love to travel and try different cuisines from all over the world.

2. I wish I could be a professional athlete. I would love to compete and win. I would also love to travel and see the world.

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Table Setting
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Family Time
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Yellow Rice
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Green Veggies
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Buffet
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Cooking
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Yellow Rice
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home



Table Setting
 Date: 12/15/19
 Location: Home

Dinner at MY House-Food Habits at Home

the continuation of **We Are What We Eat** exhibited in the Meeting Room

Photography teacher Kenna Gallagher's Palo Alto High School students supply the local portion of *We Are What We Eat—Culinary Heritage of our Sister Cities*. Students across all photography classes, from Photo 1 to Advanced Placement, were asked to document their meal tables at home during winter break. All of us viewing these images can relate to at least one if not more of their dining diaries. From the big holiday spread to a few tacos on a plate to take out or grab and go, dinner at home takes many forms.

The students elevate simple moments of everyday life through their use of composition and lighting, producing work which can make us smile, evoke memories and even stimulate hunger-or perhaps all three and more! Consider how these photographs of food, dining, and family (pictured or implied by their place settings) define Palo Alto. As these images show, we are far from monolithic, we are the sum of our independent parts. However, what is the recipe for a community?

We celebrate this vibrant sampler considering that each student's individual view is in fact the binding factor in this assortment of ingredients. Mealtime is inconsistent and unique per home, yet all these young photographers are Mx Gallagher's students, Palo Altans (and Vikes). If you observe an assembly of 2000 Paly students, differences at home are invisible. It is only through the student's eye, their invitation to reveal the ingredients, that we can appreciate the variations under the surface. Thirty-six photos, thirty-six stories of dinner at my house. Let us delight in the diversity of what we eat and who we are.

Many thanks to the Palo Alto High School students for their thoughtful photographs of *Dinner at MY House-Food Habits at Home* and to Kenna Gallagher for their enthusiastic participation in *We Are What We Eat* and for supplying these terrific images.

Harriet Stern, Exhibition Organizer

Dinner at MY House-Food Habits at Home

the continuation of **We Are What We Eat** exhibited in the Meeting Room

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Harriet Stern, Exhibition Organizer

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 15 March 2024, 5:19pm
Receipt number 18
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Hsinya Shen

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

No

California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

Do you/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 this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

Yes

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

Other: I am currently on the Public Art Commission

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

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.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Attorney, Board Member and life long art supporter.

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

My educational background includes a BA in Art History from Wellesley College, and I have actively participated in property renovation and community building in Palo Alto, reflecting my commitment to improving our community through the arts.

Through my good fortune of serving on the Palo Alto Public Art Commission since 2017 (Chair from 2023 to 2024), I have gained significant experience and knowledge about the roles each of the city council, city staff, public art commission, and community members play in creating and supporting public art in Palo Alto. I hope to share this knowledge with the new generation of Public Art Commissioners, fostering future public art leadership.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

Since joining the Public Art Commission in 2017, I've engaged in numerous civic events in Palo Alto, leveraging my position to contribute to our city's cultural landscape. Beyond this, my decade-long tenure on a community bank's board and my legal expertise have enabled me to support community reinvestment, outreach programs, and provide pro bono legal services, including citizenship drives.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I'm driven by the belief that art fosters community, enhances communication, and cultivates the human spirit. Palo Alto's unique blend of suburban charm and international appeal, coupled with its diverse population, presents a rich canvas for public art to connect and enrich our community. My experiences as a resident and my appreciation for the artistic contributions from our community inspire my vision for the Public Art Commission to create inclusive spaces through diverse art projects.

Also I've been with the Palo Alto Public Art Commission since 2017, serving as Chair from 2023 to 2024. I hope to share my experiences with new members of the Public Art Commission and support the next generation of public art leaders in 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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

The discussion around the mid-town poetry mural—its accidental acquisition, maintenance challenges, and emotional significance—taught me a lot about how much care goes into curating public art for a city.

Through the initiation of a new mural program in 2023 I learned how we can positively add and update public art pieces in public spaces.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I aim to champion projects that celebrate Palo Alto's history, such as using the redevelopment of Fry's Electronics site as an opportunity to create meaningful public art that reflects its past as an orchard and cannery, and its legacy as a place supportive of diversity. Through public

art, we can educate, celebrate our diverse heritage, and foster dialogue within our community.

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](#)

My engagement with the Public Art Master Plan has deepened my appreciation for its role in shaping Palo Alto's public art landscape. This plan's strategic vision ensures the continuation of a vibrant and engaging art scene across the city, enriching Palo Alto's cultural and social fabric.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Hsinya Shen



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/15/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 13 March 2024, 3:21pm
Receipt number 13
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Ken Joye

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

No

California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

Do you/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 this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

No

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

Other: city staff

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

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

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.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

I work as a sculptor, began my practice in 2012. I have a single, long-term project: a series of wood carvings of human skulls, inspired by a 2002 exhibit at the California Academy of Sciences.

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

I have served on a panel which selected an artist for the Boulware Park renovation currently underway.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

I currently am serving as the Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinator for the Ventura neighborhood (program beneath the Office of Emergency Services). I am a member of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I am a working artist and have a sense for the creative process. I am an appreciator of public art and recognize that it is only placed in the community when the process is followed. I would like to contribute toward that end.

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

I offered public input during the consideration of work at the Fry's site (Bayside Cannery). How would we acknowledge the accomplishments of a Chinese-American businessman in a neighborhood which had been the only non-redlined area of Palo Alto?

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

Frankly, I have no specific goal. My general goal would be to support the independence of selected artists to execute their vision without overly prescriptive input from the community.

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](#)

I have opened the document in a separate browser tab but have not yet studied it. I will do so after completing this application.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Ken Joye

Ken Joyce

[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/13/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 16 March 2024, 5:48pm
Receipt number 15
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Sonia Patwardhan

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

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3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

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No

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

Email from the City

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Art gallery owner and curator

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

Undergrad in business followed by MBA in marketing
Worked in advertising, market research and brand management for 10 years for Heinz in Pittsburgh and on Unilever brands
Established Laasya Art in 2013 and running the art gallery since then. I represent a lot of artists from south Asia in the US and we work with clients from all over the US. One of the key benefits we provide which clients find very useful is art advisory services - we work with clients closely to recommend artworks for their spaces, given their aesthetic sensibility, space and price range. We mostly work in wall art and occasionally sculptures too. The idea is to make recommendations that speaks to them and is an extension of who they are as people, and works within their price range.

Our clients are from the Bay Area but all from other states within the US where we work remotely with clients via Zoom/FaceTime video calls.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

I have volunteered on an ongoing basis when my children were in PAUSD be it in the classroom going through math corrections on weekly basis for the entire academic year or teaching kids Bollywood dancing in class.

I have been part of the Art of Living community for almost 10 years now - it is a non profit that's present in over 150+ countries and teaches meditation and breath techniques to help cope with stress and promote overall wellbeing.

As a business, we consistently donate artworks to multiple non profits in the area to help raise money in their auctions - Maitri is one such organization and help victims of domestic violence.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I have been living in Palo Alto since 2012 and call this city my home now. I would like to contribute in some way if I can - I have a good eye for design and space and have been curating art for people's home for 11 years now and have over time become very good at it.
We have been in business 11 years now and represent about 30 artists, including wall art and sculptures across different mediums.

I have been working with artists as a collector (before becoming a curator) since 2008 now and can very quickly get a sense of their credentials, quality of work, how to get the best out of them and how easy it will be to work with them.

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

The painting of the garage door of the fire station is of interest - specifically what type of mural, what type of paint material, understanding how this door is used during work hours, if this is in a residential area and what the aesthetics are in the nearby location, what type of art may be pleasing - colors, theme, overall aesthetics, timelines,

the selection criteria of the artist who may be good options for this and so on. This is the type of thing I do often with clients but for their homes and it is always fascinating to convert a space from blank wall into one that has a voice through art.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

First and foremost, would be to have more high quality art at key locations in Palo Alto. Identify which of these locations are high priority locations and get some high quality (not necessarily expensive) art for these places. And then get it done in an efficient manner. I would like to be identify different artists, make a shortlist and help make it happen, very simply. We have a beautiful city. It would help a lot to add more art in public places here.

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.

I do not have experience with this document.

[Public Art Master Plan](#)

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

Yes

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Signature

Name of signatory: Sonia Patwardhan



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/16/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 8 February 2024, 2:21pm
Receipt number 6
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Tara de la Garza

Cell Phone Number

Home Phone Number

Email Address

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

No

Address

City

Postal Code

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

No

Do you/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 this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

No

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

Email from the City

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

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

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.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Artist, Curator and Non Profit Founder

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

I studied a BA in Fine Art at Curtin University in Western Australia am currently in a resident studio program at Cubberley in Palo Alto, CA

My work is in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Watson Library, NYC. I have had two solo exhibitions at The Lodge Gallery in NYC. I also exhibit extensively throughout the US in museums and galleries such as Mass MOCA, Chicago Art Institute, Cornell University, San Diego Art Institute, Palo Alto Arts Center, Palace of Fine Arts SF, SF Design Week, numerous Spring/Break art fairs and at Context Miami.

I am self employed

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

I regularly host free workshops in my studio for my non profit (social practice) and as an artist at Cubberley

I am a member of ARTSRWC

I have created a pop up art space

I volunteer as a yoga instructor at San Mateo County Jail

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I have lots of experience with Public art, founding a non profit in NYC called No Longer Empty to bring art to empty storefronts. I have been commissioned to create public art. I have hosted two art fairs in my home town with audiences of 10,000 people

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

In the Nov 2023 meeting the developer Ahora asked for an architectural screen to be considered as their percent for the art component.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I would like Palo Alto to be seen as an epicenter for public art in Silicon Valley and would work towards achieving that.

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](#)

I have read the Public Art Master plan and like the recommendations especially to utilize and integrate the existing resources to make art integral to the city's planning efforts.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Tara de la Garza



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

2/8/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 25 January 2024, 8:41pm
Receipt number 4
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Vadim Axelrod

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

[REDACTED]

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

No

California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

Do you/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 this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

Yes

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

Email from the City

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

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.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Software Startup Founder

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

Avid fan and occasional collector of art. Liberal arts undergraduate education (Pomona College) commissioning artwork from art students after graduation. Several art museum memberships and frequent visits to exhibits and lectures.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

First moved to Palo Alto in 1991. Served on Parks & Rec and on Economic Development commissions in San Carlos, CA and Rye Brook, NY. Stanford Peninsula Alumni Club board member, coach for several kids teams (softball, soccer, destination imagination).

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

As an avid art appreciator and owner of multiple properties in Palo Alto I hope to offer ideas and perspective on how to make our city even more beautiful, engaging and amazing.

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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

Fire station 4 art - the public participation and surveys conducted were a good way to raise awareness of upcoming projects (and constraints). The two public art murals on Cal Ave have added to the ambiance to the farmer's market and the caltrain users.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

As a first-time member of the Public Arts Commission board, I would aim to learn the specific near-term goals of the city and available artists and the upcoming goals of the board. I would like to see a lot of involvement from local artists and make sure there is representation from a variety of mediums represented while blending in and enhancing the ambiance of where the artwork is installed.

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](#)

I first encountered the master plan during this application process.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Vadim Axelrod



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

01/25/2024

Public Art Commission Application

Submitted on 17 March 2024, 11:14pm
Receipt number 17
Related form version 7

Personal Information

Name Yuri Chang

Cell Phone Number

Home Phone Number

Email Address

Are you a Palo Alto resident?

Yes

Address

City

Postal Code

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?

No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?

Yes

Fair Political Practices

California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

No

Do you/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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2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?

No

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

Email from the City

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

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

I am an independent scholar who is currently working on my book which is based on my PhD dissertation. I am also an IHSS provider for my disabled child, who has complex medical needs and developmental disabilities. I completed an internship at the Ewha University Museum as part of my master's degree in art history in South Korea.

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

My areas of expertise include modern and contemporary art, urbanism, public art, and government-sponsored international art exhibitions. I completed my Ph.D. in Art History from Binghamton University, State University of New York, in 2022, under the guidance of Dr. Tom McDonough. My doctoral thesis, titled "Negotiating Urban Identities: International Art Events and the Cultural Identities of Korean Cities, 1988-1995," explores how various stakeholders, including city officials, local and international artists, curators, and business elites, negotiated to represent complex issues related to the identities of cities and their urban landscapes through exhibitions and public art. I also contributed to translation projects for publishing various anthologies on topics such as public art, feminism, and post-modernism and had one of my dissertation chapters published in a book and a scholarly journal.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

I have worked with various organizations to advocate for better accessibility and inclusion for disabled people. I have also organized several events to celebrate disability culture. I am an accessibility advisory committee member of Palo Alto City & Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, an executive board member at Palo Alto Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, and Juana Briones Elementary PTA Inclusion & Accessibility Representative. I have been teaching diversity, equity, and inclusion lessons to students at Juana Briones Elementary School, as well as leading training sessions for other adult volunteers as a site leader for the YMCA Project Cornerstone ABC Social Emotional Learning Program. I volunteered for the gallery service at the Cantor Art Center. I provided visitors with exhibition and museum information and assisted with the museum's community outreach programs.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Public Art Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I have expertise in modern and contemporary art history, public art, and urbanism, which can aid in developing meaningful, site-specific public art projects that inspire our community. Additionally, I have organized several community building events to celebrate disability culture, diversity, and inclusion, and have actively engaged with various local organizations related to the PAUSD and the Palo Alto city government. I have collaborated with the Palo Alto City Library and Junior Museum and Zoo. With my community connections and partnerships with local organizations and the disability community, I can provide diverse perspectives from 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.

Archived video meetings are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

I am interested in the King Artist residency, municipal building public art projects, and the Code: ART festival. As an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, I think the King Artist residency is an excellent program that encourages artistic dialogue on this subject. The municipal

building public art projects enhance the community's environment. I look forward to the Fire Station 5 mural, as my kid's school is right next door. I was impressed by the Code: ART 2023 festival, which was the most inclusive and accessible art event for disabled individuals, including my child. The festival showcased our city's innovation and creativity by connecting art and technology and provided a full sensory experience that welcomed all bodies, including those with disabilities. This was a rarity for the disability community, as most art exhibits are not easily accessible or touchable. I look forward to the next Code: ART festival and would be thrilled to contribute to its development process.

3. If you are appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Public Art Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I aim to amplify the voices of underserved communities, particularly the disability community, in public art. My goal is to improve the accessibility of public art to all community members, especially those who are often overlooked. Additionally, I seek to help find authentic and high-quality public art projects that represent the diversity and innovation of our city.

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.

I enjoyed reading the document. This document provides specific ideas about the visions and goals of the public art projects, the city's identity, partners, stakeholders, funding resources, and the process of the works.

[Public Art Master Plan](#)

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

[Yuri Chang 2024 CV.pdf](#)

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

Yes

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Signature

Name of signatory: Yuri Chang



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/17/2024

Yuri Chang, PhD

Education

- 2009–2022 PhD, History and Theory of Art and Architecture
Binghamton University, The State University of New York
Dissertation: *Negotiating Urban Identities: International Art Events and the Cultural Identities of Korean Cities, 1988-1995*
- 2002–2006 MA, Art History (Honor Thesis Award Recipient)
Ewha Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea
Thesis: *From Machine-Man to Cyborg: Human Image and Technology in Modern and Contemporary Art*
- 1998–2002 BA, Art History and Clothing & Textile Design (double majors)
Ewha Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea

Fellowships and Awards

Fellowships

- May 2018 Student Conference Travel Grant, International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars, Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan
- Mar 22–24, 2017 Fellow of Dissertation Workshop, Association for Asian Studies (Mentors: Drs. Justin McDaniel, David Szanton, Mary Alice Haddad, and Ritu Khanduri)
- Jun–Aug 2014 CKS Graduate Research Fellowship, Center for Korean Studies at Binghamton University
- Jul 1–5, 2013 Fellow of Korean Studies Dissertation Workshop, The Social Science Research Council and the Korea Foundation (Mentors: Drs. Robert Oppenheim, Jun Yoo, Jennifer Chun, and Serk-Bae Suh)
- Fall 2013 Academy of Korean Studies Scholarship, Center for Korean Studies at Binghamton University
- 2010–2013 Teaching Assistantship, Binghamton University
- 2003 Research & Teaching Assistantship, Ewha Women’s University

Awards

- Fall 2013 Graduate Student Employees Union Professional Development Awards
- Fall 2012 Graduate Student Employees Union Professional Development Awards
- Spring 2012 Conference Travel Grant, Center for Korean Studies at Binghamton University
- 2003 Honor Thesis Award, Ewha Women’s University

Conference Presentations

- May 11-12, 2018 "The Art of Rent in Gwangju: from City of Massacre to City of Art," The 2018 International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars, Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan
- Feb 3, 2016 "Negotiating Urban Identities: Spectacles and Conflicts in the 1995 Gwangju Biennale" in the Session *Here and Abroad: The Globalization of K-Art and Other Myths*, College Art Association (CAA) Annual Conference
- Oct 24, 2013 "The Production of Space and Memory Politics in South Korea: The Olympic Sculpture Park and the Gwangju Biennale," Invited Speaker for *South Korean Literature, Film, and State-sponsored Visual Art* conference, Asian and Asian American Studies and Center for Korean Studies at UC Berkeley
- Apr 20, 2013 "Making Monuments: The Creation of Political Spaces and post-Gwangju Memories of South Korea," *Myth, Memory, and History: New Approaches to an Elusive Past*, The 35th Annual Warren and Beatrice Susman Graduate Conference, Rutgers University
- Apr 14, 2012 "Making a National Icon: Minjung, Olympics, Museum, and Nam June Paik," *Crossing the Boundaries XX: Icons*, Binghamton University, The State University of New York
- Mar 10, 2012 "The Seoul Olympics and Nam June Paik: The Imagined Future as a Spectacle of Deception," *Deception*, The 12th Annual East Asian Studies Graduate Conference, University of Toronto
- Mar 5, 2011 "The Market as Producer: Chinese Cultural Identity as Spectacle After Deng Xiaoping's Economic Reform," *Spectacle*: The 11th Annual East Asian Studies Graduate Conference, University of Toronto

Publications

Articles

- 2017 "Monumentalizing Gwangju: the 1st Gwangju Biennale and the Anti-biennale [Kwangju rül Kinyömhagi]," in Nanjie Yun, ed., *Korean Contemporary Art: Since 1990 [Han'guk tongsidae misul: 1990-yön ihu]*, (Seoul: Sahoe P'yöngnon, 2017)
- 2016 "Negotiating Urban Identities: Spectacles and Conflicts in the 1995 Gwangju Biennale," *Journal of History of Modern Art [Han'guk Misulsa Yöngu]*, No. 40, December 2016, (Seoul: Korea Association for History of Modern Art [Han'guk Misulsa Hyöphoe])

Translations (English to Korean)

- 2015 Patricia Phillips's "Temporality and Public Art," in Nanjie Yun, ed, *Public Art [Konggong misul]*, (Seoul: Noonbit, 2015).
- 2009 Susan Squier's "Reproducing the Posthuman Body: Ectogenetic Fetus, Surrogate Mother, Pregnant Man," in Nanjie Yun ed, *Feminism and Art [P'eminijŭm kwa misul]*, (Seoul: Noonbit, 2009).

Teaching Experience

Class Teachings

- May 31–July 1, 2011 *Mannequin, Robot and Cyborg: the Machine Aesthetics in Visual Culture*, Binghamton University, The State University of New York

Lectures

- Apr 11, 2013 *Humbugs for Highbrows: Marcel Duchamp's Readymades*, Binghamton University, The State University of New York
- Apr 20, 2012 *Korean Modern Art: Negotiating Cultural Identity*, Binghamton University, The State University of New York
- Oct 26, 2011 *Japanese Zen Art: The Enlightened Brush Stroke*, Binghamton University, The State University of New York

Section Teachings

- 2013 Art History and Visual Culture
- 2012 Introduction to Art and Architecture in the Asian World
- 2011 Introduction to Art
- 2011 Constructs of Modernism
- 2010 Introduction to Architecture
- 2003 Introduction to Art

Organization Activities

- 2010–2013 Conference Organizing Committee of Crossing the Boundaries: The Art History Graduate Conference at Binghamton University
- Fall 2012 Event Coordinator for the Undergraduate Art History Association, Binghamton University

Museum Experience

- 2008 Gallery Service, Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University
- 2002–2003 Intern for Special Exhibition *Art in Comics, Comics in Art*, Ewha Women's University Art Museum

Volunteer Experience

- 2020–present YMCA Project Cornerstone ABC Social Emotional Learning Program Reader, Site Lead (2023–), Juana Briones Elementary School
- 2019– present PTA Inclusion & Accessibility Representative, Juana Briones Elementary School
- 2017– present Executive Board Member, Palo Alto Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
- 2017– present Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo