

Profile

Brie

First Name

Wolf

Last Name

Middle Initial

EarthWorks ClaySpace

Employer

Founder

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 2

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

Yes, Arts + Culture

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Associate's Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

I am an artist, educator, and community advocate with a deep commitment to creative equity. As the founder and director of Earthworks Clayspace, a community ceramics studio in Merced, I've built inclusive, hands-on art programming for both youth and adults. I hold a degree in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis in Curriculum Development, and my career has been rooted in expanding access to meaningful, culturally responsive learning experiences—especially for children and families who are often overlooked. My work is shaped by a global perspective; over the past 12 years, I've traveled to more than 40 countries, often in a humanitarian or volunteer capacity. Whether working with displaced youth, facilitating arts-based healing spaces, or building creative curriculum, I've witnessed firsthand the universal power of art to bridge cultures, foster resilience, and strengthen communities. I see the Merced Arts & Culture Advisory Board as an opportunity to bring that global understanding home—supporting local artists, advocating for inclusive funding strategies, and co-creating a cultural identity that reflects the depth and diversity of our city.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

I am currently the founder and director of EarthWorks ClaySpace, a community ceramics studio based in the heart of Downtown Merced. I manage studio operations, design and lead a variety of courses, and partner with local schools (including Merced College and UC Merced), libraries, and nonprofit organizations to deliver accessible arts programming. Outside of my professional work with EarthWorks ClaySpace and as a teacher for many years, I've volunteered extensively, both locally and abroad. My service experience includes arts education and trauma-informed programming for high-risk youth, migrant families, and unhoused individuals. I've also contributed to international volunteer projects related to education, creative placemaking, and humanitarian relief worldwide. In Merced, I regularly collaborate with other local business owners, artists, and community leaders to support inclusive events and initiatives.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

I understand the Arts & Culture Advisory Board serves a critical role in shaping Merced's creative vision. The Board provides guidance to the City Council on matters related to public art, arts funding, cultural programming, and creative infrastructure. Members help identify opportunities to support local artists and arts organizations, review public art proposals, and advocate for inclusive and equitable cultural investment. Additionally, I see the Board as a vital connector—bridging city leadership with the voices and talents of Merced's diverse communities. This includes ensuring that policies and initiatives reflect the cultural richness of our city and that underrepresented groups have meaningful access to creative opportunities and public spaces.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

Yes, I bring extensive experience in grassroots arts programming, creative education, and community engagement. As a studio director and program developer, I understand both the administrative and creative needs of artists and educators. I've written grants, managed budgets, and developed curriculum for intergenerational, multi-lingual, and neurodiverse audiences. My work emphasizes equity, accessibility, and joy—values I believe should also guide our city's cultural development. My global humanitarian work has also given me a unique lens on cultural storytelling, public art as activism, and the role of creativity in resilience and healing. I've seen what happens when underserved communities are invited into the conversation—and I'm passionate about building those pathways in Merced.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

Merced is at a cultural turning point, with new energy, voices, and ideas ready to shape our city's creative future. I would be honored to contribute to that momentum as a member of the Arts & Culture Advisory Board. I bring not only direct experience but a genuine love for this city—its people, its potential, and its many untold stories. I'm also well-connected in the local creative and civic landscape, with strong relationships across business owners, artists, educators, and elected officials. I believe this network can help support collaboration, transparency, and real community impact. I would be proud to serve and to help make Merced a place where art and culture are not only visible, but vital.

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards

AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

How did you hear about this vacancy? *

City Website

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

Demographics

Ethnicity

Prefer not to Answer

Gender

Female

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

BW

Profile

Miranda

First Name

Griswold

Last Name

Middle Initial

Merced County Community Action Agency

Employer

Regional Breastfeeding Liaison

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 5

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

No.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Associate's Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

I am an advocate for citizens being involved in their community, and I have wanted to apply for a Board for some time now; I finally feel that this is the right time. Anyone who knows me can tell you that I am one of Merced's biggest cheerleaders. While I do not yet have experience serving on a Board, I believe my deep knowledge of the community and my desire to see Merced thrive make up for that gap. My background includes nonprofit work, networking, community outreach and engagement, and health promotion and education. I bring a unique perspective to the table as an advocate for Merced, a mother who lives and works here, and a public health professional. Community is at the heart of everything I do.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

I currently work for the WIC program under the Merced County Community Action Agency. I began my involvement with WIC in 2018 as a volunteer Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, facilitating the Merced Breastfeeding Cafe. I now serve as the Regional Breastfeeding Liaison, leading education and outreach efforts for the WIC program with local organizations. My board and leadership experience includes serving on the Board for Play Adventures from 2022 to 2023, completing Valley Onward's Board and Commissions Training Class in 2020, and completing the Parent Leadership Training Institute through the Merced County Office of Education. For two years, I managed the "Nourish Merced" Facebook and Instagram pages, highlighting community and family events and resources, and I continue to maintain a webpage of community resources. In addition, I have coached soccer for the Albion and Atwater Youth Soccer Leagues and t-ball for Atwater Youth Baseball, and I volunteer with Playhouse Merced. I am an active member of the Merced Maternal Wellness Coalition and the Merced Breastfeeding Network. I will graduate from San Jose State University in December of this year with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

I understand that Board roles involve reviewing expenditures, decisions, proposals, projects, and activities in order to make informed recommendations to the City Council. Key responsibilities include remaining unbiased, basing decisions on presented facts rather than assumptions, and prioritizing outcomes that improve the lives of all Mercedians. Through my work with low-income individuals in the nonprofit sector, I have gained a unique perspective that reflects the experiences of those who are often the most underserved. I bring a strong sense of justice and fairness to my work, and I believe that arts and culture play a vital role in building a thriving community.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

My top choice would be the Planning Commission, second Arts & Culture, and third Tax Transparency. Thank you for considering me!

[Miranda_Griswold_Resume_2026.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards

AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Oath of Office

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

How did you hear about this vacancy? *

Other

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

social media (facebook)

Demographics

Ethnicity

Prefer not to Answer

Gender

Female

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

MG

Miranda Griswold

IBCLC, RBL

Miranda Griswold serves as the Regional Breastfeeding Liaison for Merced Community Action Agency WIC, supporting families across Merced and Mariposa Counties. In this role, she bridges the gap between healthcare providers, community advocates, local employers and the WIC program, advocating breastfeeding as a cornerstone of public health and bringing education and connection directly into the communities she serves.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Regional Breastfeeding Liaison

Merced Community Action
WIC Agency 2025-present

- Develop & implement marketing, outreach, and education to community programs
- Develop relationships with hospitals, clinics, and public health to improve breastfeeding education and support
- Local community outreach & tabling events
- Maintain three Breastfeeding Cafe Support Groups
- Develops lactation accomodation plans with local businesses

Lactation Consultant

Merced Community Action
WIC Agency 2024-2025

- Clinical lactation support for high risk participants
- Usage of WIC Wise and Peer Counselor Database
- Caseload of 45 participants across eight locations
- Input breast pump orders into provider portal
- Mentor BFPCs and RDN interns
- Community referrals
- Facilitate Los Banos Breastfeeding Cafe Support Group, weekly on Tuesdays

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

Merced Community Action
Agency WIC 2020-2024

- Breastfeeding peer support through phone, video chat, or text
- Maintain caseload of 55 participants in the city of Merced
- Conduct in person breastfeeding classes for prenatal mothers
- Provide referrals to community resources, RD/DNs, IBCLC, or healthcare provider/mental health as needed

CONTACT



[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

SKILLS

- Social Media Marketing
- Patient centered counseling
- Canva
- Google Programs
- Microsoft Office
- Coalition building
- Support group leadership
- Technical Writing
- Community Outreach
- Event promotion
- HIPAA Training

EDUCATION

- **Grow Our Program**
Riverside Health
2023
- **AA-T Sociology**
Merced College
2021-2023
- **Bachelor's of Science,
Public Health**
San Jose State University
2025-2026

Profile

Tommy

First Name

Tran

Last Name

Middle Initial

UC Merced

Employer

Lecturer

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 6

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Doctoral Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

I have always been interested in the cultural life of cities and ways communities have used arts and culture to redefine themselves in these changing times. Having been a first-generation university student with a low-income background, I am both familiar with the various challenges that many in the Central Valley face and the many unique possibilities that can come with education and the arts. I therefore attempt to maintain a straightforward and practical perspective on the impact of arts and culture, neither dismissing them outright nor overestimating their impacts.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

I have taught history and culture at UC Merced for more than three years. Though UC Merced's student population comprises many from various parts of California and beyond, the demographics are not too dissimilar to that of Merced itself. I also have experience in the arts and arts promotion as part of a guest curatorial team at the UCLA Fowler Museum.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

My understanding of this advisory commission as presented on the City of Merced's primary web page is that members are to serve in an advisory capacity, providing recommendations on arts and culture projects and events for the city of Merced. Members are to develop an understanding of the particular arts and culture interests relevant to Merced community members, work with the local arts council, provide support to groups involved in arts projects, and to recommend standards.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

I have not served on any commission in the past, but what I can contribute is my prior research experience in urban arts initiatives and familiarity of trends in culture-led urban revivals (including their potential benefits and pitfalls) on both sides of the Pacific.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

Although much of my prior research experience is in Asia, the trends in arts and culture initiatives on both sides of the Pacific parallel one another. Referring to my experience with such initiatives in other regions, I would like to contribute to discussions on what kinds of arts and culture projects are more relevant to Merced's unique situation as an emerging Central Valley city

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards

AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

How did you hear about this vacancy? *

City Website

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

Demographics

Ethnicity

Asian or Pacific Islander

Gender

Male

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

TT

Tran, Tommy

Tommy Tran

Lecturer – University of California at Merced

Cell: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

EDUCATION

2011-2017: University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D., Asian Languages and Cultures (Korea Focus)
2008-2010: University of California, Los Angeles
M.A., East Asian Studies
2002-2006: University of California, Riverside:
B.A., *magna cum laude*: Asian Studies

INTERESTS

Public History, Arts and Culture Initiatives, and Urban Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

2018-: Lecturer / UC Merced Department of History [Merced, CA]
2018: Adjunct Assistant Professor / UCLA Dept. of Asian Languages and Cultures [Los Angeles, CA, USA]
2016-2017: Teaching Associate / UCLA Dept. of Asian Languages and Cultures [Los Angeles, CA, USA]
2012-2014: Teaching Assistant / UCLA Dept. of Asian Languages and Cultures [Los Angeles, CA, USA]
2013: Guest Curator for “From X to Why: A Museum Takes Shape” / UCLA Fowler Museum [Los Angeles, CA, USA]
2010-2011: Afterschool EFL Teacher / Teach and Learn in Korea (TaLK) [Seogwipo, Jeju, ROK]
2006-2008: EFL Instructor / English Program in Korea (EPIK) [Namhae-kun, Kyöngnam and Jeju City, Jeju, ROK]

LANGUAGES

English, Korean, Chinese (Cantonese), Japanese

DIGITAL SKILLS

Geographic Information Systems, GIMP, Blender 3D, Camtasia Video Editing

Profile

Christopher

First Name

James

Middle Initial

Carter

Last Name

University of California-Merced

Employer

Head Men's Volleyball Coach

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 6

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

NA

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Master's Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

I am fairly new to Merced but have quickly grown to love this city. With a position within UC Merced athletics, I am dedicated to see this city continue to grow and expand and want to be a part of that in whatever capacity I can. I am a quick learner, have my bachelors in Political science, and even worked in local government in college.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

UC Merced Men's Volleyball head coach Eagle Scout Big Brother Big sister volunteered for multiple congressional campaigns in college,

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

My understanding is that the Planning Commission serves as an advisory and decision-making body that helps guide the City's growth and development in a way that aligns with community needs, long-term planning goals, and local regulations. The Commission reviews proposals, zoning changes, development projects, conditional use permits, and subdivisions to ensure they are consistent with the City's General Plan and municipal code. I understand that the role also involves balancing economic development with responsible planning, public safety, environmental considerations, infrastructure needs, and quality of life for residents. Commissioners are expected to carefully review staff reports, listen to public input, ask thoughtful questions, and make fair, informed decisions that are in the best interest of the community as a whole. I am excited about the opportunity to do this, because I believe that Merced has so much to offer, especially with a growing UC, and I want to see it become a booming college town. I

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

Political science undergraduate degree

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I am an incredibly fast learner, intelligent, I work well in teams and do well with deadlines.

[2025_resume_.docx.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards

AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Oath of Office

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

How did you hear about this vacancy? *

Other

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

instagram

Demographics

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Male

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

CJC

Chris Carter

Coaching Experience

University of California- Merced, NCAA D2, Merced CA

May 2025- Present

University at Albany, NCAA D1, Albany, NY

April 2024-Present

Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball

- 2024 America East Coaching Staff of the Year
- Guided the Great Danes to notable improvement, securing five more wins than previous season including three America East Conference victories.
- Spearheaded the Danes defensive efforts, averaging 9.5 blocks per match and 65 digs per match in conference play – an improvement of 1.0 blocks per match and 13.7 digs per match compared to the 2023 season. In the America East tournament, the Great Danes excelled defensively with 19 digs per set and 2.25 blocks per set against #1 Binghamton and #2 New Hampshire.
- Guided the development in First-team All-Conference Shynelle Woroniuk and conference Rookie of the Year in Maria Olga Siapani.
- Managed comprehensive administrative responsibilities, including organizing team travel, coordinating meal plans, overseeing equipment and gear ordering, planning and competing community service events and planning and directing all summer camps and satellite camps.

Springfield College, NCAA D3, Springfield, MA

May 2022-April 2024

Graduate Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator, Men's Volleyball

- Assisted head coach in all aspects of the program including practice planning, game-strategy, player development, recruiting, and volleyball operations.
- Identified key positional needs for recruiting classes, attended regional and national tournaments, and utilized online resources such as University Athlete and NCSA, as well as utilizing club volleyball connections.
- Guided recruits through the recruiting process, including official visits, the application process, and financial aid. Organized all recruit contact information, relevant film, and individual recruiting timelines in a comprehensive Excel spreadsheet to track current and future recruiting classes.
- Monitored the academic progress of all student-athletes to ensure compliance with our team 3.0 GPA standard. Conducted bi-weekly academic checks with first-year athletes to implement academic support strategies to ensure that athletes would achieve their academic goals.
- Utilized DataVolley software to evaluate players' performance, conduct offensive and defensive analyses, and prepared detailed scouting reports of opponents before every match.
- In-game duties include tracking opponent offensive distribution, coordinating team defense and communicating with head coach on necessary adjustments.
- Helped guide team to NCAA tournament in back-to-back years with 48-7 record in 2022 and 2023.
- Guided the development of 4 First Team All-Americans and two ROY awards. Dylan Mulvaney awarded Rookie of the Year in 2022, and Sam Levinson awarded Rookie of the Year in 2023.

Springfield College, NCAA D3, Springfield, MA

August 2023-Nov 2023

Volunteer Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball

- Assisted head coach with planning and execution of practices.
- Team finished 27-5 with a second round NCAA appearance, was undefeated in NEWMAC conference play and was ranked in top 25 polls for the first time since 2012.
- D3 Region 2 Coaching Staff of the Year 2023.

Westcliff University, NAIA, Irvine, CA

August 2021 -May 2022

Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator, Women's Volleyball

- Collaborated with head coach and other assistant coach to develop and execute tailored practice plans that address needs and objectives of the team.
- Conducted individual and position-based training groups to improve individual skills and overall positional group skills, primarily setters and pin hitters.
- Recruiting coordinator duties include using engines such as Fieldlevel and NCSA to find high quality athletes that fit the program's needs, and coordinating scholarships, and the guiding athletes through the recruiting process. Recruiting class of 2022 included First Team All-Conference and NAIA Honorable Mention Freshman Fiona Moesching and Calpac Defender of the Year Ava Himstreet.
- Coached 4 All Cal-Pac team honorees.

Pulse Athletics Volleyball Club, Anaheim, CA

September 2016-Present

Boys/Girls Head Coach

- Successfully lead teams of varying age groups (12s to 18s) and skill levels including Open Level teams as Head Coach.
- Consistently achieved outstanding results, with open level teams competing at Junior Nationals and securing 3 top 10 finishes at national tournaments, including the SCVA boys Invitational, Holiday Classic, and the So-Cal Cup MLK and Showcase tournaments. Additionally coached 18s team to a silver medal at the 2021 So-Cal Cup Winter Formal tournament and took 5th place at 2022 USAV BJNC and a top 10 finish at the 2023 AAU National Championship.
- Served as club-wide setting coach, analyzing and training setters on all teams on individual skill and offensive systems to enhance team's overall performance.
- Directed and ran highly successful clinics and positional trainings within the club, further enhancing players' skills and attracting new players to the club.

University High School, Irvine, CA

August 2020 – May 2022

Varsity Head Coach

- Oversaw entire program with three levels: Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Frosh/Soph teams with primary focus of process-based development of student athletes on the court as well as fostering emotional growth and academic success.
- Developed and executed fast-paced, high impact practice plans with an emphasis on development of structured offensive and defensive systems to enhance team performance, including perfect pass, medium pass, and high ball out-of-system on both sides of the net.
- Collaborated with Junior Varsity and Frosh/Soph coaches to ensure consistency in teaching language and skill progression, promoting seamless transition of players to the Varsity level.
- Managed a budget and worked alongside booster board to ensure fundraising goals were met to ensure program was fully funded.
- As Head Coach, led the Varsity team to unprecedented success, from an 0-10 record to finishing in the top half of the competitive Pacific Coast League and advancing to CIF playoffs in consecutive years for the first time in 5 years.
- Produced multiple all-league selections in each year.

Education

Springfield College, Springfield, MA
Masters Degree in Athletic Leadership

May 2024

Cal State Fullerton , Fullerton, CA
Bachelor of Science in Political Science

May 2022

Profile

Tom _____ Olejniczak _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Employer Retired Teacher/
Photographer
Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 6

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Bachelor's Degree
 Professional Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

I was formally trained in reconnaissance photography while serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. I then worked as a News Paper photographer and wrote feature articles while attending Fresno State. After retiring from working as a teacher for the Merced City School District, I decided to pursue my photography interest and develop my skills as a fine art photographer. During this journey, I've published photos in national magazines and have received awards for my photographs. Since retiring, I have made it important to help influence the direction, especially Downtown Merced, takes to revive the heart of the community. I won't get into the efforts I've made to help influence a working clock in Bob Hart Square. I'm now interested in donating my time to further the arts, that are undertaking a renaissance, in Merced.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

I am a retired Merced City School District teacher.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

It is my understanding the roles and responsibilities are to advise and influence the City Council as it pertains to the Arts and Culture in the City of Merced.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

No

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

No

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards
AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
How did you hear about this vacancy? *

Other

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

I saw the open positions on Facebook.

Demographics

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Male

Date of Birth

Submission

Tom Olejniczak

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

TGO

Profile

Ana
First Name

K
Middle Initial

Browning
Last Name

Merced county
Employer

Planner
Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 3

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

No

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Bachelor's Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

My name is Ana I work in the Community and Economic Development Department. I moved to the City of merced in 2022 and am looking to get more involved in the community. While I would not consider myself very creative or an artist, I enjoy taking in and appreciating different forms of art and I think it can be a way to bring people together. I think every community could use some of that.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

My current employer is Merced County where I have worked for almost three years. I have volunteered for a County Supervisor campaign back in Southern California where I am from and have lots of experience with customer service and public speaking

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

My understanding of the role is to be present and an active member of the Commission where we promote different types of art within the City of Merced and encourage more people to attend and participate.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

I do not have any experience with this specific Board, but as part of my current job, I work alongside several different Boards and Commissions.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I am definitely looking to get more involved with the City of Merced and begin integrating myself more within the community.

[Resume.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards
AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
How did you hear about this vacancy? *

City Website

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

Demographics

Ethnicity

Hispanic

Gender

Female

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

AB

Ana Browning

Education

University of La Verne, La Verne, California

Bachelor of Arts and Science,

Major: Political Science **Minor:** Criminology

Relevant Coursework: State and Local Government, American Government, Law and Society

Certificates: Cum Laude, Seal of Bilingual Proficiency

Experience

Merced County Community and Economic Development Department

Planner II **March 2026 - current**

Planner I **August 2024 - March 2026**

- Participate in long-range planning policy formulation.
- Recommends land use and development policies and assists in developing or revising ordinances
- Conduct inspection of sites to ensure compliance with the General Plan and Zoning Codes. Interprets the use permits in each zone according to zoning and related ordinances.
- Answers inquiries from the public relating to planning and zoning.
- Provide staff support to and participates in the implementation of the general plan and other plans.
- Process application for the development projects.

Merced County Community and Economic Development Department

Permit Technician **August 2023- current**

- Receive and review permit applications and related documentation for completeness; receives request for records and processes routine requests
- Interact directly with project managers, contractors, the general public and other department representatives relative to permitting and other general inquiry
- Record, log, compile, and maintain various permit related files, data, documents, plans and reports
- Answer any correspondence and provide information to the public and applicants, regarding building and planning department requirements, regulations, and procedures

Five Ten Bistro

Server **February 2023- December 2023**

- Managed customer orders and ensured customer satisfaction
- Memorized a wide array of food and beverage items
- Handled multiple payments a day
- Sold over \$1000 in food daily

City of Menifee

Intern **February 2022- May 2022**

- Provided different information to citizens and assisted with their concerns
- Researched different policies and their success in other cities

- Provided support to senior planners

Etiwanda High School

***Coach* February 2020- February 2022**

- Coached the freshmen/sophomore girls' soccer team for two seasons
- Supervised practices to ensure organization, efficiency, and areas for improvement
- Participated in professional development meetings with the program's coaches
- Collaborated with a team of coaches to identify areas for improvement across teams

Campaign for County Supervisor

***Campaign Intern* February 2020- November 2020**

- Built strong lasting connections throughout the community that led to the support of my candidate
- Networked with different local businesses
- Arranged and managed different fundraising events

Skills

- Computer Proficiency (Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, and Excel)
- Ability to analyze and implement different policies
- Create effective working relations
- Collaborate in a team setting

References

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Profile

Sabrina
First Name

C
Middle Initial

Abong
Last Name

Tesla
Employer

Production Associate
Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 3

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

regional airport authority Parks and recreation meeting

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Associate's Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

[REDACTED]

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

I have lived in the city of Merced since I was 19 currently 29 years old I own a home in Merced and I pay taxes I advocate, work full time and I am a mother of one child.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

I am currently sitting on the regional airport authority as a voting member for the third district and I sit on parks and recreation committee.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

I have to respect and comply with the brown Act respect my fellow commissioners and advocate for the city I live in.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

I am an alumni of a cohort on behalf of Building Healthy Communities called boards and commission leadership institute, yes I have been on a national advisory board for foster youth and currently sit on one committee of Merced city.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I am a former foster youth and have loads of experience advocating and creating change in the legislative branch of government.

[nonprofitresume.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards
AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Oath of Office

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards
How did you hear about this vacancy? *

A Friend

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

Demographics

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Female

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

sca

Sabrina Abong
Merced, CA 95340



EDUCATION:

Los Banos High School Los Banos, CA High School diploma obtained	2013-2015
Willow Glen High School San Jose, CA	2011-2013
Atwater High School Atwater, CA	2011-2011
Merced College Merced, CA Associate's degree with transfer in psychology	May 2018

Experience:

Quality Parenting Initiative conference-panelist

September 2018

- Be a panelist and share my experiences as a former foster youth to improve resource parents to create stability for foster youth and to be nurtured and to have a long lasting home.

Foster youth support coordinating program-participant

July 2018-Current

- Improve services for current foster youth in the public educational system to improve their experiences while being in public schools from kindergarten to senior year in high school.

CASA(court appointed special advocate)-mentor

April 2018-current

- Advocate for a current foster child in merced county for whatever he or she may need and write court reports and recommend the court whatever needs he or she may have.

Rural Justice Summit-participant

March 2018

- Attend a conference on how to better organize, solve issues from grassroots, the importance of emerging, the importance of why young people should vote and observe what other communities have done and use their model to make Merced Community better.

Golden Valley High School opportunity conference-panelist speaker.

February 2018

- Communicate to foster parents, probation officers, social workers, teachers, CASA workers about the benefits of coping in foster youth and understanding what he or she is going through or what he or she has gone through.

The positives and negative of AB 12 and SB 12-participant

February 2018

- Attend a round table on how to better implement these bills to better serve the foster care population.

Youth Connect committee-participant

February 2018-present

- Attend a monthly meeting about how to better serve the displaced youth or homeless youth of Merced county and how to partner him or her with resources in the community to make him or her a better productive individual of society.

San Diego futures foundation-participant

December 2017

- Disseminate refurbished computers to foster parents who had foster children in San Diego county.

Foster Parent Focus Group-Trainer

September 2017-Current

- Facilitated training to foster parents on how to improve a foster youth mental health and how to build a relationship built on trust and respect.

Merced College Guardian Scholar

September 2017-May 2018

- Provided foster youth attending Merced College resourced for them to be successful in college.

Big Bear Retreat-Facilitator

August 2017

- Facilitated training and workshops to develop a guardian scholar club at Merced college.

Continuum Care Reform- Speaker

July 2017

- Disseminate and provide vital feedback on the “healthy kids” survey to be presented to Foster Youth in group homes to measure level of happiness.
- Provide them with steps that can be taken to positively create relationships with youth that are in care.

PBS SoCal- Participant

July 2017

- Provide input about foster care and how to best support foster youth through the use of documentaries.

Merced City School District LCAP Meeting-Participant

May 2017

- Participated in district talks as an impacted youth and provided ways to use the money meant for foster youth to ensure more youth become successful.

Merced City School District Board Meeting- Participant

Feb 2017- July 2017

- Attended School Council Meetings and provided a “best practices” approach in how to help the district's foster youth and ensure their success.

California Youth Connection – Merced Chapter

May 2016- Current

- Spoke with legislators and provided them personal experiences and information as to why certain legislation will be beneficial for foster youth if passed such as Senate Bill 1060 which aims to keep siblings connected after adoption.
- Met with my Local Assembly member and informed them of what Foster care is and how their support can secure a better future for the nation’s Foster Youth.

Tay Member of Alameda Behavioral Health- Panelist

February 2020- Current

- Attend monthly meetings on behalf of TAY(Transitional Age Youth) and as a TAY to better help the TAY youth from 16-24.

Nytd Reviewer

March-current

- Attend virtual training biweekly to review the NYTD survey and the findings that have been found from administering the survey to youth in foster care on a federal level from every state.

Boards commission and leadership Institute

August-current

- Attend bi-monthly training on how to publicly speak on a board and be on different boards how to efficiently speak publicly.

HeartMath Training

May-August

- Attend a weekly virtual training to breathe efficiently through stressful times and better calm down.

Profile

Anahita

First Name

Foroutan

Last Name

Middle Initial

Zymex Industries / Foroutanaliabad Law Corporation

Employer

CFO / Attorney

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

Yes No

Which Council district do you live in? *

District 4

Are you currently serving on a Board or Commission? If so, please list:

No

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Highest Level of Education Completed: *

Professional Degree

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

Yes No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for this particular Board or Commission:

My name is Anahita, Ana for short. I was born and raised in the Central Valley, growing up in Merced. Both of my parents started their own businesses in Merced and I followed in their footsteps. They instilled in me that it is very important to give back to the community. I left Merced ten years ago to go to school, went straight to college and then law school. Now I am a lawyer and came back to help out my community in any way I can. I want to be a part of this board specifically because outside of my professional life most of my hobbies involve the Arts world. I really enjoy and appreciate the steps Merced has been taking with regards to art in the community and offering an outlet for the younger generations. I was living in San Francisco during COVID and it was so nice to come here a few years ago and see that live performances, theater groups, and all the art around the city is still alive and well if not much nicer and better than before.

Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.

Right now I work for my family businesses - Zymex Industries, Inc and University Pediatric Center as the primary financial officer. Additionally, I have my own law firm - Foroutanaliabad Law Corporation. As for volunteer experience, the most recent volunteer work I have would be the pro bono hours I have for my law firm, where I helped a couple local businesses and individuals. Other than that I do some outreach and help with community clean ups when I can. Mostly, I spent the last school year helping volunteer for the UC Merced Mock Trial team, helping them prepare for their competitions and letting them bounce ideas off of me during their practices.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this Board or Commission?

It is my understanding that this Board helps nurture the arts in Merced. They are responsible for bringing about policies that help promote art in a more permissible way, giving people a way to express themselves. Additionally, as for the culture aspect of the Board, I think that this Board helps promote the different cultural organizations in the community, fostering a more inclusive community and one where all different cultures are embraced.

Do you have experience or special knowledge pertaining to this Board or Commission?

I may not be the most artistic person but I do like to think I am good at thinking outside of the box. One of my favorite ways to express myself is through performing comedy, something I feel like is somewhat lacking in this community and that I am trying to bring about in my own grassroots way for the younger people. As for the culture portion, I grew up in Merced and was an impressionable youth before the UC, where it felt like my family was the only Iranian family in Merced. Now, thanks to the UC bringing in Iranian professors and their families and due to me living in big cities while getting my education, I see the difference culture representation can make in a community.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

No :)

[Foroutan Resume.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Requirements

Question applies to multiple boards

AB 1234 Ethics Training

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Attendance Policy

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

Public Scrutiny

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

How did you hear about this vacancy? *

Other

If you selected other, please indicate how you learned about the vacancy:

City Facebook Post

Demographics

Ethnicity

Other

Gender

Female

Date of Birth

Submission

I declare under penalty of disqualification or termination that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

AF

ANAHITA (ANA) FOROUTAN

Merced, CA 95340

EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College of the Law
Juris Doctor Candidate

San Francisco, CA
August 2019 - May 2022
International Law Concentration

University of California, Santa Cruz
Bachelor of Arts

Santa Cruz, CA
September 2015 - June 2019
Legal Studies and International Politics Double Major

EXPERIENCE

Zymex Industries, Inc.
CFO/Corporate Attorney

Help manage the small company's financials while overseeing any legal issues that arise.

Merced, CA
January 2024 – Present

Fresno County Public Defender's Office
Defense Attorney I, Post-Bar Law Clerk

Worked as a law clerk and then as an attorney, helped represent indigent clients with any and all types of criminal misdemeanors.

Fresno, CA
June 2021 – November 2023

Superior Court of Santa Clara County
Judicial Extern

Worked with two Judicial Officers and assisted in legal research and other projects related to the operations and functions of the bench.

Remote/San Jose, CA
June 2021 – July 2021

UC Hastings Refugee and Human Rights Clinic
Student Clinic Participant

Worked from start to finish and received first-hand experience on all aspects required for an affirmative asylum application.

Remote/San Francisco, CA
January 2021 – May 2021

Nadia Yakoob & Associates
Law Clerk

Worked on immigration petitions for clients which involved gathering evidence, filling out forms, drafting letters of support, stitching together documents in Adobe, printing and scanning the filing, and putting together and mailing out the paper filing.

Oakland, CA
May 2020 – January 2021

Peace Corps

Intern with the General Counsel

Worked with both the General Council and Records Office within the Peace Corps to help them archive old cases using the Federal records disposition standards.

Washington, D.C.
March 2019 - June 2019

Assembly-Member Adam Gray
Intern

Organized issue-based paperwork. Reviewed and analyzed local media coverage of the Assembly-Member. Answered constituent concerns both in person and over the phone.

Merced, CA
June 2018 - September 2018