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**Profile**

Diana

First Name

Odom

Middle Initial

Gunn

Last Name

San Joaquin Drug, Inc.

Employer

Marketing Manager, part-time

Job Title

Email AddressPrimary PhoneAlternate Phone

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**Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)**☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

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**Do you live within the City Limits of Merced? (Required)**☒ Yes ☐ NoStreet AddressCitySuite or Apt  
StatePostal Code

Question applies to multiple boards

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**Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)**☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Which Council district do you live in?**☒ District 3

no

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

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**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission: Submitted

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**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:

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## **Interests & Experiences**

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

The arts are foundational to culture and community. I am a supporter of all the arts and a strong believer in the power of community to improve the quality of life for all of Merced's residents. Through the Merced Downtown Neighborhood Association, I am working hard to develop meaningful, positive identities for our local neighborhoods and for the City of Merced. Service on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission would provide another avenue to that goal. The Commission is poised to sculpt and polish our identity as a City and I would like to help.

**Please list your current employer and relevant volunteer experience.**

I am a retired college professor. I work part-time on marketing and public relations for our family's pharmacy, San Joaquin Drug in Planada. The rest of my time is spent in volunteer activities. I am currently the President of the Merced Downtown Neighborhood Association, formerly served as Secretary for two years. I am a Director for the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, representing the pharmacy. I am co-founder of the local astronomy club, M-STAR, and I serve on the Merced County Binational Health Week Steering Committee. Finally, I work for The Burning Man Project on the Census Team and the San Francisco Regional Organization. Burning Man is internationally recognized for distinctive art projects, for which I am a fundraiser. I formerly volunteered with Friends of Valley Crisis Center and sometimes continue to serve that organization.

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

On behalf of the Downtown Neighborhood Association, I was involved in the formative stakeholder meetings for the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. The Commission is an advisory body for the Merced City Council, making recommendations for the Council's consideration. I understand that voting roles are distributed among all the City Council districts, with non-voting roles contributing discussion. The purpose of this Commission is to develop specific proposals of art and culture projects to benefit the City of Merced. I believe that art gives character to places and strongly support the City's efforts to beautify Merced through art placements. Merced has a vibrantly diverse population which contributes heavily to our character as a community. Efforts to share our cultures are important to building community engagement and unity. Art creates and communicates culture.

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

I have my finger on the pulse of downtown Merced interests. I am a life-long supporter of all the arts. I am trained in theater and music, having performed professionally in my youth (quit at 30). My brother is a Poet and I have a good collection of literary works. I prefer the classics. I have always collected works of local artists and have studied all the historic artists. I am acquainted with many of Merced's local artists and writers. I am open minded with very diverse tastes. I am sensitive to cultural contributions to art. I taught Social and Cultural Diversity for a decade In Louisiana. My family settled in Merced in 1976 and I have known the growth of the local Latino community, watched the Hmong/Lao immigration and integration, and know the Italian groups well. On behalf of Planada, I am active in the local Hispanic community. UC, Merced has brought us even more cultural diversity to enhance our city. I believe all our cultures want recognition. Finally, I am a grant writer, trained in scientific grants but since experienced with granting for nonprofits as well.

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

I have been interested in this Arts and Culture Commission from its inception. However, another DNA member expected to apply for the District 3 seat so I stepped back from it. When I learned, much too late, that this person's application was never submitted, I hurried to apply. I understand that my application is very late and may not be considered. I will be happy if an ex-officio seat remains available. Of course, I will understand if I cannot be appointed at this time.



Upload a Resume

**Requirements**

**Statement of Economic Interests - FPPC Form 700**

☒ I Agree \*

**How did you hear about this vacancy? \***

☒ Other

at the stakeholder's meetings

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


**Demographics**

**Ethnicity**

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

**Gender**

☒ Female



Date of Birth

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**Submission**

DG

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