

HPNC Board Vacancy Applications for President & 2 Director-at-large seats AUGUST 2019

First Name	Last Name	Stakeholder Type	Position	What skills would you bring to HHPNC?	What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?	Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?	Personal statement
John	Garcia III	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	Expertise in education, affordable housing, health, public policy and philanthropy. I am also an advisory member of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, a Partner for Social Venture Partners Los Angeles and a board member for Grantmakers for Education. Most recently, I was named President of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, and Chief Deputy for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, which oversees all 80 school districts in the county. Previous I worked for the California Community Foundation, the National Governors Association and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.	Land Use, Housing & Homelessness, Sustainability	I firmly believe in community representation to influence public policy for the betterment of all residents within a community. Highland Park has a long history and is a neighborhood that is at the heart of some of the most pressing challenges facing many Los Angeles communities, including affordable housing, gentrification, neighborhood culture, homelessness and economic opportunity. As a former program officer of the largest community foundation in Los Angeles I have worked with the public sector, non-profit and community leaders on issues impacting education quality, permanent supportive housing, homelessness, gentrification and others. I hope to bring my experience as a resident and community leader to the neighborhood council to effectively address these issues. It is my goal to ensure that Highland Park has a bright future that meets the needs of all its residents.	After several years in the business sector I changed the trajectory of my career to focus on public service and helping those in need. While working at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, I decided to make a life-altering decision that would shape my reality for years to come. I gave up a fruitful job in business to work as a school counselor in education, helping students understand the importance of college and helping them mitigate the effects of intergenerational poverty. From those four years working in schools, I sought to enter the field of public policy to change the conditions in which students and families faced inequitable opportunities. Over the next decade I took the lessons learned from my experiences in schools and entered the public policy arena working at the state level then eventually the national level in DC. I have worked on improving policies that provide additional resources and services to those facing the greatest needs by addressing food insecurity, educational quality, legal representation for undocumented families, programs for formerly incarcerated youth and permanent support housing. However, my time in D.C. also allowed me to see how removed policy making in the nation's capital was from the lives of everyday community members. My stint in Washington D.C., challenged me to see that true change is made at the local level, when it is driven by the community. After leaving D.C. I chose to work for one of the most important organizations in the Los Angeles community, the California Community Foundation (CCF). CCF is the largest community foundation in Los Angeles and focuses on affordable housing, health, immigration and education across LA County. At the foundation, we partnered with policy makers, community-based nonprofits and advocates to change policies that impacted affordable housing development, local entrepreneurship, educational quality, and health access. As a senior program officer, I have become well versed in the issues that impact local communities, such as Highland Park, and the policies that are needed to make a positive difference. However, this change should be done in partnership with the community. It is my hope to ensure that the issues impacting Highland Park are given the resources and supports needed from the city council. It is also my goal to ensure that long time residents of Highland Park are provided with equitable solutions to ensure local businesses continue to thrive and that the neighborhood history and culture remains vibrant. Member of the Highland Park community can be at the forefront of creating a community that works for all residents and does not displace long time homeowners and business owners, while at the same time allows for neighborhood economic development and environmental concern. I believe that as a member of the neighborhood council I can bring innovative and inclusive solutions to address the needs of all residents within the Highland Park neighborhood.
Bonwitt	St. Claire	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	I'm responsible, have time to devote, and I show up.. Due to my public relations and therapy background, I work well with people. My computer skills are okay. Any programs needed can be installed by my tech husband. Writing and editing my radio shows, I can simplify complicated info to make it understandable. Also, helped draft legal documents for different purposes. I can lead or train/teach. Could do Outreach. I'm a Emergency Medical Responder, if needed.	Public Safety , due to leading the Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The Budget and Land Use Committees also interest me, but I can fit in where needed.	Living here 32 years gives me perspective and love for the community. 25 years ago you couldn't go down Fig or York at night. It is safe now and I want to keep it that way! How can I have a say, if I don't participate? A few years ago, a project was vetoed right across the street from me, that was a great addition to the neighborhood. Went to the meeting, but wasn't on the Land Use Committee...	Hi , I'm Bonwitt St. Claire, but you can call me Bonnie. Born and raised in SoCal, I've lived in my home in the Garvanza area of Highland Park for 32 years. Earlier in life, I attended Jr. & Sr. High in So Pas. My mom and I would go shopping in HP. Wow, I got to see this community go through so many changes! My new husband moved to HP, because I'm here to stay, and we love living here with our two dogs. It's a great up-and-coming community with a history! My main concern is that Highland Park continues to grow and prosper, while keeping its integrity, and its special uniqueness and flavor. Yes, we need to protect our heritage, but we, also, need to allow the changes to move forward in the current times. We are undergoing rapid growth and change! We have a new, younger, population moving into our area, but we also need to make sure that the existing population, including the elderly, are heard and respected. As a leader for the Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Safety is big on my list. I have time to devote to the HPNC, along with the hindsight, experience, ability, skills, and the foresight to assist in moving forward. My careers, encompassed fields from entertainment to medical, motivational speaking, magazine executive, and radio host, and gave me the opportunity to organize groups and take on leadership and training roles. I've worked with people in a lot of areas to make things happen and I look forward to working with the representatives in this incredible group. Let's keep HP safe, happy, peaceful, and running smoothly during this exciting growth!
Susan	Weinman	Work	Director At Large (2 seats available)	I have a master of public administration. Areas studied included public sector organizational management, Human Resources and budgeting and financial administration. I have experience with reviewing RFX process for the city of Los Angeles. (Through LAPD) I am currently an art teacher at nightingale middle school. This will be my fourth year. This will be my 23 year teaching in LAUSD.	Education. Youth outreach. Community Art	I am currently a teacher at Nightingale middle School. We serve the students of highland park and beyond. . We are offering great programs and growing as a school. I am interested in being part of the progress of this area.	My name is Susan a Weinman. I am the visual arts teacher at Nightingale Middle School in Cypress Park. This will be my fourth year at Nightingale. I have worked for LAUSD for 22 years. I am interested in the upkeep of my local work neighborhood. Nightingale has been a part of the community since 1937. We are offering programs that focus on business entrepreneurship, robotics, medical, health and kinesiology, and visual and performing arts including music, film and theater. I served as a mayoral intern under the honorable Mr. Villaraigosa. I interned in the contract and grants division at LAPD. I completed research for a city audit. I was trained in the RFX process. I also served as an intern at the emergency management department. I designed and published the family emergency handbook and redesigned the city council handbook. It would be an honor to be part of this neighborhood council. Thank you, Susan Weinman
Daniel	Camacho	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	Grew up in Highland Park and obtained a College degree. I would be able to voice people's concern about the changes in the neighborhood while also being bipartisan.	Culture and Equality Committee	I believe everyone should be more involved in what happens in their neighborhood if they enjoy seeing positive change.	Having grown up my whole life in Highland Park and seeing how we went from very gang friendly to an educated neighborhood, shows how far we have come as a community. I would enjoy for us to continue for us to support one another and continue to rally around our neighborhood not only when bad things happen, but as well as when we want good things to happen. Being part of this council will help with bringing a new perspective to what highland park means to us.
Christina	Munoz	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	I currently work in the public sector; this is where I learned how to communicate with the public. I have excellent written and verbal skills. My university coursework and work with local governments has taught me how to effectively be organized. I learned how to map and plan out tasks before executing them and how to organize my time. My time management abilities allow me to work at my full capacity without wasting time and staying motivated. I think outside the box and can create effective and efficient strategic plan.	Housing committee Sustainability Finance and Budget Local Business and Economy Land Use	My whole life is rooted in this community, my family, friends, and even my education. I absolutely love my neighborhood, and I want to help my community grow. I am a Political Science major at CSULA with an emphasis in public administration, I have learned a lot and believe that I can be an asset to my community. I am passionate about local government and would like to direct that passion into our neighborhood.	I am extremely passionate about my community, Highland Park shaped me into the person I am today. I want to give back to my community and be part of the changes. I'm a highly inclined and dedicated student with strong interpersonal skills, this qualifies me for the position. I have worked for several local governments where I acquired many skills, such as leadership, work ethics, time management, and organizational skills. I enjoy working with others and believe that my motivation and appreciation for my community will ensure that I can meet the expectations of this role.

Lilly	Shoup	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	I am a passionate city lover and neighborhood advocate for a livable LA	Historic walking tours that support small businesses along the route	To give back to my neighborhood	Hello neighbors! I am excited to continue and strengthen Highland Park's legacy as a welcoming, community of artists, makers, and students. I believe we need to double down on our efforts to make York and Figueroa a neighborhood serving destination and gathering place. We need to ensure there are a range of affordable housing options in our community with parks and open space. And we need to be mindful of future generations by reducing our climate impacts.
Yajaira	Castillo	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	Bilingual (Spanish), long time resident of 37 years with very strong connections to the community, co-founder of a local arts organization, experience in organizing past community events, member of two hhpnc committees.	I am already a board member on both the Land Use Committee, and the Housing, Renters and Homelessness Committee. I am interested in pursuing others that have need/have open seats as needed.	I am a life long resident, and long time community organizer with strong ties to the local businesses and the community members. I think equal representation is vital, and that our indigenous population would greatly benefit from inclusion and outreach. I am interested in fairness and building bridges between elected officials and grass roots community efforts.	As a local indigenous woman, I have seen a great need for equal representation at public meetings. I am extremely interested in pursuing inclusivity, language justice, and sparking an interest in government among both our seniors and youth. The community would greatly benefit from seeing familiar faces in elected positions, as well as someone willing to be the bridge between an elected body and the people. As someone who has been present for the changing face of our community, it is becoming ever more vital that everyone feels equally heard, included and important. There are vital resources and events that I know our community is unaware of.
Jose	Guevara	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	Being a community member for the last eight years and having strong ties to our migrant community as well as being bilingual (spanish/english) and being able to represent the working class large latino community in Highland Park. I have also been part of my college debate team and love public speaking, especially when it comes to informing people about policy ideas and helping them understand logistics. I have also worked for a few progressive political campaigns and have a good work ethic.	The Culture & Equality Committee and the Youth, Family & Education Committee. I would also love to workshop ideas in starting a committee specially designated to help the undocumented/ migrant community in Highland Park. The committee would deal with outreach and helping said parties to be informed of their rights and helping feel like they have a voice in the decisions that happen in this neighborhood.	Because my voice would be valuable to the board and because I represent the large latino population in this community that feels like they have got the short end of the stick. I am passionate about this neighborhood and really have some great ideas that I think would benefit us greatly.	Hello, my name is Jose Guevara and I have been a resident of Highland Park for the last eight years. Since I was a kid I have lived all throughout the east LA area and have seen first hand the hard work that our latino population offers to the great city of Los Angeles. From food, to culture and the manual labor that has helped built this city to what it is today. However these days are currently very scary to many of us and this city is changing at a rate that is disproportionate to the money that we have in our wallets. We are being kicked out of a community that we helped built and it hurts me too see our contributions being erased. I understand the fears of my community because I live them on a daily basis. I believe that despite my age, I am a voice that is sorely needed in this neighborhood council. I come from a working poor family that lives paycheck to paycheck. I dont work in development, or in tech, or make over 30k a year. Based on this alone, I represent the vast majority of this neighborhood. We need our voice heard now more then ever and I have the right passion and dedication to be part of this neighborhood council.
Connor	Williams	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	I am an attorney (licensed in NY) and former political communications professional.	I am particularly interested in joining: Housing & Homelessness, Land Use, Budget & Finance. I am also interested in reviving what looks to be a currently dormant Arts Committee.	I love living in Highland Park, and I would love the opportunity to take a more active role in the neighborhood. It's been such a tremendous place to live and I feel a great debt to the community for making it what it is. Serving on the neighborhood council would be a great way for me to contribute my own time and effort to help the neighborhood continue to thrive.	I moved into Highland Park four years ago. I had never lived in Los Angeles before, I was starting a new job, and I had no idea what to expect. People say that the transition to moving into Los Angeles can be very difficult. I've found that to be true, at times, but I feel hugely lucky that I landed in this neighborhood-- it's been charming, welcoming, and endlessly interesting. It's impossible not to notice the strong sense of community that drives Highland Park. That feeling is unique and absolutely worth preserving. Even in the last four years, I've seen notable changes. I'm a relative newcomer, and I already pre-date places like Joy, Block Party, Cafe Birdie, and many others. The Neighborhood Council surely faces difficult decisions about what's best for Highland Park, as many residents have been left out of or negatively impacted by this "growth." How can we maintain the essential character of the neighborhood? Is it possible to do so while continuing to have a vibrant neighborhood that continues to attract thoughtful, caring residents? I believe the answer to the second question is yes, and I'm interested in serving on the Neighborhood Council to help ensure that it is.
Maura	Murphy-Barrosse	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	A wide variety of administrative and clerical skills, human resources knowledge, volunteer management, and event production experience.	Housing & Homelessness; Youth, Family & Education; Sustainability; Outreach; Arts; Rules;	My husband and I have been renting a house in Garvanza since 2009. This neighborhood is my home, it's the longest I've ever lived anywhere in my life. My son was born here, and I've made lifelong friends here. I'm very proud to be a member of this community, and I want to be a more active and helpful participant in neighborhood initiatives.	Hi! My name is Maura Murphy-Barrosse. My husband and I have been renting a house in Garvanza since 2009. This neighborhood is my home, it's the longest I've ever lived anywhere in my life. My son was born here, and I've made lifelong friends here. I'm very proud to be a member of this community, and I want to be a more active and helpful participant in neighborhood initiatives. I have extensive administrative, human resources, and event production experience, and I would love to use these skills in support of our community. There's been a lot of change in this neighborhood in just the nine years since we've moved here. I'm sure much of it is positive, but I worry that my family will be priced out eventually. My husband and I started looking for a slightly larger house in the neighborhood after our son was born, and we quickly discovered that finding housing here, in our price range, is now nearly impossible. And, in my worry that we may not be able to stay, I've found myself feeling more distant from the neighborhood I love. But our kid is four now, and our landlord is great, and we're probably not moving anytime soon, so, although I can't currently buy a house here, I still want to invest in the community - with time, and friendship, and passion for a diverse and vibrant neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration.
Jessica	Ceballos y Campbell	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	I'm a writer, content editor, community organizer, literary arts program curator, and literary publisher.	Housing, Renters & Homelessness Committee Meeting, Land Use, and Arts & Culture if there's interest in starting that up again.	Being an arts administrator, coordinator, and publisher in the community has privileged me with direct access to the voices, perspectives, and consensus of a wide variety of people who call or once called Highland Park home. I have a responsibility to make sure those voices are represented accurately, honestly, and compassionately not only in the public arts environment, but at neighborhood level, the district level, and the city level. I once again have some time to give, there are seats available, and I'm interested in again joining the HHPNC to represent the neighborhood I was raised in and the people I feel should be heard.	My name is Jessica Ceballos y Campbell. I live and work in Highland Park with my spouse, toddler, and two cats. I was raised in Highland Park and Glassell Park, was schooled at Mt. Washington, St Ignatius, Delevan Drive, Highland Park Continuation, and Eagle Rock HS. But I also spent time in the foster system and back and forth between divorced parents. Because of my experiences I know the impact trauma has on a physiological level, I know what displacement does to a person's psyche, and I also understand the power of healing and perseverance. As a writer and artist I use storytelling as a tool to communicate and to connect. And as an arts administrator, curator of programming, activist, and organizer, I use my resources and skills to design programs that build-upon the cultural empowerment of our community as a tool for healing and thriving. I work as a content editor, and I'm also a literary programs coordinator at Avenue 50 Studio, a volunteer with the Los Angeles Tenants Union, founding director of Alternative Field (a poetics resource library and press), and a foster parent and advocate. I'm interested in a seat as At Large Director because it's my belief that the Neighborhood Council system can be an effective way to build upon existing resources and dialogues as a way to encourage equity in decision-making and accountability. The HHPNC can (and was designed to be) a powerful yet accessible tool for helping people know they are heard, that they are seen, and that their voices are an important part of that decision-making process. I would be grateful to return to working with the board of the HHPNC to represent our community.

Viviann	Anguiano	Resident	Director At Large (2 seats available)	<p>I would bring public policy analysis skills, an equity mindset, and nearly a decade of experience in policy and legislative advocacy to the neighborhood council. I am currently the Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Alliance for a Better Community, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the economic prosperity of the Latino community in education, health, and civic engagement. In my role, I analyze education law and develop policy solutions with broad-based coalitions to promote the success of low-income, students of color and English learners in Los Angeles and California. I chair a 100-member statewide coalition to support the success of English learners. Prior to this role, I have worked to improve more equitable laws, policies, and practices at the local and federal level in various capacities at nonprofit organizations, such as UnidosUS, the nation's largest Latino advocacy organization, and Loyola University Chicago.</p> <p>My experience undertaking complex K-16 education reform efforts, at the local and national level, and direct service to communities of color has provided me with the political and technical skills to work towards a more prosperous Highland Park.</p> <p>I have dedicated my professional career to creating a more just society and have done so with an equity-driven mindset. I've served youth, students, and families as a college advisor in Chicago Public Schools and did so with the overarching purpose to serve the most marginalized. I am confident that my experience in secondary and postsecondary education policy, my policy training at Harvard University, and my values of social justice make me uniquely qualified to join the Highland Park Neighborhood Council.</p>	<p>I would be interested in joining the land use, local business and economy committee, or the youth, family, and education committees.</p> <p>The land use committee and local business and economy committees are both of interest to me because of the increasing gentrification of the Highland Park neighborhood. All residents in Los Angeles deserve to live in a thriving, affordable, and safe neighborhood. I would like to serve on the land use and local business and economy committees to ensure that long-time residents of Highland Park are not displaced while simultaneously creating more opportunity for the neighborhood to thrive economically and culturally.</p> <p>The youth, family and education committee is of interest to me because I have dedicated my professional career to serving youth and families by improving educational systems. I believe my expertise in education law and policy could help to serve the youth and families of Highland Park.</p>	<p>I'm interested in serving on the Highland Park Neighborhood Council for two overarching reasons: 1) because all residents of Highland Park deserve to live in a thriving, affordable, and safe neighborhood 2) to promote an equitable and inclusive approach to local policymaking.</p> <p>As a resident of Highland Park, I have seen long-time residents displaced from the neighborhood as a result of increasing rent. As Los Angeles continues to deal with a high cost of living, I believe Highland Park can be a model for the city to promote equitable neighborhood development policies. I would like to contribute to the promotion of such policies through the Neighborhood Council.</p> <p>I also believe that the most effective policy is that which is created in partnership with those most impacted by the issues. In my career as a policy and legislative advocate, I have designed a community-driven approach to policymaking in which residents help create the policy solutions that are of most need in their community. I am interested in bringing this approach to the Neighborhood Council and learning from the current approaches to include residents in the decisions of the Council.</p>	<p>I would like to serve on the Highland Park Neighborhood Council to promote a more just, moral, and inclusive society- which I have done throughout my career. My unwavering commitment to this effort is rooted in my own experience as a daughter of Mexican immigrants and first-generation college graduate who did not see herself represented in the classroom, by her teachers, or in her history books.</p> <p>I currently serve as the Associate Director of Policy and Legislative Advocacy at the Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) where I lead the development, implementation, and execution of ABC's education public policy and advocacy agenda. I began my career as a college advisor in Chicago Public Schools for students of underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation college backgrounds. In my service to youth, I felt motivated to dedicate my career to public service and social justice. I went on to lead multicultural undergraduate admission initiatives at Loyola University Chicago where I helped establish Arrupe College, a two-year college focused on providing a high-quality liberal arts education to low-income students. I then went on to pursue my master's in education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where I learned how to use research, policy, and legislative advocacy to accelerate educational equity and create a more just society.</p> <p>During my time at Harvard, I became a fellow with the Harvard Kennedy School Women and Public Policy Program with UnidosUS, where I focused on improving the academic and economic outcomes of English Learners and Latino students from cradle to college through policy analysis, legislative advocacy, and technical assistance to nonprofits nationwide. That brought me to Los Angeles where I have promoted equitable policies in education for the last three years. I am the proud daughter of immigrants and am a first-generation college graduate. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago and a master's in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.</p> <p>I am confident that my personal and professional experiences would be of value to the neighborhood and residents of Highland Park. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Viviann Anguiano</p>
James	Rocchio	Business Owner	Director At Large (2 seats available)	<p>I have organizational and communication skills that I believe would be helpful both to the board and in the execution of the duties of the office.</p>	Business Development	<p>I'm the owner and operator of Belle's Bagels on York Boulevard and live a short walk from there on Avenue 51. After a little more than 3 years of spending 40-50 hours a week serving the community and building relationships with other business owners - some new, some old, all of them with their own histories and sets of concerns - I think I can be a useful representative and point of contact for business-owning stakeholders in the community. This neighborhood has received me kindly and well, and I try in my own business to be inviting, accessible, and valuable to everyone that lives here. It is because of the people I've met here, the time I've spent here, and the chance to do more of both that I feel able (and excited) to apply for a seat on the council. In particular, I know that the existing business community has a unified interest in serving the community. I think I can be someone that communicates needs, organizes responses, and helps put people in the same room. A lot of us would like to actively help with issues like providing resources for unhoused students and neighbors as well as community members in crisis and need. Many business owners are already leading by example. In addition to helping focus and further those efforts, I look forward to listening to and serving the community members that the office would bring me into contact with.</p>	<p>My earliest experience getting to know Highland Park was when my business partner and I rented space in La Perla on Figueroa around 5 years ago. We'd use their kitchen from 12-4 AM to bake bagels and sold them out of the front corner of their store. We bonded quickly with Manny and his family and employees, and we learned a lot about the neighborhood while becoming, in our own way, a part of it. It may be because I live and work here and as a result don't venture much outside of the neighborhood, but having grown up all over Los Angeles I have always gotten a great sense of closeness and community in Highland Park that feels rare.</p>
First Name	Last Name	Stakeholder Type	Position	What skills would you bring to HHPNC?	What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?	Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?	Personal statement
Stephanie	Maynetto-Jackson	Resident	President	<p>I am resourceful, self-motivated, a leader, hard-worker, passionate, flexible, and I am an effective written and oral communicator.</p>	Executive Committee, Rules Committee, Outreach Committee, Family, Youth, Education Committee	<p>I was raised in Highland Park and am now raising my children in this beautiful neighborhood. This community has been my home for so long. There have been many changes happening rather quickly in our community and I want to be a part of the process. I think that we should all have a say in what happens in our community and I want to help to be that voice for our community. I want to find a way to make our community come together and have conversations without the tensions that continue to rise. I am currently serving on the board as the Second Vice President and during my time I have realized how much work goes into being President. It is a role that should not be taken lightly because it comes with a lot of responsibility. I am ready and willing to continue to take on that responsibility.</p>	<p>Some of you may already know my backstory; that the loss of my husband during my pregnancy was devastating but the fact that we already had a son with another on the way is what kept me going. My children are my motivation, my immigrant parents are what made me believe in myself from a tender age, and I believe that we are the most direct and accessible level of government that can affect local changes within our government. I have been a part of the larger network of people that have served our country and now I want to serve our country in a different way. I want to ensure that every community member in our neighborhood is afforded the opportunity to be a part of our democracy. I will continue to be fair and impartial while on the board because we serve the community and not our own self interests.</p>
Saul	Narro	Resident	President	<p>The passion to make my neighborhood a better place.</p>	Any that need attention.	<p>Because HLP needs deeply rooted residents on the council.</p>	<p>If elected, I am hoping to make a difference for those native and long time residents as well as those just beginning to call HLP their home.</p>