

HHPNC Vacancy Applicants August 2020

Dan Omelio - **At-Large Director**

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

I would bring a level headed, mindful, open hearted approach in helping to make Highland Park a better place for EVERY member. Not just a select few. Because when we are united, and putting policies forward that help people who are in need, we are a better and stronger community. I am a Music Producer/Songwriter who has made chart topping pop songs for the last 10 years and would be able to call upon anything creative/arts related to help any initiative that might need it. Working with high profile artists and industry executives, I have been apart of industry forums, Music Unites (a touring music group playing for hospitals) as well as university lectures for prospective students of music. I work with people on a daily basis creating songs from scratch and would bring that knowledge of how to get from idea to creation into any part of my responsibilities as a member of the HHPNC.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

I would be interested in joining any committee where my services could be of use.

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

I have been a Highland Park resident for almost 4 years and I have loved every single minute of living here. As a 3rd generation Italian American coming a large and united family, I love the culture of Highland Park, the history, and the people who make it an LA treasure. After the recent episodes of injustice in our country, I am done sitting on the sidelines. I want to get involved to make my community better. In whatever way I can.

Personal statement

Thank you for taking me into consideration. As I mentioned above, I am ready to help my community in whatever way is needed. I have a passion for politics, for helping people, and for working together for the common good. As a musician (who's father was a jazz drummer from New Jersey) I grew up in a tight knit Italian household where I learned to always treat people with respect, to listen to all sides of a debate and to do whatever good I can with my time here. Starting off as a jazz musician, I learned to not only have an open heart, but an open mind when playing music, but also taking that into everyday life. I hope that if given the chance, I can be of service in anyway that's needed. Thank you!

Mary Allison - **At-Large Director**

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

I have a long history of collaborating on diverse teams to benefit our most vulnerable populations, whether as a volunteer or in my career in healthcare as a occupational therapist. For over 5 years I worked in the mental health field, and am well acquainted with the challenges facing those dealing with mental illness, homelessness, and substance abuse. Having worked with children with special needs for 5 years, I understand the difficulties families have accessing resources for their child. I am part of the 'sandwich generation,' raising my 3 year old son with my husband while also

assisting in managing my parents' household and medical care. To honor my parents, I began volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association and traveled to Sacramento with their advocacy team. I believe my unique background with a variety of under-served populations and passion to help others enables me to serve our community well as a member of the neighborhood council.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

I would be interested in serving on the Outreach or Public Safety committees. I would also be interested in starting a committee for Education.

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

My husband and I moved to Highland Park 10 years ago and bought our first home here 8 years ago. We love Highland Park and are excited to be raising our son in this community. I have seen a lot of changes in our community over the last decade, both positive and negative. I hope to continue to support changes that serve all stakeholders while preserving the history and long-time establishments and residents that have made Highland Park the amazing community it is.

Personal statement

Throughout my life I have been drawn to serving my community in different capacities. While earning my BA in English Language and Literature, I worked as a resident adviser; designing programs and building community within the resident halls. I received my MA and clinical doctorate in Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. Being an occupational therapist is one of the great joys in my life! I love having the opportunity to work closely with my clients to identify their greatest challenges to accessing the life they want and providing them with strategies and techniques to work towards that vision, whether they are psychiatric patients or families of children with special needs. The greatest joy in my life is being a mother to my 3 year old son, and I am incredibly fortunate to be raising him in such a vibrant and lively community. Prior to COVID-19, we frequented the Arroyo Seco Library for Maker Mondays, the Bob Baker Marionette Theater for a show or to volunteer, and the many shops along York and Figueroa. We love living in Highland Park, and I hope to serve this community on the neighborhood council.

Renee Garcia – At-Large Director

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

I've been trained in graphic design, grantwriting, copywriting, fundraising, and business management. I am also interested in bringing my social justice training and background into our decision making.

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

Sustainability, land use, outreach

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

I feel called to do more for my community and collaborate with the board and our stakeholders to ensure that we preserve the magic of Highland Park while also work

to improve areas that we collectively feel need improvement. At heart I want to ensure that our community grows sustainably both for the environment and the folks that live here. I want to bring equity to every decision made and keep both the families that have lived here for generations in mind as well as the youth that we are raising.

Personal statement

I would be honored to be a part of the Highland Park Neighborhood Council as an At-Large Director. I am also open to the Treasurer position if no one else applies. I am a mother of two and have lived in the Garvanza since 2016. I moved to Los Angeles in 2012. When I was looking to purchase my first home, I saw Highland Park as the perfect mix of history, culture, Latinx community, and creative enclave. My parents grew up not far away in El Sereno and City Terrace and North East Los Angeles always felt like home even though they raised me in Orange County. As an adult I wanted to come back to have kids in an area that felt more diverse than the environment I grew up in and one that embraced our Latinx heritage. I have watched our community change rapidly over the last four years and on the one hand I love seeing new restaurants and cafes open, while on the other I am fearful of the negative affects gentrification has on our families that have been here for generations. My work as a communications and development manager for a local nonprofit organization that provides free deportation defense to immigrants which is good training to understand the needs of our undocumented community members who may be too fearful to advocate in this space. My previous work in fashion as a business owner has also trained me to understand the value in sustainable growth as well as the many creative transplants that have moved into the neighborhood. I am active within the young parent community of Highland Park, many of whom are business owners in the area. I am also on the Board of Loud Community, a member-based league of women and non-binary folx who are committed to creating a world we want to see through community driven transformation. We organize events with a goal of individual and collective transformation including politically driven events, self-healing, and skills-based learning. It is this work through Loud that made me inspired to do more locally in Highland Park. I want the best for our stakeholders and am ready to show up, listen, and collaborate. I cannot stand idly by as our nation heads further into dark territory emboldened by racism. Knowing that change starts with me and starts locally, I am proud to apply for this position and look forward to working alongside the governing board as we make decisions in the best interest of our community. Thank you for this opportunity and for considering my application!

Yu Chang – **Treasurer**

What skills would you bring to HHPNC?

COMMUNITY HELP CENTERS, AND EASIER ACCESS TO PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASSISTANCE FROM LOCALS

What committee(s) would you be interested in joining or starting?

YOUTH ART AND MUSIC COLLECTIVE, FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND
INTERNSHIPS, CROWDFUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Why are you interested in serving on the HHPNC?

I have had ten years to focus my goals and prepare for being a community leader to lead by example and prove that anything can be done if you believe and have just the right support.

Personal statement

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE HOME AT A TIME