

Board and Commission Application 2025

Submitted by:

Submitted On: 2025 05 28 14:24:44

Submission IP:

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: City Clerk City Clerk

Due Date: Open

This form may be used to apply for one or more Board/Commission positions.

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

* **First Name**

Joy

* **Last Name**

Oche

* **Street Address**

Street Number and Name

Unit Number

* **City**

* **State**

* **Postal Zip Code**

* **Preferred Phone Number**

Alternate Phone Number

Ex. (123) 456 7890

* **Email**

* **What is your occupation?**

Sustainability Technical Program Manager

* **Who is your employer?**

Amazon

* **Board/Commission of interest**

☒ **Economic Development & Advisory Commission (EDAC)**

☒ **Museum of San Carlos History Board (Museum)**

☒ **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission (PR&C)**

☐ **Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC)**

* **If you selected more than one Board/Commission of interest above, please rank your preferences here, starting with your first choice.**

Economic Development & Advisory Commission (EDAC) Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission (PR&C) Museum of San Carlos History Board (Museum)

If only interested in one Board/Commission, enter N/A

*** What community activities are you presently involved in, or have been in the past?**

I’m actively involved in several community initiatives. Currently, I serve on the board of the Palo Alto Rotary Club, supporting volunteer services and local engagement. I’m also the Co Chair of the Parent Enrichment Committee for the Greene Scholars Program, a STEM education nonprofit that empowers students of African descent. Previously, I served as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Palo Alto, where I advocated for inclusive community programs and accessible park facilities. These roles reflect my commitment to intergenerational collaboration, education equity, and civic leadership.

*** How much time do you envision giving to the Board/Commission? How often are you out of town? What other commitments might affect your attendance to Board/Commission meetings?**

I’m fully prepared to commit the time required to actively serve on the Board or Commission, including attending regular meetings, reviewing materials, and participating in related events or subcommittees. I estimate dedicating 8–10 hours per month, with flexibility to give more during key initiatives or peak periods. I only have infrequent travel for work or family (during school holidays) and typically planned well in advance. I also make it a priority to schedule around important commitments like board meetings. Currently, my other community involvement—such as serving on the Palo Alto Rotary Club board (5-6 hours a month), and the Greene Scholars Program (1-2hours a quarter)—complements rather than conflicts with this role. I’m confident in my ability to balance these responsibilities and show up consistently for the City of San Carlos. Let me know if you'd like to personalize this further based on your current availability.

*** Why do you want to be a member of a Board or Commission? What do you feel you could contribute to the Board or Commission?**

I’m deeply passionate about community development and civic engagement. I previously served as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Palo Alto, but relocated after my children transitioned to a school closer to San Carlos. Now that we’re rooted in this community, I’m eager to contribute my time and experience toward its continued growth. My passion for public service is shaped by my upbringing in Africa, where communities thrived through collaboration and shared responsibility. I watched my mother serve as the equivalent of a mayor for our town—three times—and I learned from her the power of listening, inclusion, and grassroots leadership. With over 15 years of professional experience in program management, sustainability, and stakeholder engagement, I bring a global perspective and a strong sense of purpose to every role I take on. I’m excited about the opportunity to contribute thoughtful, community centered solutions, and to help make San Carlos a more inclusive, vibrant, and future-ready city.

*** Do you have any particular perspective on how the City should grow in the next five to ten years? Required if interested in Planning and Transportation Commission, otherwise enter N/A.**

N/A

*** What do you think the City of San Carlos should do to attract and retain high quality businesses? Required if interested in Economic Development & Advisory Commission, otherwise enter N/A.**

To attract and retain high quality businesses, the City of San Carlos should focus on creating a vibrant, inclusive, and innovation friendly ecosystem. Key strategies include: Activate Downtown with Community Events: Launch initiatives like “Fourth Thursday” in Palo Alto, which brings together residents, visitors, and businesses through food, art, and music. These recurring events boost foot traffic, build brand visibility for local vendors, and enhance community engagement. Streamline Permitting & Offer Incentives: Simplify the permitting process and provide targeted incentives for sustainable, minority-owned, and innovation-driven businesses. San Diego’s Business Incentive Program, for example, has attracted green tech companies while creating high quality jobs. Encourage Public Private Partnerships: Partner with local universities, startups, and major employers to create innovation hubs, workforce development pipelines, and shared business resources. Redwood City’s collaboration with Stanford and tech firms has strengthened its life sciences and R&D sectors. Promote Transit Oriented Development: Expand mixed-use development and improve transit access around Caltrain and downtown areas. Mountain View’s transit village strategy has successfully drawn employers and improved urban vibrancy. Support Placemaking and Culture: Host regular events like Oakland’s First Fridays or creative pop ups and seasonal markets that support arts, food, and entrepreneurship, making San Carlos a cultural and commercial destination. Create Rent Stabilization & Shared Space Programs: To ease the burden of high commercial rents—especially for small businesses—the city could explore policies such as rent caps for legacy businesses, subsidized incubator spaces, or shared storefront models. San Francisco’s “Vacant to Vibrant” initiative offers micro-retail spaces with reduced rents to support emerging entrepreneurs and activate underused properties. These recommendations can help San Carlos become a hub for innovation and inclusive growth while preserving the character and affordability that make it special.

*** What park improvements or recreational activities would be beneficial to the community? Required if interested in Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission, otherwise enter N/A.**

To better serve the diverse needs of our community, I believe the following park improvements and recreational activities would be highly beneficial:
Inclusive Playgrounds: Install accessible and sensory friendly play structures, similar to the Magical Bridge Playground in Palo Alto, which has become a model for universal design and social inclusion.
Intergenerational Programs: Expand offerings like San Francisco’s “Shared Spaces” initiative and introduce community gardening or tech mentorship programs that bring seniors and youth together—an approach I’ve also seen work successfully in London’s “Generations Together” project, which reduced social isolation among elders.
Pop Up Programming: Adopt flexible, seasonal events such as Oakland’s BART Plaza activations (yoga, live music, outdoor movies), or international examples like Cape Town’s Open Streets, which transform urban areas into vibrant hubs of play and creativity.
Green Infrastructure Upgrades: Prioritize sustainability with upgrades inspired by San Jose’s Guadalupe River Park, which includes drought-tolerant landscaping and habitat restoration, and Singapore’s Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, which turned a concrete canal into a thriving, flood-resilient green corridor.
Mental Wellness Spaces: Create quiet zones or healing gardens, modeled after San Mateo’s Central Park Japanese Tea Garden or Tokyo’s Shinjuku Gyoen, to support mental health and offer a peaceful retreat in the heart of urban life. These improvements reflect a deep commitment to equity, wellness, environmental resilience, and inclusive design—values I would advocate for on the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission.

*** Please list any other background information (business, education, personal) that might be useful in determining your eligibility.**

I bring over 15 years of global experience in program management, sustainability, and regulatory compliance across the public and private sectors—including leadership roles at Amazon, Apple, and large infrastructure projects like the BART Silicon Valley Extension. I hold a Master’s in Environmental Engineering from Newcastle University (UK) and have completed executive programs from Stanford (Chief Sustainability Officer) and Santa Clara University (Corporate Board Readiness). I'm also certified in PMP, Agile, LEED GA, and NEBOSH. Personally, I’m a lifelong learner, a dedicated community volunteer, and a single parent passionate about mentorship, equity, and environmental justice.

*** How long have you been a San Carlos resident and/or worked in San Carlos?**

1year

*** Are you related to a current City of San Carlos employee? If yes, please provide the employee's name.**

No

*** How did you hear about this recruitment?**

- ☒ City website
- ☐ Social media
- ☒ City Newsletter
- ☐ Council, Commission or City Staff referral
- ☐ Other

Acknowledgement of Responsibilities

Commissioners serving on the San Carlos Planning and Transportation Commission and the Economic Development Advisory Commission are designated filing officials required to submit a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) upon assuming office, as well as annually thereafter. Form 700 is a public document and will be made available upon request in accordance with disclosure laws.

Furthermore, these designated officials must complete mandatory Ethics Training pursuant to AB 1234.

*** By typing your name below, you confirm that the information provided in this form is true and accurate and acknowledge the above responsibilities and understand that your application is a public document which may be disclosed upon request.**

Joy Oche