



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Application for Cultural Commission, Historical & Landmark Commission and Senior Advisory

Commission

Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Kuku Das

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95054

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

KDDoc1.pdf

233.64KB

Attachment 2*

KDdoc2nd.pdf

302.14KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Self employed

Job Title*

CEO

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
The Odisha Society of the Americas	President	7/4/2019	7/4/2021
IGURUKUL FOUNDATION	President	8/12/2011	7/3/2019
Toastmasters Internationals Santa Clara Sweet Talkers	President	6/28/2023	4/25/2025

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
Utkal University, Odisha, India	English literature, Political Science	6/20/1990

Special awards or recognition received

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kuku-das-14a06223?trk=contact-info>

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I've been living in the bay area for over 34 years including living in the beautiful city of Santa Clara for over 25 years. I'm involved in many organizations that work towards supporting community, arts and culture. My goal will be to promote cultural diversity, foster community engagement by bringing community together through cultural events, festivals and initiatives. I'd like to use my experience to make a positive impact on the community by promoting arts, culture and inclusivity.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

KUKU DAS

Santa Clara, CA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Ms. Kuku Das has been a successful entrepreneur, community leader and cultural ambassador of Odisha, India not only in the Bay Area, California, but for much of the U.S. for more than three decades. Additionally, she is the creative brain behind establishing the organization "International Gurukul (iGurukul) which is known as the center for excellence in learning and human development. She has been instrumental in propagating Odia language (Co-founded Chala Ame Odia Sikhiba/ Let's Learn Odia), drama, and culture in Bay Area California. She has developed a curriculum for the Odia Language class at iGurukul which helps teach Odia in an interesting way for both adults and children. She has written, directed and acted in numerous plays for kids and adults. She also excels as a costume and set designer with her creative ideas and immense knowledge about Odia culture and history. She is not only an active member of the Bay Area Odia community but also a commendable contributor to the Odisha Society of Americas. She has served twice as the cultural chair at OSA Annual Conventions, Convener of 2010 OSA Convention (San Francisco), Vice President of OSA, and President of OSA(2019-2021). She was instrumental in leading "Let's Learn Odia movement at the OSA national level and with her advocacy OSA has introduced the Odia Vocabulary and Speech contest during both the annual convention and chapter level events. She's the producer of the Odia radio program for the first time in California known as 'Aame Odia' which has been airing since 2018.

She has more than 25 years of combined experience in public, private, and non-profit organizations in the areas of teaching, leadership, community building, event management, and fundraising. She has received several awards including the OSA Service Leadership Award (2010 & 2014), Odisha Living Legend Award, Amari Bhasa Pathe Samman, Lions Club International Entrepreneur Award, Kalashree Award, OSA, USA 2018 (for promoting Odia language and culture in a foreign diaspora) Shrestha Odiani 2019, Mahaka Mo Matira Samman, Aarya Award 2022, OSA Community Leadership Award in the year 2022, and OSA's highest honor Distinguished Odia Award, OSA, USA in 2023.

She has served as the president of OSA, The Odisha Society Of The Americas from 2019-21. She was the convener and successfully hosted The Global Odia Mahotsav, a two days online event in December 2020, where Odias from around forty countries united to celebrate Odisha. Global Odia Mahotsav 2020 was a commemoration of Odias around the world to celebrate the rich culture, heritage and develop synergy to build Brand Odisha. This two-days event had various seminars, cultural functions with participation of eminent Odia personalities.

Currently, she is serving as the CEO of iGurukul Inc. USA.

*The unhindered mission iGurukul has always been to enhance inner potential, synergy, empowerment, creativity, and above all else, foster personal excellence among children, youth and families. iGurukul works as a finishing school with a special focus on developing emotional, social and spiritual quotients. Synergy and Empowerment is her mantra.

She's also a member of Association of Indo Americans and a part of the cultural team.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Kuku Das

Date

4/25/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Anurag Dixit

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

AnuragD_DL_2025.pdf

191.12KB

Attachment 2*

20250108-statements-4733_ChaseMorth_2203Rosita.pdf

209.31KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Triple Crown (Apple)

Job Title*

Engineer

RECEIVED
APR 25 2025
City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government

Position/ Office Held:

Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization

Position Held

From Date

To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School

Major Subject

Degree Dates /
Anticipated Graduation

Special awards or recognition received

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Travel interests and experience gave me a better perspective of life.
Willing to contribute and enhance CoSC Cultural charter - both from national and global perspective.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

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Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

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Date

4/25/2025



CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2025 MAR 24 PM 3:09

Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Vamsi Gunda

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

[REDACTED]

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

DriversLicense2024.pdf

80.3KB

Attachment 2*

Vamsi_Gunda_santa_clara_utility_bill.pdf

80.13KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Apple

Job Title*

Software Engineer

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation

Special awards or recognition received

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Vanshi Gunda

Date

3/24/2025



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

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Commission

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MAR 20 2023

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Aisha Othman

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

Apt 220

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

aisha drivers license.pdf

108.01KB

Attachment 2*

powerbill.pdf

94.86KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Self-Employed

Job Title*

Attorney

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
Lincoln Law School, San Jose, CA	Juris Doctor	5/31/1997
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	B.A Computer Science	5/31/1981

Special awards or recognition received

Certification/License in the 10 canonical ways of Quran recitation, and Arabic Calligraphy Recognition for participating in bi-annual International Arts Exhibitions in Cairo, Egypt between 2018-2021

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am deeply passionate about cultural preservation, diversity, and cross-cultural exchange, and I believe that serving as a Commissioner on the Cultural Commission will allow me to contribute meaningfully to fostering a more inclusive and vibrant cultural landscape. As someone of Chinese and Malaysian heritage who has traveled extensively around the world, I have gained a global perspective on how cultures shape communities, inspire creativity, and promote mutual understanding.

My objective as a member of this advisory board would be to:

1. Promote Cultural Diversity and Representation – Advocate for programming and initiatives that highlight the rich cultural traditions of diverse communities, ensuring that all voices and heritage are represented.
2. Strengthen Cross-Cultural Engagement – Encourage cultural exchanges, collaborations, and events that bring different communities together, fostering deeper appreciation and understanding.
3. Support Arts and Cultural Programs – Work toward expanding opportunities for artists, performers, and cultural practitioners to showcase their work, ensuring accessibility to cultural resources for all.
4. Preserve and Celebrate Heritage – Support efforts to document, preserve, and educate the public about cultural traditions, ensuring that future generations can connect with their roots.
5. Enhance Global Connections – Leverage my international experiences to bring global cultural perspectives into local initiatives, making the community a hub for diverse cultural interactions.

Through my background and experiences, I hope to bring a fresh, globally informed perspective to the commission while honoring the traditions and stories that make our community unique. I am eager to contribute my knowledge, experience, and passion for cultural advocacy to help shape policies and initiatives that celebrate diversity, foster unity, and enrich the cultural fabric of our society.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Aisha Othman

Date

3/20/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Charles Pontious

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050-5200

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

utility bill.pdf

491.75KB

Attachment 2*

Charles CA Drivers License.pdf

118.15KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Guitar Center

Job Title*

Guitar Instructor (part time)

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
15 APR 22 AM 6:56

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date
Santa Clara County - June 2009 to December 2020	Behavioral Health Board, Vice Chair	12/1/2020

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
South Bay Guitar Society (a nonprofit allied with the Arts Council) Old Quad Residents Association	SBGS - Member of Community Engagement Team	1/1/2020	4/21/2025

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
California State University, Sacramento	Applied Music, Classical Guitar	6/15/1981

Special awards or recognition received

Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Community Hero, 2021
District 5 Holiday Decoration 1st place winner, 2024

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am now retired and I would like to contribute to my community. I have a strong interest in the arts, especially music, painting and sculpture. I have a hobby of studying languages and am interested in the peoples and cultures of various countries. I have traveled to many countries and have dual citizenship in Italy.
I would like to explore with the City Council removing restrictions which make live music impractical for bars and restaurants in the City.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I regularly perform and my clients include 4 Senior Living Facilities. I would like to see more concerts and programs at our Senior Center for the benefit of our community possibly connecting with other cultural organizations such as the SBGS to help organize.
I have attended Dancing in the Streets most years since it's inception.
I currently study Italian, Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, French, and German. I have studied Japanese in the past.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Charles Pontious

Date

4/21/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Esther Rubin

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95054

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

Esther R_Proof of Residence 1.pdf

292.06KB

Attachment 2*

Esther R_Proof of Residence 2.pdf

168.24KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Worldshakers International LLC

Job Title*

CEO and Founder

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government

Position/ Office Held:

Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization

Position Held

From Date

To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School

Major Subject

Degree Dates /
Anticipated Graduation

PhD

Intercultural Communication

4/13/2016

Special awards or recognition received

I have received many scholarships while pursuing higher education. I was one of the very few PhD students who received the Vice-Chancellor's commendation at Macquarie University, Australia.

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I have spent many years studying languages and cultures and hold a Ph.D. in International Studies. My research project is primarily in linguistics, & intercultural communication. I'm an immigrant and have lived in different places and traveled extensively. I also hold 3 master's degrees (cross-cultural communication, linguistics, & MBA). I thought I should give this opportunity a shot as I'm interested in both learning from the community and contributing my insights, ideas and advice to foster multiculturalism and multilingualism which is in line with the diversity in ethnicities, languages and cultures we see in Santa Clara.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I have spent many years studying languages and cultures and hold a Ph.D. in International Studies. My research project is primarily in linguistics, & intercultural communication. I'm an immigrant and have lived in different places and traveled extensively. I also hold 3 master's degrees (cross-cultural communication, linguistics, & MBA) and a Bachelor of Arts in English. I thought I should give this opportunity a shot as I'm interested in both learning from the community and contributing my insights, ideas and advice to foster multiculturalism and multilingualism which is in line with the diversity in ethnicities, languages and cultures we see in Santa Clara.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Esther Rubin

Date

4/25/2025