



# City of Santa Clara

The Center of What's Possible

## APPLICATION BOARD, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEE CITY OF SANTA CLARA

City Clerk's Office 1500 Warburton Avenue,  
Santa Clara, California 95050

Phone: 408-615-2220 E-mail: [Clerk@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:Clerk@santaclaraca.gov)

\*If you are having trouble viewing or submitting this form please download the free version of Adobe Reader:  
<http://get.adobe.com/reader>

Board/ Commission/ Committee Applying For:	Historical & Landmark Commission		
Name:	Michael Celso		
Address:	820 Agnew Rd., Apt. 215		
City:	Santa Clara		
State:	CA	Zip Code:	95054
E-mail Address:	michael_celso@hotmail.com		
Primary Phone Number	(669) 263-7070		
Secondary Phone Number			
Are you eligible to register to vote in Santa Clara?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Are you a registered voter of Santa Clara?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/Committee?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Present Employer:	Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services		
Job Title:	Social Worker II		

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices  
Applicant has served:

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served:	Position/ Office Held:	Dates:
Santa Cruz County Homeless Census Subcommittee International Club of Penn Yan Academy High School	Member President	11/2008 09/01/1994 to 06/01/1995
Penn Yan Rotary Club	Member	09/01/1994 to 06/01/1995
Penn Yan Academy Model United Nations	Member	09/01/1994 to 06/01/1995

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Civic or Charitable Organizations to which  
Applicant has belonged:

Position(s) Held:

Dates:

American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter  
NASW (Natr'l Association of Social Workers)

Community Disaster Education  
Presenter, Volunteer  
Member

5/2011-9/2011  
  
2013 to present

UC Santa Cruz CalPIRG (California Public Interest  
Research Group) Students organization

Member

3/2008-6/2008

ACLU  
CA Health Care for All  
SWGSA (Social Work Graduate Students  
Association) at SJSU

Member  
Member  
Student member

2011 to 2012 (\*estimate)  
3/2008-6/2008  
2015 to 2017

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Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

I am interested in history, nature, and the arts. I have a recent interest in the Native American populations indigenous to the Santa Clara County area. I sing, play guitar, and am currently studying Spanish at Mission College in order to become a bilingual English/Spanish social worker with the County of Santa Clara. I'm also an active member of the SIEU Local 521 service workers union.

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College, Professional, Vocational Schools  
attended:

Major Subject:

Degree/Dates:

San Jose State University

Social work with a  
concentration in health and  
mental health

MSW - 08/18/2017

UC Santa Cruz

Community Studies with a  
focus in Economic Justice

B.A. - 03/20/2009

De Anza College

University Transfer Studies

A.A. - 12/14/2007

San Jose City College

Prehospital Emergency Care  
(EMT 1 Basic)  
Computer LAN (Local Area  
Networking) Tech Specialist

Certificate - 06/01/2005  
  
9 mos. diploma -  
06/01/2001

Computer Training Academy

Special awards or recognition received:

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

\*\*\*\*\*SEE ATTACHMENT\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*SEE ATTACHMENT\*\*\*\*\*

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Unsure

If yes, please name the Organization or Employment.

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

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? Do not list any misdemeanor settled in juvenile court. (If yes, explain convictions)

Historical & Landmark Commission

Signature of Applicant:

Michael Celso

Date Signed:

08/03/2018

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. You can also submit the completed application in person at: City Clerk's Office, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, California 95050. All information provided will be public information.

**Michael Celso**

Historical and Landmarks

Attachment to Application

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

I would like to become an active member in local politics and to better understand how commissions operate within the municipal government. Social work and the community has been the focus of my professional and educational endeavors for approximately the past ten years. I began interning and working with marginalized populations in 2008 while attending UC Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz, CA. I gained an understanding of social movements and the intersections of culture, history, and community.

After graduating I spent approximately four years working as a Housing Specialist at the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) in San Jose, CA, where I served clients with disabilities. During this time, I spoke before the City Council along with other members of SVILC to request continued funding which supported a disability-accessible home in Santa Clara. I enjoyed speaking before the City Council and was impressed by the professionalism and welcoming environment created by the council members.

Now that I have completed my Masters in Social Work at San Jose State University and started a new career as a child welfare social worker with the County of Santa Clara Department of Family and Children's Services, I have the free time needed to join a city commission and am excited for this opportunity. I have become more interested in history as I recognize the importance and relevance of how it has shaped our current values and culture. Preserving and supporting historical landmarks and museums maintains a connection to the remaining vestiges of our physical past.

As a member of this advisory board, I would work diligently to learn the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to ensure that these standards are upheld during rehabilitation of historic properties. I would listen to the members of the community as they voice their opinions about matters which the commission oversees. I would also encourage the development of new learning opportunities in the community in the form of museums, historical landmarks, and street names which honor the leaders of our local and global communities.

Additionally, I have been interested in architecture as it pertains to home design since I was a child. When I was in middle school, I used to enjoy reading magazines with blueprints of home designs. In fact, I tore out one of the pages which contained my favorite home design and have planned to build it since I was eleven or twelve years old. I liked that it was different than all of the other designs because it had round walls and a three-story bay window which extended from the basement to the second floor. The home design means a great deal to me because it is a part of my own history.

I have been a happy resident and registered voter in the City of Santa Clara since May of 2017, and before that for one year in 2014. It would be my honor serve on this commission and would do so with great pride and humility. I humbly request the board's consideration and appointment of me as a member of the Historical and Landmarks Commission. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much.

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

I have served the populations listed below either through work or internship experiences. Serving these diverse communities has broadened my understanding of the human condition and the different ways in which people live. History and culture permeate families and families, in turn, define a community. During this evolution, it is important that historical landmarks, museums, and street names honor and maintain our connections to the past because it is these connections which shape our future. I have had the privilege to serve the following populations:

- homeless adults and families
- low-income senior citizens
- people with disabilities include mental illnesses, physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, and substance use
- youths and adults in the criminal justice system
- families receiving public assistance
- undocumented immigrants including farmworkers

Below are additional achievements and activities:

Team Leader, 2017 NASW-CA Legislative Lobby Days 03/11/2017-03/13/2017

National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Sacramento, CA

Prepared and led a team of six social work students to lobby a California legislator.

Student Leadership Discovery Group, SJSU School of Social Work, San Jose, CA

Student Co-Planner and Presenter, 12/2015-5/2016

Helped plan the curriculum, materials, and meeting dates of the leadership group; conducted interactive presentation about leadership in the context of social work.

Leadership Presentation, Student Leadership Discovery Group

San Jose State University, Master of Social Work program, San Jose, CA, April 4, 2016

Conducted interactive presentation about the differences between management and leadership, components of effective leadership, and leadership as self empowerment.

SW 285: Contemporary Spain, San Jose State University, School of Social Work

Madrid, Spain, 6/14/2014-7/5/2014

Experienced the history, culture, art, dance, food, and social services systems and practices in Spain through immersion and the lens of the transcultural perspective.

Disability Capital Action Day (DCAD)

Advocate, Sacramento, CA, 2012-2014

Advocated with co-workers, clients, and volunteers in May during statewide gathering of independent living centers in Sacramento, CA to lobby for disability rights and services.

Housing Workshops

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, San Jose, CA, 2012-2015

Developed and led collaborative and informative Housing Workshops each week; informed disabled and elderly people about available housing, laws, and resources.

Huron Healthcare Center, Huron, OH

Volunteer Socializer, Part-time, Temporary, 6/1992-7/1992

Socialized with elderly clients to invigorate and uplift the nursing home residents.

#### Publications:

An Examination of the Effectiveness of the Referral Process for Juvenile Drug Court

Qualitative Research, in fulfillment of MSW degree requirements at SJSU, 2017.

Team of three MSW researchers conducted qualitative interviews of professionals in the Juvenile Drug Court. Utilized thematic analysis of transcriptions and subcommittee meetings to identify and discuss strengths and challenges of the referral process.

SPHH (Special Programs Housing Handbook)

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, San Jose, CA, 2015.

Created an electronic, printable handbook with information about special housing programs including emergency shelters and transitional housing in Santa Clara County.

Rental Housing Search Packet

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, San Jose, CA, 2012 to 2015.

Developed a thorough packet of information and resources related to affordable, accessible housing; packet was provided at Housing Workshops and to clients as needed.

Fact Sheet on Homelessness

The Shelter Project, Santa Cruz, CA, 2009.

Researched national and local facts about homelessness. Program Director of The Shelter Project incorporated my research into his online "Fact Sheet on Homelessness."

Removing the Stigma of Homelessness

Senior Capstone Project, Community Studies major, UC Santa Cruz, CA, March 2009.

Independently researched homelessness; wrote a capstone paper about the stigma and causes of homelessness; proposed free





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<http://get.adobe.com/reader>

Board/ Commission/ Committee Applying For:

Historical & Landmark Commission

Name:

Ana Vargas-Smith

Address:

958 Lewis St

City:

Santa Clara

State:

CA

Zip Code:

95050

E-mail Address:

Amvargas@yahoo.com

Primary Phone Number

408-394-2473

Secondary Phone Number

Are you eligible to register to vote in Santa Clara?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Are you a registered voter of Santa Clara?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Present Employer:

Self employed/www.Eggsbythebay.com

Job Title:

Owner

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices  
Applicant has served:

Position/ Office Held:

Dates:

None

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Civic or Charitable Organizations to which  
Applicant has belonged:

Position(s) Held:

Dates:

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Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

Arts, History, Painting, Writing, and BGE Foodie/Cooking instructor

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College, Professional, Vocational Schools  
attended:

Major Subject:

Degree/Dates:

Bachelor of Science

Business  
Administration/Marketing

Graduated March 2003

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Special awards or recognition received:

2003 Graduated Magna Cum Laude, 1999 Pasadena Rotary Club Marketing project

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

I grew up in the Quad and was blessed to be surrounded by beautiful architecture and history daily as I made my way past SCU on my way to St. Clare's. It's part of my psych now. As an adult I want to give back to our community to ensure that our Old Quad treasures are preserved for generations to come--especially given all the current HD development in SC.

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

Core member lead of Reclaiming our Downtown since 2016. It's a non political community of history buffs supporting the redevelopment and Revitalization of our Historical Downtown.

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☐ Unsure

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☐ No

☐ Unsure

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Historical & Landmark Commission

Signature of Applicant:

Ana Vargas-Smith

Date Signed:

06/13/2018

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