

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

Application for Boards, Commissions, Committees, & Task Forces

Name of Board/Commission/Committee/Task Force: Housing Authority Commission

Seat # (Required - see Vacancy Notice for qualifications): 6 or 7

Full Name: Sharon Wai Sum Lai

Zip Code: 94109

Occupation: Nonprofit Executive (Chief Strategy Officer)

Work Phone: 510-606-1854

Employer: East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation

Business Address: 1825 San Pablo Ave

Zip Code: 94612

Business Email: slai@ebaldc.org

Home Email: _____

Pursuant to Charter, Section 4.101(a)(2), Boards and Commissions established by the Charter must consist of residents of the City and County of San Francisco who are 18 years of age or older (unless otherwise stated in the code authority). For certain appointments, the Board of Supervisors may waive the residency requirement.

Resident of San Francisco: Yes ☒ No ☐

If No, place of residence: _____

18 Years of Age or Older: Yes ☒ No ☐

Pursuant to Charter, Section 4.101(a)(1), please state how your qualifications represent the communities of interest, neighborhoods, and the diversity in ethnicity, race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, types of disabilities, and any other relevant demographic qualities of the City and County of San Francisco:

I believe that my professional experience in housing and community services, as well as my lived experience as someone who grew up in public housing prepared me to be a balanced and informed member of the Housing Authority Commission. As an immigrant and someone who experienced housing insecurity and having worked in the homeless housing and affordable housing space, I believe I will not just understand the plight of the communities this commission serves but also bring in the relevant professional expertise to advance good governance in the housing space.

Business and/or Professional Experience:

I possess over two decades of housing and community development experience across the public, private and nonprofit sectors. I worked as a municipal urban planning for a decade, including 8 years with San Francisco's Planning Department, later I worked in the private sector directing development projects and community building efforts nationally. In recent years, I have worked in the nonprofit homelessness housing and economic development space including in San Francisco. I developed the City's first tiny homes project at 33 Gough as well as lead a place-based economic development project in San Francisco's downtown with the World Economic Forum. I am currently the Chief Strategy Officer at EBALDC, an anchor community development nonprofit, serving and providing affordable housing and permanent supportive housing to thousands of low-income and formerly homeless residents in the Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties). My role encompasses strategic management for the organization as well as direct oversight for the Resident Community Services Department and the Community Planning and Placemaking Department.

Civic Activities:

I have always held a passion for civic engagement and leadership. I have had the honor of serving as a former appointed board member on the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) and on the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Boards. During my tenure on TIDA we stewarded 8,000 units of housing including 2,000 affordable units, I also chaired the Infrastructure and Transportation committee. While serving on SFMTA, we oversaw public transit, streets as well as many capital projects including leveraging SFMTA properties for housing opportunities.

I currently serve on West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Center's Board in San Francisco as well as serve as Secretary on Partners for Public Good's Board, a national nonprofit dedicated to providing procurement reform advisory services to government entities. In the past, I have also served our San Francisco community through my board membership with SF Hep B Free (healthcare initiative), Chinese Hospital Steering Committee, Junior League of San Francisco, and March of Dimes San Francisco.

Have you attended any meetings of the body to which you are applying? Yes ☐ No ☐

An appearance before the Rules Committee may be required at a scheduled public hearing, prior to the Board of Supervisors considering the recommended appointment. Applications should be received ten (10) days prior to the scheduled public hearing.

Date: 10/16/25

Applicant's Signature (required):

Sharon Lai

Digitally signed by Sharon Lai
Date: 2025.10.16 17:12:36 -07'00'

(Manually sign or type your complete name.)

NOTE: By typing your complete name, you are hereby consenting to use of electronic signature.)

Please Note: Your application will be retained for one year. Once completed, this form, including all attachments, become public record.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Appointed to Seat #: _____ Term Expires: _____ Date Vacated: _____

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Application for Boards, Commissions, Committees, & Task Forces

Name of Board/Commission/Committee/Task Force: SFHA Board of Commissioners

Seat # (Required - see Vacancy Notice for qualifications): _____

Full Name: Cynthia Alvarez

Zip Code: 94114

Occupation: CEO/President

Work Phone: _____ Employer: CCH / Christian Church Homes

Business Address: 1855 Olympic Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA, Suite 200 Zip Code: 94596

Business Email: calvarez@cchnc.org

Home Email: _____

Pursuant to Charter, Section 4.101(a)(2), Boards and Commissions established by the Charter must consist of residents of the City and County of San Francisco who are 18 years of age or older (unless otherwise stated in the code authority). For certain appointments, the Board of Supervisors may waive the residency requirement.

Resident of San Francisco: Yes ☒ No ☐

If No, place of residence: _____

18 Years of Age or Older: Yes ☒ No ☐

Pursuant to Charter, Section 4.101(a)(1), please state how your qualifications represent the communities of interest, neighborhoods, and the diversity in ethnicity, race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, types of disabilities, and any other relevant demographic qualities of the City and County of San Francisco:

I have lived in San Francisco for twenty-two of the last twenty-six years, and this city has shaped both my professional path and personal values. I immigrated to the United States as a child and was undocumented until receiving permanent residency through the 1986 IRCA amnesty law. During the first few years in our adopted country, we lived in private housing that was substandard and moved often. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for how fair and effective public systems can change lives and open opportunity.

As a Latina, an immigrant, a woman, first generation college graduate, and a mother raising three children in San Francisco, I represent several of the communities that define this city's identity. I understand the challenges faced by working families, immigrants, and seniors who seek stability and dignity in one of the most expensive cities in the nation.

For nearly two decades, I have dedicated my career to affordable housing and community development, focusing on ensuring that residents have access to safe, stable homes and the resources to thrive. I believe that a strong San Francisco Housing Authority has a direct impact not only on the thousands of individuals and families who depend on its subsidies but also on the nonprofit partners who work alongside SFHA to preserve and operate affordable housing. In this moment of uncertainty, I believe SFHA's effectiveness depends on collaboration, focus, and open communication with all stakeholders—residents, staff, and community partners alike.

Business and/or Professional Experience:

I currently serve as Chief Executive Officer of Christian Church Homes (CCH), an East Bay-based nonprofit affordable housing organization that has been serving residents for nearly sixty-five years. CCH develops and manages affordable housing communities across six states. In this role, I oversee all aspects of the organizations operations, including strategy, finance, development, asset management, resident services, and compliance, and lead a team of over 220 employees.

Before becoming CEO, I served as Chief Operating Officer at CCH, where I guided the organization through a period of stabilization, modernization, and renewed focus on cross-departmental collaboration. My work includes deep engagement with HUD programs such as Section 8, PRAC, and RAD conversions, as well as extensive partnerships with state and local housing agencies.

Earlier in my career, I worked at two San Francisco rooted affordable housing organizations—Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC) and Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC). Both organizations have partnered closely with the San Francisco Housing Authority and have benefited from its subsidies and programs. I also witnessed the challenges that can arise from administrative delays, limited communication, and the need for deeper collaboration. These experiences reinforce my belief that SFHA is a critical partner in the citys housing ecosystem and that strong, responsive governance can significantly improve outcomes for residents and nonprofit partners alike.

Civic Activities:

Throughout my career, I have been deeply engaged in civic and community efforts to expand access to affordable housing and improve coordination among public agencies, nonprofit partners, and residents. I have participated in national, state and local advocacy and collaborative organizations. I have collaborated with elected officials, city departments, and coalitions to advocate for equitable housing policies and greater accountability in the systems that serve low-income communities.

My work with local organizations such as TNDC, CCDC, as well as with Christian Church Homes has given me direct experience navigating partnerships with various housing authorities, including SFHA. I have seen both the successes that come from shared purpose and the frustrations that result from procedural barriers and communication gaps. Those experiences have strengthened my conviction that open dialogue, accountability, and consistency are essential to SFHAs success. As CEO at CCH, I lead a BiPOC leadership team and believe diversity and lived experiences add to the richness of our work.

Beyond my professional role, I mentor emerging leaders in the housing field, with a particular focus on women and professionals of color. I believe civic leadership requires humility, transparency, and a commitment to collaboration. If appointed, I would bring those values to the Commission and work to strengthen trust and communication between SFHA, its nonprofit partners, and the residents it serves.

Have you attended any meetings of the body to which you are applying? Yes ☐ No ☐

An appearance before the Rules Committee may be required at a scheduled public hearing, prior to the Board of Supervisors considering the recommended appointment. Applications should be received ten (10) days prior to the scheduled public hearing.

Date: **10/6/25**

Cynthia Alvarez

Applicant's Signature (required):

(Manually sign or type your complete name.

NOTE: By typing your complete name, you are hereby consenting to use of electronic signature.)

Please Note: Your application will be retained for one year. Once completed, this form, including all attachments, become public record.

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Appointed to Seat #: _____ Term Expires: _____ Date Vacated: _____