

OAC YOUTH APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name Carmen Sosa
 Phone 415 _____ Email sosacarmen79@ _____
 Birth date 1996 Age 18
 Home Address South Van Ness Avenue San Francisco Zip 94110
 Resident of SF? Yes ☒ No ☐ SF District you live in (1-11) 9
 OAC Seat you are applying for (19 or under or Transitional Age Youth) Either
 Occupation Exploratorium Employer (if any) High School Explainer
 School you will attend in Fall 2015 (if any) SF City College
 Other schools you attend or have attended in the past SF Flex Academy

After-school, summer, or youth programs you are currently involved in Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco,
Board of Advising Youth at SFPL, YAC - Youth Advisory Council with DCYF
 After-school, summer, or youth programs you have been involved with in the past NERT
Exploratorium, Library, BGCSF, Camp Mendocino, Youth Advocacy Day, BAMN (Bay Area Media Network) FEST

Additional optional information:

Race El Salvadoran and Venezuelan Ethnicity Latina
 Languages spoken Spanish and English
 Sexual orientation heterosexual Gender female

Applicant Signature:

Date 5/7/2015 Applicant's Signature (required) Carmen Sosa

(Manually sign or type your complete name. NOTE: By typing your complete name, you are hereby consenting to use of electronic signature.)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

- 1) What communities do you feel connected to and why? How would you represent the diversity of youth in the City and County of San Francisco? (*Examples: Queer, Disabled, Homeless, Teen Parent, Low-Income, Immigrant*). *You are not limited to these choices. Please add your own.*)

As the daughter of immigrant parents, I am familiar w/challenges faced by 1st generation Immigrants, especially as they struggle w/the language. We were unable to access homework help & parents, unable to communicate w/service providers. I ended up translating at adult appts, missing out on my own opportunities & obligations. I am low income but have been working w/diverse groups of teens for years. I was always exposed to youth from more diverse backgrounds than what I saw at school. SFPL, I work with youth from economic groups who have different perceptions of work. Yet, at the Exploratorium, the youth rely on this job & the money earned to meet basic needs.

- 2) What special skills, insight and experiences would you bring to this position?

YAC (DCYF) & my work advising the development of teen programs & teen-only space (SFPL), gave me experience collaborating, planning and providing input to city departments around youth programs. I developed my own voice while also advocating for the needs of other youth throughout the city. In Keystone, youth leadership program (BGCSF), I developed my conflict resolution skills. Our charter experienced significant turnover & inconsistent participation which resulted in difficulties establishing consistent priorities & meeting deadlines. I learned to step up & be consistent through transitions, keeping us moving towards our objectives. I am patient & interact well with diverse social groups. I have the ability to form relationships, respect ideas & experiences from individuals from different economic & cultural backgrounds.

- 3) What are some of your past experiences as a participant or leader in youth-focused activities?

I have experienced strong communication at SFPL. Youth receive the agenda at least two days in advance, there are consistent reminders of upcoming events & staff encourage youth to communicate any changes in their schedules. Staff notify youth of all program changes. Unfortunately, with other youth organizations, communication has not been as effective or proactive. It is a drag when we have already started working toward our goal & the expectations are changed in the middle. We have to adapt, without necessarily being consulted. Consistency & access should be priorities. Youth respond more positively when there is constant programming & staff and when expectations are known to them in advance. Accessing programs can be another challenge. Children may have difficulties getting to programs independently, or the cost or safety of transportation exclude others. This is made worse when we stop talking about the supports that do exist. When the MUNI youth pilot program started, applications were available in schools who helped submit & youth knew how to access it. This has changed in the past two years and less youth know where to start.