

Candidates for VNNC vacancies (Final as of 9/5/20)

Name	Van Nuys resident?	Other stakeholder? Other relevant info	Target seat (other eligible)	Candidate statement	Meets seat requirements
Youth Representative (A stakeholder between the ages of 16 and 22; or employee/volunteer of a recognized youth organization. Priority to be given to candidates ages 16-22.)					
Stephanie Garcia Perez	Yes (Zone 2)	Attends Valley College	Youth Representative	No	Yes
David Hunt	Yes (Zone 2)	Attends Valley College (age 22)	Youth Representative	Yes	Yes
Lillian Macias	Yes (Zone 1) but might be moving soon	Attends Panorama City HS (age 16)	Youth Representative	No	Yes
Non-Profit Community-Based Organization or Service Club Representative Seat 1 (Member of a community based organization or service club that is located within or includes Van Nuys within its service area)					
Natalie Benamou	No	Difficult to document. Informally conducts some arts camps for families who live in in VN.	Non-Profit or School	Yes	No
Damaris Macias	Yes (Zone 1), but might be moving soon	San Fernando Valley Veterans. (Office in Panorama City. Serves all of SFV – especially homeless, single parents, and impoverished veterans.)	Non-Profit	No	Yes (pending non-profit info)
Rosanna Olguin	No	Performing arts non-profit located in VN	Non-Profit	Yes	Yes
School Representative (Employee of a school located within or servicing the VNNC boundaries)					
Justiana McMurray	Yes (Zone 4)	Parent of 2 children at Cardenas Elementary, involved with PTA	School	Yes	No
At-Large Commercial Business Owner or Employee Representative Seat 3					
Hakop Jack Azatyan	Yes (Zone 1)	Owns commercial property in VN	School	Letter	Yes

Candidate Statements

Youth Representative

David Hunt

As a resident of Van Nuys for as long as I can remember, I want to be able to represent the youth of my community to ensure we have a voice in the development of our neighborhoods. As a student and worker, I feel I know the issues of my fellow youth well enough to represent them on the VNNC Neighborhood Council. I know the role councilmembers play in our community, and what it means to the city when a neighborhood submits a report and recommendation, and I'd like to partake in this democratic process. As the position remains vacant, the youth of Van Nuys do not have a voice, and I'd like to change that.

Nonprofit ... Seat

Natalie Benamou

Natalie Rachel Benamou grew up in Van Nuys, CA and is the founder of Art 2 EDU. She has also served as the co-manager of 818 Arts, and a fundraising consultant to various projects focusing on art education, environmental art, and social justice across Los Angeles. She is a graduate of Philosophy and the History of Art and Visual Culture departments at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is currently deepening her studies at the nexus of arts and critical community work at Claremont Graduate University. Her fundraising career began at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2015, and continues to be an important part of her work. She is committed to developing the Los Angeles landscape of nonprofit arts organizations and strives to support strong sustainability models. Benamou is excited to work with community partners, across all sectors to provide the community with exceptional arts events and programming.

Rosanna Olguin

As a member of the Van Nuys Community, who has attended VNNC meetings, I wish to be considered for the Non-Profit Community Based Organization Seat #1 vacancy. I am the director of the Rosencris Production Company, 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit, located in the City of Van Nuys. The Rosencris non-profit is a performing arts and cultural community center that provides after school programs, valuing and understanding of cultural diversity programs, artistic projects and events to families, children, and senior citizens. I have a passion for bringing people together through the arts, which can help to heal, rebuild and strengthen a community. I am a strong advocate for creating arts programs that bridge communities and give a voice to cultural diversification. The NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), of which I am a member, has helped me to create such programs through hands-on training.

School Representative**Justiana McMurray**

As the Education Representative Board Member for the City of Van Nuys, California, my intentions are to bring forth the best School and Community involvement for the safety and well being of our children. Our city is rapidly growing, and, therefore, our community involvement in schools also needs to be greater as a city. I stand strong as a Mother of two children at Cardenas Elementary School in the City of Van Nuys. I have strong passion and desire to help other families in our community.

At-Large Commercial Owner or Employee Representative Seat 3

Hakop Jack Azatyan

I am seeking to become a member of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council as an Education Representative. I am a native of Van Nuys, where I was born and raised. I attended the local public schools from K-12, and I recognize the importance of quality public education in our community. I am also a proud transfer student from Los Angeles Valley College.

I recently held an Associate Government Program Analyst (AGPA) position with the California Department of Justice, where I assisted the department on facilities related items, emergency preparedness programs, and acted as a liaison to internal/external justice partners. Prior to joining the department, I completed the Judicial Administration Program sponsored through the Center for California Studies where I worked full time at the Los Angeles Superior Court and completed coursework in a Masters of Public Administration. I earned my undergraduate degree at the University of California, Irvine in Sociology with a specialization in Social and Public Policy, Economy, and Organizations and a minor in Conflict Resolution.