



City of Emeryville

INCORPORATED 1896

1333 Park Avenue, Emeryville, CA 94608-3517

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Application for Local Board, Commission or Committee

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name Dr. Eugene Tssui	Email Address [REDACTED]	Gender Male
Please specify the Board, Commission or Committee you are applying for. City Planning Commissioner		Which Committee Position are you applying for? City Planning Commissioner
I am currently a member of the above Committee and am seeking reappointment. ☐ YES ☒ NO		
If you are seeking re-appointment, has any of your information changed within the last 12 months? ☒ YES ☐ NO		
If your answer is yes, please complete the rest of this form.		
If your information has not changed within the past 12 months, please only enter your name and email information above. You do not need to complete the remainder of this form.		

RESIDENCY / EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Home Address (Street, City & Zip Code) [REDACTED]	Phone No. [REDACTED]	
Place of Employment TDR, Inc.		
Business Address (Street, City & Zip Code) [REDACTED]	Phone No. [REDACTED]	
Occupation Licensed Architect, City Planner, Licensed Building Contractor, Author, International Professor	Length of Residency in City 32 years	Length of Working in City 32 years

EDUCATION / EXTRACURRICULAR INTERESTS

High School University High School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	College University of Oregon-5-year Professional Bachelor of Architecture degree; Columbia University Graduate School of Design; University of California, Berkeley—Masters of Architecture degree, Masters of City and Regional Planning degree, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Architecture and Education	Trade or Business School Harvard University, Visiting Research Scholar, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Wyss Institute
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Other Interests:

Competitive Athletics: Eight-Time World Amateur Boxing Champion; Eight-Time US Presidential Sports Award winner conferred by US Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush; Four-Time Senior Olympics Gymnastics All-Around Champion; State Finalist in Competitive Swimming; award-winning clothing designer and furniture designer, performing musician and composer, international public lecturer, mentor to professional interns, research scientist, author of 7 international books on architecture, city planning, ecology, biomimicry, and ecological behavioral change, Professor of Architecture and City Planning at four Chinese universities, and former instructor at UC Berkeley's Department of Design.

ADVISORY BODY EXPERIENCE / INFORMATION

Are you currently serving on other Boards, Commissions or Committees? ☐ YES ☒ NO

Have you served on a Board, Commission or Committee before? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please list all past and current City of Emeryville advisory boards.

Please list any past and current board, commission or committee memberships outside of Emeryville.

Please list all organization memberships and positions held.

Please list any relevant work and volunteer experience:

Harvard University, Visiting Research Scholar, researched and developed biomimicry principles to develop construction materials that mimic the characteristics of zoological and botanical organisms, i.e., Stadium roof covering that mimic the Pitcher Plant and allows snow to slide-off and not accumulate to prevent collapse, or, tensile wall designs, that mimic Water Hyacinth plants, which create insulation and are waterproof, yet let daylight into the building without windows and prevent lost interior energy and temperature-2011 and 2012.

California Institute of Technology: Consultant to the select student team who competed in The American Solar Challenge to create the lightest, fastest, most aerodynamic and most efficient solar-powered automobile in the world-2016.

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories: Invited Lecturer to develop programs for using the scientific study of biologic organisms and their habitats to develop portable human habitats-2013

Member, The Watergate Apartment Complex Finance Committee-2016 and 2017

Professor of Architecture, UC Berkeley, Department of Design-2007 and 2008

President of the Parent Teachers Association for Emeryville High School-2005 and 2006;

Professor of Architecture, The East Bay Campus of the San Francisco Institute of Architecture-1992 through 1999

NASA/Ames Research Laboratories: Set up educational exhibitions and a lecture series that discussed the value of researching biological/zoological organisms to the development of extraterrestrial and extreme climate environments-1994 through 1997

Founding member in the formation of The Emeryville Community Organic Garden on 59th Street and Doyle Street-1990

Intern City Planner--Bay Area Open Space Council, creating the 20 Year Plan for the future of the San Francisco Bay area which forecasted and set goals for; 1) land conservation 2) population growth 3) traffic growth 4) building growth 5) city expansion-1987 and 1988

Student Volunteer with UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Richard Meier, to apply futurist and ecological principles to the development of national and international communities and cities--1987 through 1989

Student Volunteer with UC Berkeley professor, Christopher Alexander, author of the book, A Pattern Language, seeking ways to apply the principles of urban landscape pattern development, aesthetics, and green space, to SF Bay area communities--1985 and 1986

Instructor-Krishnamurti School, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada--1982

Instructor of Design-Oregon State Juvenile Detention Center, Salem, Oregon-1979 and 1980;

Co-Founder/Instructor-The Rivendell Waldorf Pre-School, Eugene, Oregon-1977 through 1978;

Why are you interested in serving on this Board, Commission or Committee?

I wish to add to the City's discussion of a project's relation to open space, recreational use, alignment with current and future City goals, the reality of property rights, the aesthetics of a project, the laws that govern it to fit the community, and the ecological functioning and consequences of a project. I can help in finding public spaces that are a fit for recreational use because the City needs more well-designed spaces that promote health and fitness. I'm interested in the contextual relationship between the outdoors and indoors and factors that promote interaction.

I have professional expertise in visualizing the appearance and actual functioning of buildings before they are built and can look for development bonuses for the City as well as address social and environmental issues. I'd like to participate in the discussion to move the city towards greater sustainability and help the City to implement California's R.E.A.C.H. codes and help create a mutually beneficial relationship between corporate, non-corporate, and family developments, and look for ways an existing building can address infectious disease. I can contribute fresh ideas to unify the east side, west side, and SF Bay sides of Emeryville. I'd like to encourage existing home expansion and look at aesthetics and landscaping, and how to relate Emeryville's history with present and future aesthetics and look at State-run, low-income housing, to see if there is a way to give such buildings character and not be so sterile. I like to examine underutilized areas of the City and look for ways to tie-in the Emery-Go-Round as a kind of trolley to connect the major activity areas of Emeryville to the BART Station.

I am interested in finding ways to have more Emeryville citizens understand government process and participate in decision-making. Emeryville has a history of public spaces that are privately owned. Can we find ways to create recreational opportunities from these spaces? What's involved in creating a Circular Economy for Emeryville where we eliminate waste and find ways to reuse existing resources? I am an expert in affordable housing and construction methods that are inexpensive and disaster-proof. Is there a way to educate old and new Emeryville developers to value open space, the context between the indoors and the outdoors, use new construction methods and minimize energy and toxicity in day-to-day functioning?

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Please provide a short (300 words or less) statement discussing your ideas and attitudes about planning in Emeryville. Please consider issues such as traffic, industrial and commercial development density, affordable housing, maintaining community diversity, and jobs/housing balance.

I have much expertise in building function, use of innovative materials, and the design of city spaces and landscapes, having written seven international books on the subject, and my expertise extends far beyond normal architectural/city planning knowledge and practice. I would initiate the dialogue for new, innovative solutions and provide technical understanding and assistance. My research at Harvard University highlights this and implements the City's motto, "Arts and Innovation". As former President of the PTA, founding member of the Emeryville Community Garden, and member of the Watergate Finance Committee, I know the concerns of the community. As a licensed Building Contractor, I speak the language of the building trades, and can recognize problems as they are

being designed. As a licensed architect, former international university professor, primary school teacher, fine artist, music composer, competitive athlete, individual in my 60's, and an Asian minority, I represent a voice that is much under-represented on the Planning Commission. I speak fluent Mandarin Chinese, spending 22 years in China, and the surge of Chinese developers is overtaking the SF Bay area. Language and cultural comradery is a great advantage in navigating foreign and local developers. Nearly 33% of Emeryville are foreigners and many are Asians, and the second most spoken language in Emeryville, is Chinese. My presence on the Commission could attract a larger population to participate in public discussion and assist in anticipating the coming issues of the City. I am very aware that our City's future is dependent upon our continued positive development trajectory, and economic vitality is required for us to function in the short term, and long term. I would be one of many necessary voices on the Planning Commission. Having a variety of individuals on the planning Commission is a critical part of the City's success.