

From: postmaster@muniweb.com
To: [Morris, Melissa](#); [Hanson, Cortney](#)
Subject: The Form "Boards and Commissions Application - V2" was submitted
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 7:46:06 PM

Name

Sunitha Ananthaswamy Ramappan

Nickname, if preferred

More Popularly, Sunitha Ananthaswamy

Address*

24935 Portsmouth Ave

Preferred Phone Number*

2488806553

Email*

sunithananthaswamy@gmail.com

Are you a registered voter in the City of Novi?*

Yes

How long have you lived continuously in the City of Novi?*

20 years 9 months

Employed by

Self

Educational Background*

Diploma in North Indian Classical Music Public Access Producer Certification - SWOCC
studios Creating Web Pages – Schoolcraft MA in English BA in Journalism

Please describe your professional qualifications, skills and/or work experience, and how you would use these to benefit the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying.*

I am a world musician, composer, educator, and arts advocate with extensive experience in multicultural programming, music performance, arts education, and community engagement. As a recording artist and composer, I have written over 100 original songs, recorded more than 40 works, and perform on a variety of instruments including harmonium, guitar, mandolin, handpan, and flute. I also leverage digital media and emerging technologies to promote and expand access to the arts. My professional experience includes planning, coordinating, promoting, and emceeing world music and multicultural events, managing performances within budget and scheduling requirements, and collaborating with diverse artists and community organizations. Through Shanti World Music, I teach students of all ages, develop music curricula, organize recitals, and help young musicians explore creativity, cultural traditions, and music technology. Previously, I taught music at Novi/Northville Montessori and Minto's Casa Montessori, where I developed school-wide music curricula, introduced children to songs and cultures from around the world, and trained more than 60 students for school concerts. This experience reinforced my commitment to arts education and demonstrated the power of music to foster creativity, confidence, and cultural understanding among young learners. I also worked in Member Services at Detroit Public Television (DPTV)

and WRCJ, where I communicated directly with the public, resolved member concerns, researched and prepared written communications, coordinated with multiple departments, and helped strengthen relationships between the organization and its supporters. This role enhanced my skills in public engagement, communication, collaboration, and community service. In addition, I produced and hosted a local television program, The World Musician, featuring artists from across Michigan. This experience allowed me to promote cultural diversity, build relationships within the arts community, and develop skills in media production, outreach, and program development. I would use these experiences to help the Cultural Arts Commission promote inclusive and diverse arts programming, expand educational opportunities, strengthen community participation, support local artists, and foster cross-cultural understanding through the arts. My background in music, education, media, and public engagement would enable me to contribute thoughtfully and effectively to the commission's mission and cultural initiatives.

Please list any community groups with which you are currently or have previously been active and describe your role.*

Currently I am an active member of Detroit Indian Women's Association. Two years ago, I produced Harmony 2023, a world music fundraiser concert supporting survivors of abuse at the La Casa Center in Howell, MI. I brought together musicians and dancers of all genres to make it a truly world music event. There were Jazz, Latino and other world musicians, choir groups, Chinese, Japanese and Middle eastern dance performances. Previously, I served as President of Pampa Kannada Koota of Michigan, where I provided leadership for the organization's cultural programming and initiatives, helping promote and celebrate Kannada heritage through community events and artistic activities.

What motivated you to apply to serve on a board or commission, and why did you select the boards and/or commissions that you did?

I was encouraged by Toby Brazwell to apply, and his suggestion prompted me to consider how my background and experience could be of service to the community. After learning more about the Cultural Arts Commission, I felt that it closely aligns with both my professional experience and my personal passion for using the arts to bring people together. I selected the Cultural Arts Commission because its mission reflects values that are important to me: supporting local artists, expanding access to arts and cultural experiences, celebrating diversity, and enhancing the quality of life within the community. Serving on the commission would provide an opportunity for me to contribute my skills, collaborate with others who are passionate about the arts, and help shape programs and initiatives that benefit residents of all ages and backgrounds.

If appointed, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What do you hope to learn?*

If appointed, I hope to help expand access to arts and cultural experiences for residents of all ages while promoting the diversity of cultures represented in our community. Drawing on my experience as a musician, educator, event coordinator, and cultural leader, I would like to support programs that showcase local artists, encourage participation in the arts, and create opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding. I am particularly interested in helping develop inclusive arts programming, strengthening partnerships between artists, schools, community organizations, and local businesses, and increasing awareness of the valuable role that arts and culture play in building vibrant communities. I would also like to explore ways to use technology and digital media to broaden community engagement and reach new audiences. During my term, I hope to learn more about the community's artistic and cultural needs, the processes involved in public arts planning, and best practices for supporting arts

initiatives at the local level. I look forward to collaborating with fellow commissioners, artists, educators, and residents to better understand how the commission can create meaningful cultural opportunities that enrich the lives of all community members.

What do you think the City is doing well or could be doing differently when you think about the areas of responsibility for the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying?

The City of Novi places a strong value on community engagement and quality of life, and I appreciate its efforts to provide programs and events that bring residents together. I believe the arts and cultural activities already contribute positively to the community and help create a sense of identity and belonging. One area I would be excited to help expand is cultural exchange and artistic collaboration among the many communities represented in our city. While I have seen performances that showcase different cultures, I believe there is an opportunity to create more programs where artists from diverse backgrounds perform and create together on the same stage. As someone who has worked extensively in world music and multicultural programming, I have seen how collaborative performances can build meaningful connections, spark creativity, and foster mutual understanding. Bringing together musicians, dancers, visual artists, and storytellers from different traditions can create unique artistic experiences that celebrate both cultural diversity and shared community values.

Is there anything else you would like for Council to be aware of, or know about you?

I would like Council to know that I view arts and culture as powerful tools for building community and bringing people together across backgrounds, generations, and experiences. This belief is reflected in the motto of my organization, Shanti World Music: "Bringing the World Together with Music." Throughout my career as a musician, educator, event organizer, television producer, and community volunteer, I have worked to create opportunities for cultural exchange, artistic collaboration, and meaningful community connections. I believe that music and the arts can serve as a universal language that helps people better understand and appreciate one another. If appointed, I would bring that same spirit of collaboration, inclusivity, and community engagement to the Commission. I would be honored to contribute my experience while listening, learning, and working alongside fellow commissioners, artists, and residents to help strengthen the City's cultural landscape.

1st Choice

City Council Cultural Arts Committee

2nd Choice

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Commission

Beautification areas of expertise

Board of Review areas of expertise

Building Authority areas of expertise

City Council Cultural Arts Committee

Cultural Arts & Theater

Music/Art/Dance background

Construction Board of Appeals areas of expertise

Corridor Improvement Authority areas of expertise

Economic Development Corporation areas of expertise

Election Commission areas of expertise

Historical Commission Area of Expertise

Library Board areas of expertise

PRCS areas of expertise

Novi Resident (Required)

Recreation Programs and Services / Cultural Arts

Planning Commission areas of expertise

Public Utilities and Technology Committee

Zoning Board areas of expertise

Signature/Date

Sunitha Ananthaswamy Ramappan, 06/09/2026