

Advisory Board & Committee Interest Form - Submission #34197

Date Submitted: 4/29/2026

Last Name*

First Name*

District # You Live In.*

Valdes

Arlene

2

Home Address*

City*

State*

Zip Code*

2050 NW 138 Terr

Pembroke Pines

FL

33028

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email Address*

9545595819

avaldes@agabroward.org

Owner or Renter *

Number of years as city resident*

Are you registered to vote in Broward County?*

Education (highest degree / level)

Owner

Pembroke Pines

Yes



Doctorate

Occupation*

Work Phone

Executive Director

9545595819

Business Name*

Avant Garde Academy

Business Address

City

State

Zip Code

2025 McKinley Street

Hollywood

FL

33020

Identify the board / committee(s) to which you request appointment (Please rank in order of preference)

Selection (1)*

Education Advisory Committee



Selection (2)*

Education Advisory Committee



Selection (3)*

Education Advisory Committee



Selection (4)*

Education Advisory Committee



Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. In your opinion what is the greatest challenge to keeping housing affordable in Hollywood? 2. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? • Home Purchase Education, • Housing Market Employment. • Housing Market Stability. • Affordable Housing Construction. * Affordable Housing Activism. 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? • Ownership Housing Affordability, • Rental Housing Affordability, • Housing Market Stability, • New Housing Construction, * Fair Housing. 4. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism? 5. What role does housing diversity play in Hollywood's economic health?

African American Advisory Council - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is the greatest challenge facing the African American Community in Hollywood? 2. How many hours per month can you dedicate to AAAC initiatives? 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? * Education, * Employment, * Economics, * Cultural Awareness, * Housing. 4. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? * Education, * Employment, * Economics, * Cultural Awareness, * Housing. 5. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism?

Artwork Selection Committee - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What are your primary interest in City Government and City Services? 2. Why do you want to join the Artwork Selection Committee? 3. What other relevant organizations, clubs, or associations were you previously, and/or currently are involved in? 4. Are you available to attend regular committee board meetings scheduled for the Second Monday each month at 5:30pm? 5. What is your one area of highest interest related to the Arts within the City of Hollywood?

Civil Service Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Describe your involvement with establishing, reviewing and interpreting policies and procedures? 2. Describe your involvement in employment practices including interviewing, testing, hiring, selection and promotion, demotions, transfers, etc. 3. Describe your knowledge of Civil Service and its purpose. 4. Why do you want to serve on this Civil Service Board? 5. Are you a continuous resident of and continuous registered elector in the City of Hollywood?

Community Development Advisory Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Do you reside in a low and moderate income (LMI) neighborhood in Hollywood per the most recent US Census data? A Hollywood LMI Map is located at www.hollywoodfl.org on the Community and Economic Development webpage. 2. What Community Development issues do you believe are the most important to Hollywood? 3. What is your definition of a healthy neighborhood? 4. What do you believe is the vision and primary work of the Community Development Advisory Board? 5. What do you believe uniquely qualifies you to serve on the Community Development Advisory Board?

Education Advisory Committee - Questions

1. What are the current challenges facing education?

Education is facing ongoing learning gaps in core subjects, increased student mental health needs, and challenges with teacher recruitment and retention. These issues are often compounded by common broader factors like housing instability and economic inequality. At the local level, a key challenge is always coordination—ensuring schools, families, and community resources are aligned to support students effectively.

2. What is your vision for education in Hollywood?

My vision is for Hollywood to ensure every student has access to quality education, enrichment opportunities, and strong support systems. This includes building partnerships between schools, the city, and local organizations to expand after-school programs, career pathways, and family support.

3. What do you see as the primary work of the Education Advisory Committee?

I think the Committee's primary role is to connect stakeholders and provide thoughtful recommendations to the City. As a committee, it should identify gaps, elevate community needs, and help align resources to better support students.

4. How should the Committee decide what's most important?

The Committee should focus on priorities with the greatest impact, urgency, and feasibility. Using data is always key. Setting a few clear, achievable goals each year will allow for meaningful progress rather than spreading efforts too thin.

5. How can the Committee know if its goals are being accomplished?

As mentioned above, setting a few clear, achievable goals is key. Along with those goals, you also need to define your metrics, then have regular updates to track progress.

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What are the current challenges facing education? 2. What is your vision for education in Hollywood? 3. What do you see as the primary work of the Education Advisory Committee? 4. With only one meeting a month, the Committee is limited in what it can do. How does/should the Committee decide what's most important? 5. How can the Committee know if its mission and goals are being accomplished?

Employees' Retirement Plan - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Are you familiar with the State's Sunshine Laws (Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes)? 2. Are you available to attend in person regular monthly Board meeting (typically held the 4th Tuesday of each month)? 3. What knowledge, skills and/or abilities will you bring to the Employees' Retirement Plan? 4. What do you believe are the responsibilities of a trustee on a municipal retirement plan board? 5. Are you familiar with municipal defined benefit retirement plans and/or have previous experience serving on a municipal retirement plan board?

Firefighters' Pension Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What knowledge, skills and abilities would you bring to the meetings? 2. What experience do you have with firefighter pensions? 3. What is your financial background? 4. How many years have you lived in Hollywood? 5. How familiar are you with local retirement systems?

General Obligation Bond Oversight Advisory Committee - Questions*

Please answer these four questions above. Why do you want to join the GO Bond Oversight Advisory Committee? 2. Explain how your personal and/or professional experiences will contribute to the meeting the goal(s) of the Board or City. 3. Which Bond interests you the most? Public Safety? Parks/Golf/Open Space or Neighborhoods & Resiliency? 4. What is your perspective on city quality of life, healthy neighborhoods, economic development & a strong tax base?

Hispanic Affairs Council

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is the greatest challenge facing the Hispanic Community in Hollywood? 2. How many hours per month can you dedicate to HACA initiatives? 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? Education, Employment, Economics, Cultural Awareness, Housing. 4. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? Education, Employment, Economics, Cultural Awareness, Housing. 5. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism?

Historic Preservation Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. How have you prepared yourself to serve on the Historic Preservation Board? 2. Explain how your personal and/or professional experiences will contribute to the meeting the goal(s) of the Board or City. * Personal experiences, * Professional experiences. 3. What is your perspective on balancing growth of the City's tax base, within the Historic Districts, while maintaining neighborhood stabilization? 4. How would you balance historic architecture with modern architectural styles? 5. What do you like about the City's different Historic Districts?

Hollywood Housing Authority - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. In your opinion what is the greatest challenge to keeping housing affordable in Hollywood? 2. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? * Property Management, * Affordable Housing Administration, * Housing Market Stability, * Affordable Housing Construction, * Affordable Housing Activism. 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? * Property Management, * Rental Housing Affordability, * Housing Market Stability, * New Housing Construction, * Fair Housing. 4. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism? 5. What role does housing diversity play in Hollywood's economic health?

Marine Advisory Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is your involvement with the City of Hollywood's Waterways? 2. What will guide your decisions on this board? 3. Are you able to dedicate 2-3 hours a month to attend the meetings? Attendance is paramount to this Board being able to get things done. 4. Are you currently or have you been a boater, marine industry professional or involved in any other marine related industry? 5. What is your vision for the city of Hollywood's Waterway system?

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Advisory Board - Questions*

Please answer these six questions above. 1. How many events have you attended in the past year at any of the parks and athletics facilities in the City? 2. How many City-sponsored special events have you attended for the past year? 3. Are you available to attend regular Board meetings? Regular meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month for 8 months per calendar year. 4. What is your one area of highest interest related to the parks, recreation and cultural arts for the City? 5. What other relevant organizations, clubs, or associations were you previously, and/or currently are involved in? 6. How does parks, recreation and cultural arts contribute to quality of life?

Planning & Development Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. How have you prepared yourself to serve on the Planning and Development Board? 2. Explain how your personal and/or professional experiences will contribute to the meeting the goal(s) of the Board or City. * Personal experiences, * Professional experiences. 3. What is your perspective on balancing growth of the City's tax base while maintaining neighborhood stabilization? 4. What recent developments within the City are most proud of? 5. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Police Officer's Pension Board - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is a fiduciary? And what is your responsibility to the police pension plan as a fiduciary? 2. What is the Sunshine Law? 3. What is Asset Allocation & Diversification? 4. Explain the history of Chapter 99-1 and Chapter 185? 5. Define the role of the Actuary and the Auditor?

Sister Cities Advisory Committee - Questions

1. Do you speak more than one language? If so, what languages do you speak? 2. Do you have experience in travel, cultural exchange, and/or fund-raising? Please describe. 3. Which Sister City focus areas are you most passionate about: a. Art and Culture; b. Business and Trade; c. Community Development; d. Youth and Education. 4. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism? 5. Please describe why you are interested in serving on the Sister Cities Advisory Committee.

Sustainability Advisory Committee - Questions*

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Why do you want to join the committee? 2. Have you attended any committee meetings? If so, how many? 3. What knowledge, skills, and abilities would you bring to the committee if appointed? 4. What other organizations, clubs, or associations are you involved in? 5. Are you available to attend regular committee and subcommittee meetings? Regular meetings are held monthly with subcommittee meetings held as needed. 6. What types of projects would you like to see the committee work on?

Are you interested in serving on more than one board/committee?*

If so, how many?*

Yes

1

Applicant must attend at least one board/committee meeting prior to consideration of application for every board applied. Please list board/committee meetings you attended in the last year?*

YES

Are you currently on a County or City Board?*

If yes, please describe

No

If you are applying for a board / committee, which has specific requirements / categories, please detail how your background and/or experience meets the required criteria.*

I have a doctorate in Educational Leadership. I have been in Education for over 35 years (private, public and charter). I am currently the Executive Director of Avant Garde Academy in Hollywood.

Please describe your professional and/or volunteer experience or background, which best qualifies you for selection to the board / committee.*

Member of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class of 49
Treasurer of the Phase 4A Pembroke Falls Community Association
Member of the Articulations Review Board for Pembroke Falls
Member of the Parents As Leaders for Avant Garde Academy

Are you presently employed by the City of Hollywood?*

No

If so, in what capacity?

n/a

Attach Resume (only .doc and .pdf files)*

Arlene_Valdes.docx

ARLENE HERNANDEZ VALDES, Ed.D.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dynamic education leader with a proven record of building and leading high-performing schools from startup through sustained success. Expertise in academic program development, strategic planning, accreditation, and stakeholder engagement. Known for driving measurable student achievement and strengthening school culture.

CORE COMPETENCIES

School Leadership • Strategic Planning • Curriculum & Instruction • Accreditation (SACS) • Staff Development • Community Engagement • Enrollment Growth • Data Analysis

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director | Avant Garde Academy, Hollywood, FL (2019 – Present)

- Lead vision, strategy, and operations for multi-campus charter school organization
- Drive academic performance, growth, and long-term planning
- Oversee leadership teams and align curriculum and student outcomes
- Expand partnerships and enrollment through community engagement

Principal | Franklin Academy, Pembroke Pines, FL (2016 – 2019)

- Improved school grade and achieved SACS accreditation and IB status
- Led enrollment, retention, and community engagement strategies
- Directed charter renewal and aligned performance with stakeholders

Grant Program Director & Educator | Hialeah Gardens High School (2013 – 2016)

- Increased student participation and managed grant compliance
- Led hiring, professional development, and curriculum alignment

Educational Consultant (2012 – 2013)

- Improved professional development and intervention programs

Dual Enrollment Coordinator/Liaison | St. Thomas University (2000 – 2013)

- Built and expanded one of Florida's largest dual enrollment programs
- Developed district partnerships and supervised instructional staff

Assistant Principal | Archbishop McCarthy High School (1998 – 2011)

- Led admissions, curriculum, accreditation, and technology initiatives
- Contributed to national recognition as a Top 50 Catholic High School

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Nova Southeastern University

M.S., Business Education, Florida International University

B.B.A., Management Information Systems, Florida International University

CERTIFICATIONS

Educational Leadership • Business Education • Social Studies • Economics