

Application Form**Profile**

If you have any questions or difficulty submitting this application, please reach out to Alex Guzhnay at aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov or call 203-946-7670.

Yexandra

First Name

Diaz

Last Name

Middle
Initial

yexidiaz9@gmail.com

Email Address

505 Huntington Street

Home Address

Suite or Apt

New Haven

City

CT

State

06511

Postal Code

What ward do you live in (optional - please select ward if you know)?☒ Ward 20

Mobile: (203) 940-9043

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are any of the above number a cell phone number?☒ Yes ☐ No**If so, which? Also, is it okay to send a text message?**

yes

Are you currently employed by the City of New Haven or the New Haven Public School System?☐ Yes ☒ No

Self Employed

Employer

Strategic Development
Consultant

Job Title

To see our list of Boards and Commissions please click here: <https://newhaven-ct.granicus.com/boards/w/976a34cad711af7c/boards>

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Cultural Affairs Commission: Submitted

Youth Commission: Submitted

Is this an appointment or reappointment request? *

☒ Appointment

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve. Please attach any of the follow:

Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Professional Bio, or a Statement of Interest.

[Y.Diaz_Resume.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

If not submitting a Resume or CV, please submit a ~150 word Statement of Interest as to why you are interested in serving on your selected boards/commissions. If you have uploaded a resume, you can write n/a.

n/a

Question applies to Youth Commission,Peace Commission

Are you under 18 or over 18? If under 18, please provide your DOB. If over 18, you can write n/a

No

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I am interested in serving on the Youth Commission because I am deeply committed to empowering young people and amplifying their voices through community-driven initiatives and restorative practices. Over the past seven years, my work in youth development has focused on creating safe spaces for self-expression, leadership, and personal growth. I am passionate about addressing the barriers that many young people face—whether social, economic, or educational and ensuring they have access to the resources and support needed to thrive. Serving on the Youth Commission would allow me to advocate for policies and programs that prioritize youth empowerment, equitable opportunities, and community engagement.

Why do you believe you would be a good fit for your selected board and commission(s)?

I believe I would be an exceptional fit for the Youth Commission because of my extensive background in youth development, community engagement, and restorative practices. For over seven years, I have dedicated my career to empowering young people through storytelling, arts education, and experiential learning. As a teaching artist, I have led creative writing and storytelling workshops at Common Ground High School, Highville Charter Upper School and Trinity Liberal Arts College International Hip Hop Festival's Youth 4 Change initiative (amongst others), centering self-expression and community-building. My work as an experiential facilitator has included guiding youth through team-building exercises, environmental education and leadership training, equipping them with the confidence and skills to thrive. Additionally, my training in nonviolent communication and restorative practices have been integrated into my work as a consultant and facilitator. I have provided training for Youth at Work interns placed with Solar Youth, delivered facilitations for The CT Justice Alliance (formerly the CT Juvenile Justice Alliance), and supported staff and clinicians at Highville Charter School and Integrated Wellness Group with trauma-informed and culturally responsive approaches. My commitment to youth advocacy extends to my role as a mentor with CHOICES, an at-risk youth violence intervention program, where I work directly with high school athletes navigating complex life challenges. I also recently became an emergency foster placement and am in the process of becoming a licensed foster parent, further deepening my understanding of the critical needs of vulnerable youth. My hands-on experience with community-based programs and my dedication to creating equitable opportunities for youth would allow me to bring valuable insights to the Youth Commission, supporting its mission to enhance the lives and futures of young people in New Haven.

Do you have any time commitments that would prevent you from participating in board/commission meetings? Meeting times can be found by visiting newhavenct.gov/boards, but most are usually once a month for 1-2 hours.

I do not

Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be politically proportionate, per State Statute on minority party representation (CGS § 9-167a). What is your political affiliation on your voter registration?

Unaffiliated

In order to stay compliant with our city's charter, are you registered to vote in New Haven?

☒ Yes ☐ No

We strive to maintain diversity in all of our Boards and Commissions. These questions are optional and if you volunteer the information we will only use it to ensure that our boards and commissions are diverse.

Ethnicity

☒ Hispanic

Gender

☒ Female

How did you hear about serving on our Boards & Commissions?

Was contacted by Alex Guzhnay and encouraged to apply

Yexandra Diaz

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NEW HAVEN, CT 06511
(203) 940-9043
YEXIDIAZ9@GMAIL.COM

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hang Time CT Inc.: Statewide – *Strategic Development Consultant*

AUGUST 2024 - PRESENT

- Leads strategic initiatives to drive funding acquisition, partnerships, and capacity-building, securing grants and corporate sponsorships with a 100% success rate while developing donor stewardship and professional development

Public Allies CT (AmeriCorps): Statewide – *Senior Program Manager*

NOVEMBER 2021 - JUNE 2024

- Managed a diverse set of responsibilities, including recruitment, selection, and management of apprentices and partnering nonprofit organizations; curriculum development and delivery, data management and reporting; public relations, marketing and general liaison functions

Serrato (Job Corps): New Haven, CT – *Career Readiness Instructor*

SEPTEMBER AUGUST 2021 - NOVEMBER 2021

- Facilitated individual and/or group lessons designed to assist students in preparation for post graduation success, developing skills for long-term employability

Solar Youth, Inc.: New Haven, CT – *Site Coordinator*

SEPTEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2020

- Oversaw and ensured the success of program delivery through functions such as curriculum development, management and implementation; program evaluation through qualitative data as well as facilitating continued professional development of support educators and youth interns

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CT Office of The Arts – *Air Collaborative Facilitator*

FEBRUARY 2024 - PRESENT

- Deliver Air's collaboration, design thinking and business planning methods, workshops & coaching, empowering communities to self facilitate and scale public art projects, bolstering their local creative economy

Arts Council of Greater New Haven – *Artist Corps Facilitator*

DECEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2025

- Reviewed and selected submissions in addition to mentoring 3 grantees, empowering them to produce community based public art installations

City of New Haven Dept of Arts, Culture & Tourism – *Intern*

JUNE 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022

- Provided administrative and programmatic support, advancing cultural capacity-building while representing Movimiento Cultura through the Creative Workforce Initiative

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Essentials 32 – *Community Leadership Program*

DECEMBER 2023 - JUNE 2024

- Participated in value based generative community leadership development focused on adaptive leadership, courageous dialogue and community centered impact

LEADERSHIP IMPACT STATEMENT

Strategic leader in economic and community development committed to advancing equity through philanthropy, advocacy and capacity building. Passionate about leveraging trust based funding and cross sector partnerships to drive systemic change, empower communities and foster sustainable impact.

SUMMARY OF SKILLS

- Grant Writing & Fund Development
- Impact Measurement & Storytelling
- Philanthropy & Trust Based Giving
- Policy Advocacy & Systems Change
- Program Development & Implementation
- Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement
- Equity & Racial Justice Practices
- Organizational Capacity Building

NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS

Common Ground High School – *Visiting Instructor*

SEPTEMBER 2019 - 2024

- Provides yearly instruction on the role of storytelling in our lives, culminating in individual pieces

Trinity College – *Visiting Instructor*

APRIL 2021 - 2024

- Instructs yearly Youth for Change writing workshop on various poetic conventions and literary devices

UConn – *Visiting Instructor*

MARCH 2024

- Taught undergraduates poetry principles and performance techniques, aiding in creating comprehensive bodies of work