



**NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT BY OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
TO BOARD OR COMMISSION**

**TO:** City Council

**THROUGH:** Todd Stermer, City Clerk

**BY:** Jerry P. Dyer, Mayor

  X   Reappointment

       New Appointment

Name of person replaced: N/A

**Name:** Laura Ward

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Appointed to:** Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission

**Term:** Through July 1, 2029

*City Council 7/17/2025*

## Application Form

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### Profile

#### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

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Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission (PRAC): Submitted

Laura

First Name

E.

Middle  
Initial

Ward

Last Name

Email Address

Home Address

Fresno

City

CA

State

93704

Postal Code

#### What district do you live in? \*

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☒ District 1

#### Briefly explain why are you interested in serving on this board or commission?

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I was born and raised in Fresno, and have strongly believed in reinvesting my energy and efforts into making the City of Fresno a better place since I moved back in 2007 after law school. It has been a distinct pleasure to serve as the Chair of the City of Fresno Women's Commission, and as the Vice Chair of the City of Fresno Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission. Since I was appointed to the PRAC in June of 2023, I have chaired the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, which has been both challenging and deeply rewarding. We worked collaboratively with the Fresno Arts Council, City staff, and the local arts community to get a City of Fresno Cultural Arts Plan adopted, design and implement the first year Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant program, and work through the revisions to get improved guidelines in place for the second year of that program. It is thrilling to see the public support from Measure P tax dollars invested into art and culture organizations, and fund a diverse set of art and culture projects, across the City of Fresno. It would be an honor to be reappointed to serve as a commissioner on the PRAC, to be able to continue that meaningful work over the next term.

#### Educational background, Schools Attended, Degrees and Certifications

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1. University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, CA - Juris Doctor with a concentration in Taxation, May 2007 2. Stanford University, Stanford, CA - Bachelor of Arts in English (creative writing emphasis) and minor in Art History, June 2004 3. Certified in Healthcare Compliance, Health Care Compliance Assoc., May 2017 to Present 4. Certified Fraud Examiner, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, March 2021 to Present 5. Certified Yoga Instructor, RYT-200, Balanced Rock Foundation in Yosemite CA, May 2016 to Present

**Briefly explain your qualifications or areas of demonstrated expertise for this board or commission.**

I have served as the Vice Chair and Chair of the City of Fresno Women's Commission in its first three years, serve in various director and officer roles for nonprofit organizations and their committees, and have served on the City of Fresno's Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission since July of 2023 (chairing the Cultural Arts Subcommittee since that time and in the role of Vice Chair since July of 2024). Prior to my appointment to the PRAC, I held director and officer roles with the Fresno Arts Council for a five year period. I helped to author arts-related portions of Measure P, canvassed neighborhoods to collect signatures to get it onto the ballot, and could not be more proud of the local initiative that the community created and benefits from, with the advisory assistance of the PRAC. My role on the PRAC has been very time intensive, participating closely as the Cultural Arts Plan was revised and the EAAC grant program was designed, implemented, and revised - I appreciate the trust that my fellow commissioners and the local artists, nonprofit administrators, and culture bearers have established which enabled them to share their criticisms, hopes, and dreams for the EAAC grant program, so that we can continue to improve it moving forward and ensure it continues to serve the diverse communities across the City of Fresno for which it was established.

**Do you or an immediate family member have any professional or financial relationship that may present a potential conflict of interest for this board, commission or similar body?**

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Work History**

<u>Ward Legal, Inc.</u>	<u>Attorney/Owner</u>
Employer	Job Title

**Work Address**

[REDACTED]

**City, State, Zip Code**

[REDACTED]

**Provide 3 Personal and Professional References. Provide name, address, and phone number where they may be reached during the day.**

1. Paul Gibson. Past-President of North Fresno Rotary, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] tive Dire [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ck  
W [REDACTED]

Question applies to multiple boards

**The Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits public officials from using their official positions to influence governmental decisions in which they have a financial interest. The Board Members in the designed positions must disclose their financial interests as specified in the agency's conflict of interest code.**

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**I agree that I have read the above and agree to file a Statement of Economic Interest Form should I be appointed to a Board, Commission, or similar body according to the adopted resolution.**

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☒ I Agree