

City of Sacramento  
**Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Report**  
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.cityofsacramento.org

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**File ID:** 2024-01921

11/7/2024

**Consent Item 4.**

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**2024 Volunteer Recognition Awards**

File ID: 2024-01921

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a **Motion** to approve the volunteer recognition awardee list.

**Contact:** Raymond Rodriguez, Support Services Manager, 916-808-1001,  
rrodriguez@cityofsacramento.org, Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment

**Presenter:** Raymond Rodriguez, Support Services Manager, 916-808-1001,  
rrodriguez@cityofsacramento.org, Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment

**Attachments:**

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-List of Awardees

**Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** One of the Commission's powers and duties is to encourage individuals, businesses and community groups to contribute funds, property, and volunteer services for the development and operation of park and recreation facilities and programs.

The Commission has established this program and process to accept and consider nominations for the Volunteer Recognition Award as part of its Volunteer Recognition Program. These awards are intended to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses that have made efforts to benefit the community by assisting the City of Sacramento in providing exceptional parks and recreational facilities and programs.

This is to approve the following Volunteer Nomination Awards listed below.

**Policy Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Economic Impacts:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** Not applicable.

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**Sustainability:** Not applicable.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Approve the Volunteer Recognition awardee list for December presentation.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Commission nominates and approves annual nominations.

**Financial Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 25, 2024, 07:47PM EDT


<b>Recognition Category</b>	Youth
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Organization
<b>Organization</b>	n/a
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 1
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	<p>Located in District 1 in the City of Sacramento, One Youth Natomas is a middle and high school volunteer program that provides weekly volunteer opportunities for students to engage with their community, foster connections with their peers, and develop valuable leadership skills. These opportunities not only help the youth discover their potential as young leaders but also help them appreciate the cultures that surround them. This can be seen from the District 1 community events where One Youth volunteers always provide invaluable support, including the Juneteenth, Latino/Chicano, and APPI celebrations that are held annually.</p> <p>Other District 1 events, such as District 1 Movie Nights and the weekly One Natomas Farmers Market that runs throughout the summer, would be impossible without the help of the One Youth Natomas volunteers. These students, along with dedicated staff and supervisors, are typically the first to be at an event to help with set up and the last to leave once everything is cleaned up. During the events, One Youth Natoma volunteers provide support through tabling booths, handing out flyers, managing game areas, and helping vendors with any last minute requests.</p> <p>The One Youth Natoma program prides itself on ensuring that North Natomas remains a great place to live within the City through partnering to keep our waterways clean, parks maintained, and trees planted. Throughout the tree planting season at the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, three tree plantings were hosted in District 1, where over 100 trees were planted, and an average of 50 students attended each event. At the largest tree planting, over 70 One Youth volunteers showed up on a breezy Saturday morning, showing their dedication and love for their community. One Youth has also partnered to plant hundreds of shrubs and plants and</p>

participated in numerous clean ups along our canals to keep waterways clean.

The One Youth Natoma program has seen the transformation of students who may begin volunteering hesitant but end the program as young leaders ready to enter whichever next chapter of life they choose. While some volunteers have gathered over 200 hours of service, others see the program as an avenue to complete the baseline hours needed to complete their Senior Service project. Either way, all students have gained valuable skills, friends, and a new appreciation for their community. Hearing the stories seniors share during their senior service night presentations shows that One Youth has made a tremendous impact in North Natomas within the two years since the program launched.

The One Youth Natomas program is dedicated to providing safe, fun, and career oriented opportunities for young people to help them succeed and become today's young leaders.

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	ODET FORD
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	No
<b>Email</b>	odetford@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Council District</b>	District 1



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 25, 2024, 03:33PM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Parks
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Individual Community Group
<b>Individual Name</b>	Nancy Azevedo
<b>Community Group</b>	Clean, Safe & Beautiful Bike Trail
<b>Email</b>	candbbiketrialgrp@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 2
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	District 2 neighborhood advocate of the Sacramento Northern Parkway. Spearheading over 7 parkway clean ups.

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Gordon Lew
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	Noralto Neighbors United
<b>Email</b>	Noraltounited@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 2



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 17, 2024, 11:18AM PDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Community Enrichment
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Community Group Non Profit Organization
<b>Community Group</b>	Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association
<b>Non-Profit</b>	The GNNA
<b>Organization</b>	The GNNA
<b>Email</b>	gnnaboard@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 3
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	the GNNA (Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association) has been a huge impact in District 3 for many years a heart of many Community Enrichment events in our area. for many years now they hosted not just only park clean ups but many clean ups and other events on the northgate corridor. The GNNA is always first to step in and volunteer at any event most recently for NatomasMania and 916 day was a huge help before during and after the events. The GNNA is a standard of how to be a leader and how to give back to our community making a positive impact each and every day.

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Robbie Robbins
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	City of Sacramento parks commission
<b>Email</b>	robbierobbins916@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 3



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 28, 2024, 11:08AM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Parks
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Community Group
<b>Community Group</b>	Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association
<b>Email</b>	colonialheightsneighborhood@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 6
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	<p>The Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association are excellent stewards of Colonial Park. Through continued communication with their park commissioners, city leaders, park department staff and the 311 system, they are an interactive force in preserving and designing their place to connect, play and relax.</p> <p>The Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association Park Committee, comprised of Greg Ruzzovan, Kathy Hayes, Ian Thompson, and Mark Harrington are recognized alongside of the association for their extensive volunteer effort to improve the park by way of maintenance, and enhancement. Through continued clean up efforts, tree planting, an expansive native plant planting, and amenity planning, the park continues to evolve to serve the needs of the community.</p> <p>Colonial Park's art expanded dramatically in 2024, with a refresh of the beloved CARE Girl painting, new murals and a community initiated rotating art project, still in progress. The park celebrated it's 114th birthday with neighbors who serve as the keepers of the history and transformation of their neighborhood's center. Innovative community events such as Porchfest and the Kickball League provide an engaging, relevant and welcoming environment for Colonial Heights neighbors and surrounding community members.</p> <p>To quote Mark Harrington, who I have had the pleasure of learning about Colonial Park from over many years, "Neighborhood parks are a Sacramento treasure. The more invested in them the more they can offer and the richer the experience."</p>

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Victoria Vasquez
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	City of Sacramento, Parks & Community Enrichment Commission
<b>Email</b>	PCECDistrict6@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Council District</b>	District 6





# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**


Oct 28, 2024, 04:44PM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Community Enrichment
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Community Group
<b>Community Group</b>	Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association
<b>Email</b>	president@tahoe park.org
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 6
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	<p>The Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association is a phenomenal example of how a community group can activate its local park to become a hub of year round gathering, community connection and engaging enrichment. Through consistent, organized volunteer ship, they have implemented a wildly successful series of community events at Tahoe Park that celebrates 11 years in 2024, now called the Food Trucks and Maker's Market.</p> <p>The neighborhood association first partnered with then Councilmember Kevin McCarty in June 2013 to launch monthly Food Truck Expos in the park. Initially, these events were held for about 4 5 months each year. Through their continued partnership with Councilmember Eric Guerra, they've now expanded to an eight month season, running from March to October on the fourth Friday of each month.</p> <p>These gatherings bring the community together to enjoy delicious food, live music, and give local community members the opportunity to share their talents and products with others at the unique Makers Market. The thought and care put into each event by the planning committee is evident in their relationship building with local groups and businesses to provide relevant amenities such as the Bike Valet provided by Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, the free arts and crafts provided by the Optimist Club, access to speak with your local and state government officials and lots of comfortable seating to enjoy the Sacto Mofu food truck offerings. This is just a small sampling of the partnerships the neighborhood association thoughtfully curates out of love for their neighbors.</p> <p>For the past six years, they've capped off the season with a Halloween themed Spooktacular event in October, featuring a</p>

costume contest, trunk or treat activity, and welcoming thousands of attendees. The trunk or treat delights youth and adults alike through the partnership with the Sacramento Low Riders Commission.

Thank you to the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association for creating and continuing to provide all of these events which are free and open to everyone, helping to make Tahoe Park a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Commissioner, Victoria Vasquez
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	City of Sacramento, Parks & Community Enrichment Commission
<b>Email</b>	PCECDistrict6@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Council District</b>	District 6




# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 28, 2024, 03:52PM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Community Enrichment
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Non Profit
<b>Non-Profit</b>	United & Guided
<b>Email</b>	ilucas@unitedandguided.org
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 6
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	<p>I am nominating United and Guided for their incredible community enrichment at Tahoe Park, specifically the Self Care Sundays programming and annual park events.</p> <p>Self Care Sundays offer an uplifting weekly gathering at Sacramento's Tahoe Park, creating a consistent, secure outdoor space for families, particularly African American fathers, to connect with their children and community. Led by Papa Bears Village, a network founded by African American fathers, this service prioritizes the emotional and physical well being of inner city children through engaging activities like basketball camps, music, games, food, and bonding time. Open to all families, Self Care Sundays are designed to foster unity, strength, and support, with a specific focus on Black fatherhood.</p> <p>Additionally, United And Guided hosts three annual themed events The Parent Festival in April, DADTEENTH in June, and the Fall Family Festival in October to enrich family relationships and celebrate community milestones. This year's Fall Family Festival provided live music, delicious food, lots of resource vendors, voting information, a fun photo booth hosted by a city department, shopping from local vendors and so much more!</p> <p>This program provides a welcoming and inclusive environment at Tahoe Park, delivered in partnership with the California Department of Public Health's Perinatal Equity Initiative, promoting community wellness and joy every sunny Sunday. Through continued participation in the neighborhood association, and with the parks department and staff, United and Guided is an excellent example of how our local parks can be activated consistently, safely and become a cherished part of the daily lives of Sacramentans.</p>

# Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Commissioner, Victoria Vasquez
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	City of Sacramento, Parks & Community Enrichment Commission
<b>Email</b>	PCECDistrict6@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Council District</b>	District 6



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 28, 2024, 06:58PM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Parks
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Individual
<b>Individual Name</b>	Jane Kaiser
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 7
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	<p>I would like to recognize Jane Kaiser (and her College Plaza Neighbors) for their continued stewardship of Plaza Cervantes Park</p> <p>Under her eye, she would ask questions on how she can partner with YPCE to beautify and enhance her park, which has lead to beautification events to prune the Rose Garden, become official park steward to irrigate premium native plants that she partnered with the Land Park Community Association to win a local garden grant to install the native plants. She has also partnered with area local businesses to contribute to creating and installing an education sign that was placed within the garden, to educate the public about the native plants. Jane reached out to YPCE to assess the health of existing park trees, that helped identified some for removal that then triggered a project to plant 10 more in its place.</p> <p>Jane's tenacity and volunteerism is the very definition of being a Parks Champion and more than earned the Commission recognition.</p> <p>I am more than happy to have partnered with her to enhance Plaza Cervantes and nominate her for recognition.</p> <p>Joe Flores Parks Commissioner District 7</p>

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Joe Flores
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or</b>	Yes

<b>group?</b>	
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	PCEC: District 7
<b>Email</b>	PCECDistrict7@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 7



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 28, 2024, 06:50PM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Parks
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Individual
<b>Individual Name</b>	Pat Clark & Sue Ruiz
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 7
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	<p>I would like to recognize both Pat Clark &amp; Sue Ruiz (who Represent the South Pocket Homeowners Association also) for their continued stewardship of Marriott Park.</p> <p>Under their eye, have been the catalyst for multiple phases of tree plantings at Marriot Park and working with YPCE Park's maintenance and arborist for their continued care of the health and vitality of the trees at Marriot Park.</p> <p>It has been a pleasure partnering with them.</p> <p>Joe Flores Parks Commissioner District 7</p>

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Joe Flores
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	PCEC: District 7
<b>Email</b>	PCECDistrict7@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 7



# Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Volunteer Recognition Nomination Form City of Sacramento

**Submitted On:**

Oct 29, 2024, 10:02PM EDT

<b>Recognition Category</b>	Youth
<b>Please identify nominee from categories below (Select all that apply)</b>	Individual
<b>Individual Name</b>	Alexandria Russell
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	Unknown
<b>Please include a description of the nominee's background and achievements.</b>	Alex Russell (White Mountain Apache) is an honored Elder here in Sacramento. She is a mentor, teacher, friend, and auntie to everyone she comes in contact with. Our community believes that culture is prevention, and Alex is always willing to teach young people cultural ways through pottery, painting, and other traditional practices. Alex sits on several community boards and volunteers her time to ensure Sacramento is a safe and inviting place for our young people. She is always ready with a word of encouragement and guidance, and Sacramento is a better place because of her.

## Nominator's Information

<b>Name</b>	Jeanine Gaines
<b>Are you affiliated with any organization, business or group?</b>	Yes
<b>Name of Affiliated Group</b>	Parks and Community Enrichment Commission
<b>Email</b>	jeaninergaines@gmail.com
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Council District</b>	District 8