

Application Form

Profile

Cara _____ Kaser _____
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name

 Email Address

 Home Address

 Suite or Apt

 City

 State

 Postal Code

What Ward do you live in? *

Nonresident

 Primary Phone

 Alternate Phone

Oregon Department of
 Administrative Services,
 Enterprise Information Services
 Employer

IT Service Management
 Program Manager
 Job Title

Information Technology
 Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Historic Landmarks Commission: Submitted

Which of the following City of Salem Board or Commission meetings have you attended? *

- Citizen Budget Committee
- Citizens Advisory Traffic Commission
- Downtown Advisory Board
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Salem Housing Advisory Committee
- Salem Planning Commission
- West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board

Interests & Experiences

What do you feel you can contribute as a board or commission member?

I can contribute a unique skillset and over 7 years of experience as a professional historic preservationist to help determine the best way to regulate Salem's historic homes, places of business, and important places. I am a "pragmatic preservationist" and understand that every community has unique needs. I believe one of the best ways to figure out what regulation works best to manage historic places is by reaching out and openly communicating to community members where they are, whether it be neighborhood associations, local businesses, civic and professional organizations, or other city boards and commissions. I plan to bring this approach to the Commission for outreach, education, and open communication to the community so that together we can create historic property regulation that meets the needs of both property owners and community members.

[Upload a Resume](#)

What prompted your interest in applying to serve as a board or commission member?

I've always loved history and historic preservation, and I also previously served on the Historic Landmarks Commission from 2014-2016. I resigned from the HLC after I was elected to the Salem City Council in 2016 and served from 2017-2020. I've since moved from Salem, but my place of business is still in Salem, and I have deep personal and family connections to the city. I became aware of an upcoming opening on the Commission and am interested in serving on the Commission again. I enjoy combining my knowledge and experience of historic preservation and land use law and processes to help the City of Salem preserve its historic places.

Please explain how your education, professional, personal, or volunteer experience and knowledge qualify you to serve on the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying.

I have a BA and MA in History, with a special focus on Public History and meet the US Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Qualification Standards. Right after graduate school, I worked at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for seven years with the National Register of Historic Places program, the Survey & Registration program, and as an outreach specialist working with local governments and museums, archives, and libraries. I helped list over 40 properties in the National Register of Historic Places in Oregon during that time, and helped dozens of local and tribal governments in the state (including Certified Local Governments [CLGs]) get the tools, training, and guidance they wanted to preserve historic buildings, rejuvenate properties, and build community pride in their community's unique history. I also previously served on the Historic Landmarks Commission from 2014-2016. I resigned from the HLC after I was elected to the Salem City Council in 2016 and served from 2017-2020. I've since moved from Salem, but my place of business is still in Salem, and I have deep personal and family connections to the city.

List any experience you have with volunteering for the City of Salem or other organizations.

Planning Commission, Vice Chair, City of Silverton, OR (2023-present) City Councilor, Ward 1, City of Salem, OR (2017-2020) Historic Landmarks Commission, Commissioner, City of Salem, OR (2014-2016) Salem Community Emergency Response Team, City of Salem (2012-2020) Central Salem Mobility Study Committee, City of Salem (2011-2013) Capitol Planning Commission, State of Oregon (2010-2011) Board Member, Grant Neighborhood Association, Salem, OR (2008-2016)

Briefly explain any experience you have working with your neighborhood association or other public bodies or committees.

I was a board member of the Grant Neighborhood Association from 2008-2016 and served 6 different NAs as a Salem City Councilor from 2017-2020. I have worked with Salem NAs extensively for several years on a variety of issues, many of which stemmed from land use planning. Below are other public bodies and committees I served on: Planning Commission, Vice Chair, City of Silverton, OR (2023-present) City Councilor, Ward 1, City of Salem, OR (2017-2020) Historic Landmarks Commission, Commissioner, City of Salem, OR (2014-2016) Salem Community Emergency Response Team, City of Salem (2012-2020) Central Salem Mobility Study Committee, City of Salem (2011-2013) Capitol Planning Commission, State of Oregon (2010-2011) Board Member, Grant Neighborhood Association, Salem, OR (2008-2016)

Can you commit to attending a minimum of 75 percent of scheduled meetings? (Please refer to the City's website for the meeting schedule. Failure to meet the attendance requirement may result in removal from office.)

Yes No

Please list up to three (3) references whom we could contact to learn more about your qualifications (name/email address or phone number/relationship).

Kimberli Fitzgerald Historic Preservation Program Manager Historic Preservation Officer & City Archaeologist City of Salem kfitzgerald@cityofsalem.net 503-540-2397 Former colleague/staff to HLC
Kuri Gill Grants & Outreach Coordinator Historic Cemeteries Program Coordinator Oregon Heritage Oregon State Historic Preservation Office kuri.gill@opr.d.oregon.gov 503-986-0685 Former colleague
Chrissy Curran Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Oregon Heritage Oregon State Historic Preservation Office chrissy.curran@opr.d.oregon.gov 503-986-0684 Former manager

Question applies to Historic Landmarks Commission

Please list the colleges/universities attended, including degrees earned, areas of study, and dates completed.

Portland State University, BA, History (2005) Washington State University, MA, History (2007) Portland Community College, Certificates, Computer Information Systems; Java Programming (2014)

Question applies to Historic Landmarks Commission

Please describe any work or volunteer experience involving local history and/or historic preservation activities such as publications, committee work, etc.

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Question applies to Historic Landmarks Commission

In your opinion, why is historic preservation important for the city of Salem?

We can learn a lot about our current community by how we think of and treat our historic buildings and places. The way we as a community and region look at and use historic places can speak volumes to where we do and don't place our values. The public can learn so much from historic places in terms of our local cultures, a sense of pride, and being unique in our world that can never be regained once those places are gone. This is especially important as Salem continues to grow and change demographically and culturally. New buildings and places eventually become old buildings and places with historical significance. History is always changing, and I want to help ensure that the way Salem manages its historic places is reflective of these changes -- that's why historic preservation planning and regulation is important for the City of Salem. The HLC should continuously strive to create thoughtful, meaningful, and equitable historic property regulation that meets the needs of the community. Doing so requires the HLC to reach out to the community through neighborhood associations, civic and commercial groups, business and property owners, other city boards and commissions, among others. The Commission also needs to understand the current ordinances and processes, and ensure current regulation and process is relevant, and consider and recommend changes for improvement.

Question applies to Historic Landmarks Commission

Please indicate the area(s) in which you have work experience: *

- Archaeology or architectural history
 - Historic architecture or historic landscape architecture
 - Historic preservation or historic preservation planning
 - History or local history
 - Restoration, construction, or real estate
-
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Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be racially, politically or geographically proportionate to the general public. The following information helps track our recruitment and diversity efforts.

Ethnicity

None Selected

Gender

None Selected