

Application Form

Profile

Gretchen

First Name

B

Middle Initial

Coppedge

Last Name

Email Address

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Salem

City

OR

State

97302

Postal Code

What Ward do you live in? *☒ Ward 3

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

retired

Employer

Job Title

Educator

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Salem Public Library Advisory Board: Submitted

Which of the following City of Salem Board or Commission meetings have you attended? *☒ None

Interests & Experiences**What do you feel you can contribute as a board or commission member?**

As an educator and active community participant I offer varied perspectives. I am on the board for the Salem Multicultural Inst. and actively involved in the World Beat Festival and on-going gallery cultural programming. I coordinate a reading program for Head Start students at Baker Head Start. I have been active with the Master Gardener community education program, and I am active with the Salem Art Association, specifically with the Bush Art Gallery. I have made a strong commitment to the city of Salem, having lived and taught here 40 years ago and returned to experience the newer and revitalized city.

Upload a Resume

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

I was informed there were openings on the board and am aware the library is experiencing much change, and will be experiencing more change in the future. It is a good time to be involved.

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 been a professional educator in elementary schools through universities, locally and internationally. I have been a board member of numerous non-profits, dating back to the Eugene Opera Board in the 1990's till now with the Salem Multi-cultural Inst. and Salem Art Association Gallery Guides. I have worked for local governments (Lane County Legal Counsel) prior to leaving the country to pursue international education.

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

Salem Multicultural Inst./World Beat, SMART, Salem Art Association, Master Gardener, Awesome 3000, etc.

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

Aside from the organizations I have listed I also am involved with the Salem mayor's International Committee and Salem for Refugees.

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).

Jim Schepcke,	- co-volunteer (SMART)	Jane Cummins Fiedler -
co-volunteer (Art Assoc.)	Bill Sutkus -	- co-volunteer (Master Gardner)

When did you last visit the Salem Public Library? Tell us about your experience during that visit.

Two weeks ago. I visit the library regularly to visit the Friends of the Library store, attend meetings and/or presentations, and to check out books. The library offers welcoming space for all of these activities.

In your opinion, what role does the Salem Public Library play in making Salem a livable community?

The library plays a very real role in making Salem a more livable community. The ability to access books and other reading material (online and printed) is vital for the intellectual support and growth of a community especially for individuals involved in academic and community work (students and lifelong learners). It is vital for a large segment of the city's population who do not have ready access to internet as well. Being able to attend civic, cultural and educational programs in an open, accessible facility adds to the value of the library. I have lived in a number of countries where libraries were an unattainable luxury and the Salem library was one of the factors which motivated me to move here.

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

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

☒ Female