

Application for City Council Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Profile

Julia

First Name

Sands de Melendez

Last Name

Email Address

Are you a resident of the City of Colorado Springs?

☒ Yes ☐ No

In what City Council District do you reside? *

- ☐ District 1 ☐ District 4 ☐ I live outside City limits.
☐ District 2 ☐ District 5
☒ District 3 ☐ District 6

Use the following link to determine if you live inside City limits and to find your City Council District:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/city-clerk/page/city-council-districts>

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

CSLI (part time)

Employer

Mostly retired

Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

- ☐ Airport Advisory Commission
☐ Audit Committee
☐ Citizen Transportation Advisory Board
☐ City/County Drainage Board
☐ Civil Service Commission
☐ Council District Process Advisory Committee
☐ Downtown Review Board
☐ Fire Board of Appeals
☐ Historic Preservation Board
☐ Independent Ethics Commission
☐ Initiative Review Committee
☐ Law Enforcement Transparency and Advisory Commission
☐ Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax Citizen's Advisory Committee
☒ Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
☐ Planning Commission
☐ Public Art Commission
☐ Stormwater Advisory Committee
☐ TOPS Working Committee

Briefly introduce yourself and state your interest in serving on a specific Board, Commission, or Committee

I've lived and worked in the Pikes Peak region for almost 40 years. My husband and I raised our 3 sons here and one of them is raising his children here. The other two are in the military. I am passionate about civic engagement and leadership, and service is a core value.

I retired from a career of administration when I left the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute in 2021, after having worked for them for seven years. They have currently hired me to work on a part time basis to help them through a leadership transition. Since my retirement, I have been working as an actor and producer. I have been in several commercials in Denver and helped produce a feature length film that has won several awards on the film festival circuit. We are currently shopping this film to hopefully be picked up by a streamer for wider distribution.

I am currently serving on the parks board and would like to serve a second term. Our city trails, parks and open spaces are the reason I live here, and it is important to me to have the opportunity to be a steward for them.

Relevant Experience and Community Involvement

Highlight any volunteer work, previous service on boards or committees, and community involvement that demonstrates your commitment to public service and the community.

I have served on the El Paso County Parks Advisory board, and I am currently serving on the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services board. I served for 5 years on the Public Arts Commission until it was disbanded by City Council, and I am also currently serving on the LART committee as one of the Parks board representatives.

In my neighborhood, I serve as treasurer of the Ivywild Improvement Society and have also served in several other non-profit boards over years.

Supplemental Materials (if applicable) Please attach the document when sending your application.

Include any additional materials that may strengthen your application, such as a resume or examples of your work in the community.

Profile

Kimberley Sherwood
First Name Last Name

[Redacted] Email Address

Are you a resident of the City of Colorado Springs?

☒ Yes ☐ No

In what City Council District do you reside? *

☒ District 5

Use the following link to determine if you live inside City limits and to find your City Council District:
<https://coloradosprings.gov/city-clerk/page/city-council-districts>

[Redacted] Street Address Suite or Apt
Colorado Springs CO [Redacted]
City State Postal Code

[Redacted] Primary Phone
Third Sector Group, DBA Founder and Principal
Kimberley Sherwood Consultant
Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board: Submitted

Introduction

Briefly introduce yourself and state your interest in serving on a specific Board, Commission, or Committee

I sincerely appreciate the meaning of land and green spaces as vital to creating and sustaining livable communities for our neighbors and citizens. Parks, in particular, play a key role in climate resilience, mental and physical health, and community well-being, all of which will define our future as a City and region. When I first moved to the Pikes Peak Region, I joined the Pikes Peak Trails and Open Space Coalition, known now as Trails and Open Space Coalition. Then ED, Skye Ridley, inspired us to pursue funding for intermodal transportation, specifically championing "rails to trails" projects. I was taken with the vision that one could take a trail from anywhere in the City and get to the top of Pikes Peak. While there's still more to do to make the totality of the vision come to life, it was through that experience that I learned of General Palmer's living legacy of parks. As an active cyclist (both trails and commuter), I rely on the access trails offer to places such as America the Beautiful Park. My love of parks and open spaces started as a kid growing up in northern VA, where my parents jointly purchased the lot between our house and that of our neighbor's, in essence creating our own private park. A wonderland of woods, birds, berries, and paths. Early exposure to the benefit of the outdoors lit a fire. It inspired me to stand up against development on the banks of the Potomac River, work with the Youth Conservation Corps in Wyoming, and participate in projects with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. I bring decades of experience in the nonprofit sector and am a visionary and strategic thinker with a penchant for collaboration and action. I'm excited about the potential to prioritize parks as part of our City's approach to bolstering mental health, especially among kids. Colorado Springs is a leader, and I would love nothing more than to see our ParkScore <https://www.tpl.org/city/colorado-springs-colorado> move up the rankings. Imagine if we were in the top 10. Regardless, striving to improve our score helps to inform a roadmap of progress that will yield significant health and wellness benefits for our entire community.

Relevant Experience and Community Involvement

Highlight any volunteer work, previous service on boards or committees, and community involvement that demonstrates your commitment to public service and the community.

I currently serve on the advisory board of the Trust for Public Land for Colorado and the Southwest. I've served on the boards of the Colorado Nonprofit Association, the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care, the Statewide Homeless Management Information System Governing Board, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Region (co-founder), Community Charitable Partners, Citizens Project, The Urban League, and Girl Scouts Wagon Wheel Council.

Supplemental Materials (if applicable)

[Kimberley_Sherwood_Resume_2025.doc](#)

Include any additional materials that may strengthen your application, such as a resume or examples of your work in the community.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summary:

- Practitioner: 38 years nonprofit sector experience
- Fundraiser: Personally secured gifts from \$10,000 - \$2 million
- Facilitator: Consultant, Coach: Collaborated with executives and board leadership for more than 300 organizations

August 2000 to present

***Third Sector Group, Inc. DBA Kimberley Sherwood
Colorado Springs, CO
Founder and Principal***

Created and launched Third Sector Group to provide coaching, facilitation, and consulting services to the nonprofit sector. Specialties include governance, financial health, and strategy design. Since founding TSG, worked with more than 300 organizations with budgets ranging from \$125,000 to \$40 million. Client missions include abuse and neglect prevention, affordable housing, AIDS/HIV, art and culture, conservation, early childhood education, education, environment, food security, government efficiency, homelessness services, leadership development, mental health, literacy, substance abuse, and scouting. Responsible for managing all aspects of the practice including: business planning, marketing, office administration, and client services.

January 1991-August 2000

***Junior Achievement Inc. - National Headquarters
Colorado Springs, CO
Vice President National Development***

Recruited to this \$100 million national non-profit organization to diversify and strengthen the national fund-raising team. The national office budget - \$16 million. Reported to the CEO and Senior Vice President Resource Generation. Responsible for raising \$2-\$5 million annually depending on organizational need. Managed staff numbering from five to 16. Provided direct fund-raising training and service to 167 affiliate offices and boards of directors. Managed the fundraising of the national board of directors (70 FORTUNE 500 CEOs and community leaders).

Designed the cause-branding protocol for the national office; landed the first cause marketing deal for \$500,000. Funded five new products during tenure, increasing annual students served from 1 million to nearly 4 million. Transformed the organization's fund-raising process to foster collaboration and trust among and with affiliates. Instituted donor management system, resulting in nearly 100% donor (customer) retention on an annual basis.

- Raised \$7.1 million restricted and unrestricted revenue July 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000 (14 months) including a \$2 million gift.
- Raised \$9 million for JA's Elementary School Program (Capital)

'95 Vice President National Development. Promoted based on performance.

'91 Director Development. Responsible for managing the 20,000 member National Alumni Association; fund-raising marketing; collateral design; annual report; grant writing; and managing staff of 11.

August 1989-January 1991

***Hillcrest Medical Center Foundation
Tulsa, OK***

Director Annual Giving

Recruited to this regional medical center to manage the annual fund. Reported to the Vice President. Responsible for \$100,000 in annual revenue via direct mail. Published the CREST magazine—hospital's external communications piece, and a quarterly donor-focused marketing newsletter. Doubled the direct mail campaign performance and increased employee giving eight-fold.

August 1987-August 1989

National Public Radio Affiliate, KWGS-FM89 Tulsa, OK Director Development

Invited to join Northeastern Oklahoma's public radio station at the University of Tulsa as Associate Director Development. Promoted within three months to Director. Created a region-wide in-kind advertising campaign, which increased market share from 2 to 2.5 in one quarter. Managed all media relations.

Created the "face" (the brand) of KWGS by conducting live-remotes, pursuing media opportunities with local newscasters, inviting local celebrities to "pitch" during fund-raisers, and sponsoring performances on stages of various community festivals. Created, implemented and managed all community-supported fund-raising activities including on-air fund-drives, special events, corporate underwriting and foundation support. Managed department staff and 15 volunteers and hosted live, on-air fund-drives and a weekly radio program. Received national award for fund-raising. Secured grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to create organizational change to keep the station competitive.

COMMUNITY/LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Trust for Public Land for Colorado and the Southwest: Advisory Board- Current
Association Fundraising Executives - Chapter Board Member, National Faculty Member;
Center for Nonprofit Excellence Faculty; Charitable Venture Partners, Citizens Goals, Citizens Project, Colorado Democratic Party State Steering Committee, Colorado Nonprofit Association, Colorado Springs Dance Theatre, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, COPPeR - The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (Co-founder), Community Venture Partners, El Paso County Democratic Party Executive Committee, Girl Scouts Wagon Wheel Council, Junior League of Colorado Springs, Kids Voting, Peace Corps - Trainer, Pikes Peak Area Trails Coalition, Tulsa Center for Contemporary Art, Tulsa International Mayfest, The Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region

EDUCATION/AWARDS

1978-1983	BA Communication/Journalism, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
1983-1984	BA German, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
1996	Graduate, Leadership Pikes Peak
1999	Graduate, Leadership Development Program - Center for Creative Leadership
2004	Named Outstanding Fundraising Executive Southern Colorado Chapter AFP
2009	Graduate, Colorado Springs Leadership Institute
2013	Consultant Leadership Forum (Insight Committee and Member), Denver Foundation
2013	Community Inspiration Leadership Award recipient, Leadership Pikes Peak

Profile

Mike

First Name

Sullivan

Last Name

Email Address

Are you a resident of the City of Colorado Springs?☒ Yes ☐ No

In what City Council District do you reside? *☒ District 3

Use the following link to determine if you live inside City limits and to find your City Council District:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/city-clerk/page/city-council-districts>

Street AddressSuite or Apt

Colorado Springs

City

CO

State

Postal CodePrimary Phone

ERA Shields Real Estate

Employer

Owner

Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board: Submitted

Introduction

Briefly introduce yourself and state your interest in serving on a specific Board, Commission, or Committee

I am very interested in serving on the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board. I retired from education after 31 years where I taught and coached, but most of the time, I was a school administrator. I now work for ERA Shields Real Estate; the company my wife and I own. Being more involved in our community has been a goal of mine. We have lived in Colorado Springs for 33 years, raised our family here, and have loved every bit of it. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board is a great fit for me. With my experience in managing schools and working with people, I feel this board position is a way I can contribute to the community and also gain more experience. I am eager to listen, give input, and support our community. I have been an alternate on this board for almost two years now, and would love to become a voting member. Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan

Relevant Experience and Community Involvement

Highlight any volunteer work, previous service on boards or committees, and community involvement that demonstrates your commitment to public service and the community.

I am a member of the Downtown YMCA Advisory Board. Our company continues to take part in many volunteer activities every year, such as: Park clean-ups, painting homes, food drives, toy drives, and Holiday events. We try to give back to the community as much as we can.

Supplemental Materials (if applicable)

[Mike_Sullivan_Resume_2025.DOCX](#)

Include any additional materials that may strengthen your application, such as a resume or examples of your work in the community.

Mike Sullivan

SUMMARY

I am a thirty-three-year resident of Colorado Springs, a retired educator and now a business owner. I want to become more involved, and give back to our community by volunteering my time for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board. My experience and people skills allow me to be a contributing member of this board.

SKILLS

- Policy and Procedure Implementation
- Department Oversight
- Assignment Delegation
- Records Organization and Management
- Recruitment and hiring
- Performance Evaluation and Monitoring
- Administrative Management
- Staff Development
- Team Leadership
- Colorado Licensed Realtor

EXPERIENCE

Company Owner, ERA Shields Real Estate, June 2019-Current

Colorado Springs, CO

- Responsible for daily operations, supervising staff, and managing real estate agents.
- Organize educational workshops and Mentor Program.
- Recruitment of agents.
- Organize company run charity/volunteer opportunities.

Teacher/Administrator, Widefield School District 3, August 1992-May 2019

Colorado Springs, CO

- Dean of Students Janitell Junior School High 4 years
- Athletic Director Mesa Ridge High School 8 years
- Asst. Principal Janitell Junior School High 8 years
- Teacher/Coach Wide Field School District 3 7 years

BOARDS

- Alternate Board member Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board
- Advisory Board member Downtown YMCA Colorado Springs
- Board member Colorado Athletic Director Association

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Master of Arts Education Administration, University of Phoenix, Colorado Springs, CO December 2000

Bachelor of Science Exercise Sports Science, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ May 1990

Profile

Debbie

First Name

Swanson

Last Name

Email Address

Are you a resident of the City of Colorado Springs?

☒ Yes ☐ No

In what City Council District do you reside? *

☒ District 1

Use the following link to determine if you live inside City limits and to find your City Council District:

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Street Address

Suite or Apt

Colorado Springs

City

CO

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

City of Colorado Springs -
Police Department

Employer

Grants Analyst II

Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board: Submitted

Introduction

Briefly introduce yourself and state your interest in serving on a specific Board, Commission, or Committee

I have been a citizen of Colorado Springs since 1968. While growing up, parks were always important to my family, but a true appreciation of the City's offerings for parks did not come until I became an adult. I may not have lived anywhere else, but after talking to many people who have, I know Colorado Springs' commitment to a thriving park system is unique and unsurpassed by other cities around the country. As a nonprofit professional, I have advocated for the unique aspects of Colorado Springs that can be built upon to make it the best community in the nation to live. Parks are one strong piece. An active recreational and cultural scene is critical to a growing city, and I love how Colorado Springs has embraced this concept. To have them all under the management of one city department is most appropriate and signals a growing commitment that the city has to the wholistic welfare of its residents. I wish to be a supportive advocate for the good that the City does with its PRCS department.

Relevant Experience and Community Involvement

Highlight any volunteer work, previous service on boards or committees, and community involvement that demonstrates your commitment to public service and the community.

I currently serve as an alternate to the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board. These past two years have been hugely informational and critical to the development of my thinking of PRCS, and has prepared me well to be a full voting member. I also currently serve on the grants committee of the Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation Advisory Board, reading and collaborating with others in deciding how the Foundation's money is to be spent each year. I have previously served on my professional association's board, The Southern Colorado Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, for a total of 8 years. In that capacity, I served on various committees committed to bring fundraising to light as an ethical and inclusive profession. Part of my role there was reaching out to various communities to attract them to our events and to engage others in the prospect of a fundraising career. I have been an active volunteer for Colorado College since my graduation there. I have served on their Business and Community Alliance, their alumni admissions interview cadre, and the Public Interest Fellowship Program Advisory board (the program was committed to giving students nonprofit working experience, to encourage more students to consider a nonprofit professional career). I also have been active in my membership with the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and served on their Programs Committee for 4 years, chairing the committee for a year. I have been active in some volunteer activity outside of my work my entire adult life, whether within my church, my neighborhood, my profession, or community. I have a strong sense that our community is only as good as the effort its residents put in to serve it. I truly want to be part of a solution and not engage in being a problem for the city I love.

Supplemental Materials (if applicable)

[dswanson_-
Resume_2025.docx](#)

Include any additional materials that may strengthen your application, such as a resume or examples of your work in the community.

DEBORAH M. SWANSON, CFRE

Colorado Springs, CO

SKILL SUMMARY

Strategic planning + execution: analysis, development, defining objectives, implementing sustainable + progressive financial growth of nonprofit organizations. Drive to personalize vision of organization, provide superior service, and excellence in interpersonal skills to create maximum relational experience and align donors with mission and values of organization. Proactively lead with empowerment-based ethics to promote teamwork and instill vision in products. Community visibility, activism, and networking. Strong communication skills. Technical writing for grants; persuasive writing for marketing. Capable spokesperson and communicator.

DEVELOPMENT + LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

City of Colorado Springs Police Department, Grant Analyst: Colorado Springs, CO
2/2023 - present

Research, application, and management of grants that fund employees, equipment, and programs for the police department.

- Grant writing, with awards amounting to \$13.74M since March 2025
- Research and analysis of potential grant opportunities for the police department
- Managing grant process from writing, collecting required documentation, and electronic submission
- Recently begun submitting grant claims, and grant quarterly and year end reports

Advancement Momentum, LLC, Founder: Colorado Springs, CO
11/2020 - present

Founded Advancement Momentum to take advantage of freelance opportunities in the advancement realm including: communications, event planning, grant writing, and brand development.

- Grant writing, membership development, for Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Grant writing for Colorado Springs Hispanic Business Council (Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)
- Strategic goal development for Canon City Chamber of Commerce
- Blog writing for several fundraising websites.

Girl Scouts of Colorado, Fund Development Manager, Pikes Peak Region Denver, CO
11/2015 - 1/2021

Oversight of corporate sponsorships, major gifts development, stewardship and grant writing specifically for the Pikes Peak Region.

- Drove development for eight-county region raising funds for national initiatives and programs for girls
- Successful leadership of 450 donors raising approximately \$37,000 annually

- Secured nine grants totaling \$33,000
- Designed and implemented fundraising events, averaging \$25,000 in sponsorships annually

Early Connections Learning Centers, VP of Development: Colorado Springs, CO
3/2014 – 12/2014

Led 3-person department for advancement of the organization, including fund development and marketing. Developed strategies for major gift fundraising, grant calendaring and management, legacy giving, and annual fund. Significant community involvement promoting the organization brand and participating in studies of systemic issues in early care and education.

- Provided leadership for team of three advancement professionals
- Developed and delivered board training for first-time board fundraisers
- Partnered with two similarly positioned organizations to create co-brand opportunities

James Irwin Charter Schools, Director of Development: Colorado Springs, CO
9/2011 – 3/2014

Established a Development Office for the Schools, led strategic planning team to create charter management organization, drove government grant applications and reporting, developed annual fund and marketing campaigns, served as liaison to community and to media.

- Led team to create a charter management organization and development of three new schools
- Largest grant awarded: \$645,000
- Largest individual gift: \$30,000

Fostering Hope Foundation, Development Director: Colorado Springs, CO
4/2010 – 9/2011

Established Development Office for the agency, created inaugural development plan, devised marketing campaign for social media, created home-grown donor database, performed prospect research, “cold called” solicitations, and relationship management.

- Enthusiastically fulfilled requirement for major gifts cold calls, raising \$1,500
- Recruited and trained volunteer office staff saving the company approximately \$15,000
- Collaborated on awareness campaigns to recruit foster parents, gaining 24 within 18 months.
- Developed website, marketing materials and PSAs

The Resource Exchange, Director of Development: Colorado Springs, CO
12/2005 – 7/2009

Established newly-formed Development Office, created policies, procedures, reports, grants, database and research. Led project to create Marketing and Communications/Public Relations company structure. Brand development and staff training.

- Increased individual giving 65% year one, 223% year two
- Developed annual awareness-building events, with growth from 150 people to over 700
- Solicited sponsorships: \$21,000 collected annually

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. BA, English

Denver Paralegal Institute, Denver, CO. Honors Graduate

Leadership Pikes Peak, Signature Program, Colorado Springs, CO

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

Member: Association of Fundraising Professionals (S. CO Chapter). IDEA Committee member.

Member: Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Member: Grants Committee, Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation.

Personal: Outdoor enthusiast: running, hiking, biking. Dog enthusiast (mine is named Avery). Reading/writing.