



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jim Kreuser, County Executive

1010 – 56th Street, Third Floor

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

(262) 653-2600

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSAL

COUNTY EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT 2021/22-29

RE: KENOSHA COUNTY RACIAL & ETHNIC EQUITY COMMISSION

TO THE HONORABLE KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Placing special trust in his/her/their judgment and based upon his/her/their qualifications, I hereby submit to the Honorable Kenosha County Board of Supervisors for its review and approval the name of

Mimi Yang
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

to serve on the Kenosha County Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission beginning immediately upon confirmation of the County Board and continuing until the 31st day of December 2024 or until a successor is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors.

Mimi Yang will serve without pay.

Mimi Yang will be filling a vacancy on the Commission.

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of July 2021.

Jim Kreuser

Kenosha County Executive

COUNTY OF KENOSHA
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JIM KREUSER

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO
KENOSHA COUNTY RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUITY COMMISSION**

(Please type or print)

Name: Mimi Yang
First Middle Last

Residence Address: _____

Previous Address if above less than 5 years: n/a

Occupation: Carthage College/Massachusetts Historical Society Professor Emerita/New England Regional Fellow
Company Title

Business Address: 2001 Alford Park Drive

Telephone Number: Residence _____ Business _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Mailing Address Preference: Business ☐ Residence ☒

Email Address: _____

Do you or have you done business with any part of Kenosha County Government in the past 5 years? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please attach a detailed document.

Applicant's race/ethnicity (Optional):

Asian American with a Spanish background

(Note: Per the County Board resolution creating the commission, the makeup of the commission should, at a minimum, reflect the diverse racial and ethnic makeup of Kenosha County as determined by the most recent census information with at all times five of the seven non-County Board commissioners representing racial and ethnic minorities in Kenosha County.)

Affiliations: List affiliations in all service groups, public service organizations, social or charitable groups, labor, business or professional organization, and indicate if it was a board or staff affiliation.

Academic: Cultural Studies Association, Modern Languages Association, etc
Local: Local 72 scholarship committee, Kenosha Boys and Girls Club, etc

*If more space is needed, please attach another sheet.

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Special Interests: Indicate organizations or activities in which you have a special interest but may not have been actively involved.

Please refer to the separate attachment "Special Interests".

Nominee's Supervisory District District 18 (Monica Yuhas)

Governmental Services: List services with any governmental unit.

n/a

Personal Statement: Please indicate why you believe you would be a valuable addition to the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission.

Please refer to the separate attachment "Personal Statement."

*If more space is needed, please attach another sheet.

Conflict Of Interest: It would be inappropriate for you, as a current or prospective appointee, to have a member of your immediate family directly involved with any action that may come under the inquiry or advice of the appointed board, commission, or committee. A committee member declared in conflict would be prohibited from voting on any motion where "direct involvement" had been declared and may result in embarrassment to you and/or Kenosha County.


Signature of Nominee

June 27, 2021

Date

Please return, along with your resume, to: Kenosha County Executive
1010 – 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

Mimi Yang,

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Indicate organizations or activities in which you have a special interest but may not have been actively involved.

(1) Working with public libraries in Kenosha for lectures, workshops, and seminars on themes that define the commission -- race relation, racial history, American cultural identity, patriotism, and democracy. Design and deliver these outreach activities with an across-the-board audience in mind.

(2) Working with Kenosha County government on public and open forums to map out where we are with the vision and mission of the commission, and the path to create a culturally inclusive and racially diverse Kenoshan model/brand of racial and ethnic equity.

Personal Statement: Please indicate why you believe you would be a valuable addition to the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My contributions to the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission cannot be in isolation from its context, its vision, and its mission.

The Context

The creation of the Kenosha Racial and Ethnic Equity commission synergizes with the racial reckoning nationwide, especially in the wake of the death of George Floyd, the shooting of Jacob Blake, the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic, and the renewed controversy over the surge of illegal immigration at the southern border. Kenosha is not immune, and in fact, mirrors race relations, political tribalism, culture identities, and educational challenges that the nation is facing.

The Vision and Mission

Three integral fronts of the commission -- research, education, and policy reviewing/implementing -- set our county on par with national debates and inquiries, and engage a local effort to depolarize, to heal, and to connect across racial, ethnical, and cultural backgrounds. The vision of the commission needs thinkers to articulate and promote; the mission of the commission needs doers to carry out and be hands-on. It is self-evident that the success of the commission depends on the skills, experiences, knowledge, and minds of its members; most importantly, on the integration of the thinking and the doing.

I see myself fit into the context, the vision, and the mission of the commission in the following three ways:

1. Research and articulation

My entire life and career speaks of race relations, intercultural communication, and depolarized worldviews. Growing up and educated in the English, Spanish, and Chinese speaking worlds, and with a native fluency in these three languages, firsthand and in the trenches, I engage teaching, scholarship, and community services around the projects and themes related to histories, societies, politics, and people from these worlds on a daily basis. As a professor in higher education, I published extensively, in both Spanish and English, on themes related to Latin American postmodernism and multiculturalism. Now as a New England Regional Fellow at the Massachusetts Historical Society, I have built a track-record of publications and writings on Americanism, women's suffrage movement, and current race relations, and political divides in the U.S. My works have been translated to different languages. Please refer to the appendix for the publications that I have authored.

Over decades, my strengths have been evident in research, scholarship, writing, and articulation of the issues that shape the core of an individual's cultural identity as well as the living and breathing themes of multicultural democracy and multiracial patriotism. Any execution of activities and projects needs to be guided by a mind and a soul; any "what" needs to be understood and justified by "why." My background as scholar/researcher would contribute to the commission with the articulation of vision and mission in a

Kenosha context. My background as educator would help with pedagogical methods of teaching racial and cultural themes to an across-the-board audience.

A Pleasant Prairie resident, I was named a New England Regional Fellow last year and now engage my research and scholarship on race relations, multiracial democracy, and multicultural patriotism at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston – the bosom of American history, situated in the forefront of national debates on race, gender, immigration, democracy, and patriotism. Living between Kenosha and Boston, I can serve as a needed bridge between the local and the national.

2. Education and hands-on projects

At Carthage, as a Spanish professor who set up the Chinese program, I brought seemingly distant cultures and languages together in an increasingly globalized and multicultural curriculum. As a scholar, I have conducted research to parallel histories and societies in North and Latin Americas, thus bringing the English and Spanish speaking worlds together. 20 years ago, my Chinese language and culture expertise proved to be an asset to help Kenosha county with the Kenosha- Huairou (a suburban area in Beijing) sister county project. All this testifies that classroom integration of cultures and languages can be translated to community work and bridge cultures and people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds in Kenosha County. I am a hands-on scholar and would like to put my cultural knowledge and expertise to practical use for our County from the platform of the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission.

3. Linguistic ability

I have native fluency in English, Spanish, and Chinese. These are three languages spoken by more than half of the world population in the 21st century – Chinese has 1.4 billion speakers, English more than 2 billion, and Spanish 700 million. There are more than 52 million Spanish speakers in the US, and more than 22 million Asian Americans living in the country. Already involved in the local Hispanic community, I can continue to use my linguistic strength to help the commission reach out to and gain trust from the locally and racially diverse people who speak these languages.

(For Office Use Only)

Appointed To: Kenosha County Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission
Commission/Committee/Board

Term: Beginning _____ Ending _____

Confirmed by the Kenosha County Board on: _____

New Appointment ☒

Reappointment ☐

Previous Terms: _____