

Application Form

Profile

Naina

First Name

Shastri

Middle Initial

Last Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

San Ramon

City

CA

State

94582

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

Which supervisorial district do you live in?

District 2

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

CSU Hayward

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Masters Certification in Biotechnology

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

University of Mysore, India

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Masters in Biotechnology

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

Other schools / training completed:

Course Studied

Hours Completed

Certificate Awarded?

Yes No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts & Culture Commission: Submitted

Seat Name

Alternate

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

Yes No

If you have attended, how many meetings have you attended?

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

Being a member of the Arts Advisory Committee of San Ramon City for the past 4yrs, I have been involved in promoting varied art forms and social causes in the community. As a practitioner, performer, and educator of Indian Classical Dance and an active member of the Indian Diaspora, I bring a different perspective and I believe that I will be a valuable addition and asset to the Commission.

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

I would like to be considered for appointment to other advisory boards for which I may be qualified.

Yes No

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board, commission, or committee?

Yes No

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

I have been reappointed to the San Ramon City's Arts Advisory Committee and am currently serving this term as the Vice Chair of the Committee.

https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/our_city/boards_committees_commissions/arts_advisory_committee
Member of the Planning committee for San Ramon City's "Culture in the Community" event, 2020
Launched "Kaleidoscope San Ramon"; An initiative to bring unique collaborative, multimedia, multicultural performances to the San Ramon Valley community; www.namahaarts.org I am part of the San Ramon Social Justice Collective (SRSJC) and the San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition (SRVDC) I have also been working closely with the San Ramon Arts Foundation and San Ramon Valley Unified School District members on some of their programs. Organized Fundraisers through performing arts events, for other nonprofit organizations like SEWA, Rewire etc.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

Member of San Ramon City's Arts Advisory Committee (http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/our_city/boards_committees_commissions/arts_advisory_committee) Founder/Director of Namaha Foundation for the Arts, www.namahaarts.org (a 510c3 nonprofit org) Founder/Artistic Director of Ushanjali School of Dance, www.ushanjali.com Member of the Entertainment Committee, Tri Valley Kannada Sangha Member of the San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition's Culture and Celebration committee.

[Upload a Resume](#)

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a Familial or Financial Relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors?

Yes No

Naina Shastri

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relations?

Yes No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I certify that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

I Agree

Naina Shastri

Artistic Director,
Ushanjali School of Dance,
San Ramon

Website: www.ushanjali.com ;
www.nahamaarts.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ushananjali2008/>
<https://www.facebook.com/namahafoundation/>

LinkedIn: Naina Shastri

Instagram: @nainashastri, @ushanjalischoolofdance

Twitter: @NainaShastri @ushajalischoolofdance

I am a Bharatanatyam Dancer, Performer, Choreographer, Educator and Researcher.

Key Performances

- Mbongui Square Festival, 2018, 2019
- Performed for “Women’s Day” event by SAVE (Safe Alternatives for Violent Environments); 2018, 2020
- San Francisco International Movement Arts Festival 2018, 2019
- San Francisco International Arts Festival, SFIAF (Divine Conversations); 2018
- West Wave Dance Festival, SAFEhouse Arts, SF (Nocturnes); 2017
- APAture 2016, Kearny Street Workshop; 2016
- Articulate Festival, Mysore
- Sai Nrithyotsava, Bengaluru, India
- Mysore Dasara Festival, Mysore
- Every Friday Youth Performance, Yavanika, Bengaluru

Achievements

- I was selected as a RAW resident artist at SAFEhouse for the Arts, San Francisco.
- I was an Artist-in-Residence at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Oakland, CA.
- I was selected to present my original work “Morning Raga” at the APature Festival, 2016 organized by Kearny Street Workshop
- Awarded “Acharya Devobhava” title by Sri Datta Sai Temple, San Ramon for services provided to community as a Guru/teacher
- Recognized by the Shiva Vishnu Temple, for services provided as a Guru/Teacher
- I have completed my “Vidwat” (Master’s level) examinations in “Bharatanatyam” from the Secondary Board of Examinations, Karnataka, India
- I am a qualified Examiner at the Akila Bharatiya Gandharva Vishwa Vidyalaya, India and USA. I am invited to conduct the practical exams here in the Bay Area for all levels.
- My school and I have been featured in NBC Bay Area’s program Asian Pacific America with Robert Handa.
- I have also been invited as a judge to many competitions of Classical Indian Dances in the Bay Area

Community Service:

- Member of San Ramon City’s Arts Advisory Committee – Recently reappointed for a 3rd term. Also appointed as the Vice Chair of the Committee.
(http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/our_city/boards_committees_commissions/arts_advisory_committee)
- Founder/Director of Namaha Foundation for the Arts, www.namahaarts.org
A 501c3 nonprofit org.
 1. We conduct an annual Dance and Music Festival, “*Karnataka Composers Day*”
 2. A Monthly Solo Indian Dance performance series, *Naipunya Dance Festival* every 2nd Saturday of the Month. This provides a platform and opportunities for upcoming soloists.

3. Launched, “*Kaleidoscope San Ramon*” on August 2nd, 2020; An initiative to bring Artists from all genres of Arts, Ethnicities and Genders for a collaborative and harmonious expression of experiences.
 4. Video Podcasts with eminent artists, educators and research scholars.
 5. We regularly host performers and organize performances to commemorate special days (eg. *International Women’s Day, Mother’s Day, International Dance Day*)
- Member of the San Ramon Social Justice Collective (SRSJC)
 - Member of the San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition (SRVDC) and serving on its Culture and Celebrations committee.
 - Member of the Entertainment Committee, Tri Valley Kannada Sangha
 - Ex-Board Member; Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA)
 - Cofounder: Kalasangha - East Bay Artists Exchange
 - Assisting the City Staff in planning, organizing and executing Multicultural events like “Culture in the Community”
 - Organized Dance Festival to help raise funds for “Women Empowerment” projects of SEWA International USA, Bay Area
 - Involved with local, San Ramon based grassroots organization Rewire Community in an artistic capacity, choreographing and performing for their events on Women oriented topics.

Educator and Teacher:

Founder/Artistic Director of Ushanjali School of Dance, www.ushanjali.com

As the Artistic Director of Ushanjali School of Dance I teach Indian Classical Dance at 3 locations (San Ramon, Pleasanton and Berkeley), currently training over 100 students. My students regularly perform at various dance festivals, City and Community organized cultural events throughout the Bay Area. The senior students are trained to present their “*Rangapraveshas*” (*Debut Solo Performance*), an intensive program where the dancers present Solo for over 2 hours with Live Orchestra accompaniment. Students are trained in both the Practical and Theoretical aspects of the dance and appear for formal Dance Exams in Bharatanatyam conducted by the Akila Bharatiya Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya, India.

We have presented Lecture/Demonstrations at Libraries around San Ramon, Pleasanton and Pinole, for Girls Scouts group at a local school, International Day performances at Schools around San Ramon and Danville.

Some events and venues our School participates regularly are:

- Arudra Natyanjali, Shiva Vishnu Temple, Livermore
- Navarathri performance, Santana Dharma Kendra, San Jose
- Shivarathri Celebrations, Concord Temple, Concord
- Stockton Diwali Celebration, Indian Association of San Joaquin, Stockton
- Culture in the Community, San Ramon's annual multicultural program
- Art and Wind Festival, San Ramon
- Diwali performance, Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose
- Selected students present special Ritual Offering of Dance to the Deities at Shiva Vishnu Temple, Livermore and Sri Datta Sai Temple, San Ramon during Mahashivarathri, Ramanavami and Navarathri festivals.

Every year, I present all my students during our Annual Showcase performance. Students present to family and friends the dances or lessons they have been taught and practiced through the year.

Collaborations

- I have been regularly presenting a collaborative work with Visual Artist, Salma Arastu called "In Search of Eternal Love – from Meera to Rumi", exploring poetry by Persian Mystic Mevlana Rumi and Indian Bhakti Saint Meera Bai through Indian Classical Dance, recitation, music and multimedia.
- Worked with and trained ladies from the organization Rewire Community a grassroots organization involved with social justice issues and women's wellness, to present "Girls and Goddesses" for Mbongui Square Festival, 2019.
- Regularly present productions for our local Tri Valley Kannada Sangha, training 30 to 40 children and adult members of the organization for our annual event, Kannada Rajyothsava.
- Choreographed and presented a combined dance with 4 other Indian Classical Dance forms (Kuchipudi, Andhranatiyam, Odissi and Kathak) for "Shivapadam – International Dance Program".
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyF6emiu4cQ&t=106s> (from 1.45.01 to 1.53.58)

Academic Background

- I have a Master's degree in Biotechnology from the University of Mysore.
- A Masters Certification in Biotechnology from CSU Hayward.
- I have worked in the Biotech Industry(Discoverx) and later at the Research Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab; Emeryville.

I currently reside in San Ramon, California with my husband and two children.