

## Application Form

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### Profile

Aria

First Name

Capelli

Last Name

Middle Initial

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

### [District Locator Tool](#)

#### Resident of Supervisorial District:

District 2

Employer

Job Title

#### Length of Employment

NA

#### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes  No

#### If Yes, in which District do you work?

#### How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

16 Years

#### Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes  No

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### Board and Interest

#### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Racial Justice Oversight Body: Submitted

**Seat Name**

School Age Representative

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

Yes  No

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

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**Education**

**Select the option that applies to your high school education \***

None of the above

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

NA

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

NA

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

NA

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

NA

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

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**College/ University C**

**Name of College Attended**

NA

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

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NA

**Degree Awarded?**

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Yes  No

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**Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**

**Other Training A**

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NA

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

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Yes  No

**Other Training B**

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NA

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

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Yes  No

**Occupational Licenses Completed:**

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**Qualifications and Volunteer Experience**

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

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I believe in equity and in working to eradicate disparities within and between communities, and for that reason, I would like to be part of Contra Costa County's Racial Justice Oversight Body. When the pandemic grabbed hold of the pre-existing fissures and injustices in education and ripped them into canyons (and as I, too, frankly, found myself searching for something more purposeful to do than pre-canned Zoom school or a Netflix watch party), I co-founded the nonprofit Meaningful Teens to teach literacy skills to students falling even farther behind without individualized, in-person instruction. Education is supposed to be the route to equal opportunity, the yellow brick road to the American Dream, so if we can't provide that equitably, we compromise our ability to create a society that operates fairly in any other way. Although we successfully snagged donated tablets and headphones, I soon realized our challenges reaching our students ran much deeper than the glib technological veneer. Many of my students were caught in a net, different structures and systems knit together and weaved through their daily experiences and their family histories. My eyes opened for the first time to the larger reality my students inhabited. I felt like I'd suddenly seen a corner of "The Matrix", a few pixels that actually showed just how vast and tangled and hard to comprehend the whole system was. As a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-multiple person myself, I'd never been ignorant of the fact that our society carves different paths for different kinds of people, or of the impact that a person's background can have on their life course or opportunities. But the pandemic brought these issues into even greater relief, laying them at my doorstep (or at least my desktop). Our little organization blossomed and spread, eventually recruiting thousands of volunteers and hundreds of students and combining forces with other organizations. We partnered with Serve Square to provide students within the foster care system mentorship experience as MT volunteers and worked with the Compass Family Services to help homeless and at-risk families in the San Francisco Bay Area. I was proud of what we did. I knew what I was doing mattered, even if just to the students I was able to help. But I also saw how little it was. Volunteering and philanthropy, without changes to policy, can only go so far. The larger structures that really need to change require community action, political action. Teenagers (especially those of us who can't even vote yet) rarely have the opportunity to participate in our communities at that level. We're often the first initiates into the justice system, and yet we're too often viewed as a problem to be managed rather than critical stakeholders. I'd like to join the Racial Justice Oversight Body so that I can literally and figuratively take a seat at the table and help to build a more inclusive, just, and healthy future for everyone.

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

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Sometimes I feel like a bag of hyphens. I am multi-racial, pan-theist, bi-cultural, and first-generation American. I am the granddaughter of immigrants, juggling Spanish, Mandarin, and English at family events. My life has been filled with people, cultures, and customs from all over the world, and my multicultural upbringing has taught me to adapt, to try on different shoes (always taken off when people arrive, as grandma insists), and to connect and engage with people from different backgrounds. As spike proteins tear holes in our social fabric, racial confrontations have skyrocketed, compelling me to take action to combat these actions in my own life. I joined the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social (DEIS) justice club at my school, working with fellow members to advocate an inclusive academic community that reflects a wide range of identities, lived experiences, and perspectives and to promote a positive school culture and ensure all members of the our community feel seen and heard. The conversations we have centered around respect, rights for all, diversity, and the dignity of others, though sometimes uncomfortable, force us and enable us to grow and learn from one another in profound and impactful ways. As a young person, I'm also acutely aware of the ways in which justice in schools affects students' present and future selves. I'm lucky to attend an institution which values justice and seeks to treat students with justice and respect, but when the tendrils of social media reach all of us, none of us can close our eyes to the videos of black teenagers no older than I am pinned to the ground for a minor infraction, to "safety officers" who seem to think they're in a warzone, to the neon disparities in suspensions and expulsions. As someone who does not just "check" one box, I am uniquely qualified for a position which seeks to break down the barriers between our communities and guarantee justice for all. I enjoy putting in the work to not only get to know people, but to gain their trust and build bonds with them. I value relationships and communication and have proven that I can make a difference with those I come across. I have an ability to connect with others, learning from them and bringing out their best. I've also worked collaboratively to found a non-profit organization seeking to bridge the literacy divide that the pandemic ripped into a canyon by teaching reading over Zoom. As part of that organization, Meaningful Teens, I partnered with a range of people and companies to funnel skills and donations towards our efforts. I would love the opportunity to bring my skills collaborating, communicating, and organizing to the County's Racial Justice Task Force.

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Upload a Resume

**Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?**

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Yes  No

**Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?**

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Yes  No

**If Yes, please explain:**

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

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Yes  No

**If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:**

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**If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:**

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

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1. Meaningful Teens- Founder- Created an educational nonprofit that provides online literacy and English learning programs for refugees, immigrants, and low-income youth. Trained 1000+ volunteers and improved literacy rates by 45% and procured sponsorships from Fortune-500 companies like Chevron. Delineated a high school to college pathway with college advisors on hand for students in the program to obtain a BA/BS degree. Initiated the Be A Teacher program which encourages our students to become teachers and instills the importance of having teachers of color in the classroom. 2. Meaningful Gardens- Founder- Founded nonprofit to teach students in low-income areas about the benefits of gardening to end the cycle of food injustice. Funded and created gardens using seed sprouting and hydroponic gardening for classrooms and affordable housing communities with the ultimate goal of creating community gardens in these areas. 3. Smart Recycling Now (SRN)- Founder- Founder of SRN which builds owl boxes from recycled polypropylene face masks to help endangered owl populations. Supervises volunteers and recycling logistics in 27 schools in NY, CA, and MD. Facilitated the building of over 21 owl houses to date. 4. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Club- Ambassador- Joined a selective group of high school students to advocate civil discourse and conflict mediation to promote a positive American future. This work ensures students in The Athenian High School are not discriminated against due to religion, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, and/or socioeconomic status. 5. Student Council- Leader- Elected as liaison between students and administration to facilitate student initiatives and fundraisers for socials. Lead Friday morning school meeting to discuss grade-wide activities and programs. 6. Peer counselor-Work with peers to address a broad range of topics by providing one-on-one, confidential support. Establish an encouraging atmosphere where students can talk honestly about personal challenges. 7. Nibbi Brothers Construction- Intern- Interning for an environmentally-conscious contracting team. Hands-on learning of affordable housing funding, tax benefits, sourcing of material, government approval, and community involvement.

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### **Conflict of Interest and Certification**

**Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)**

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Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

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

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Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

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**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**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.**

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I Agree

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Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
  - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
  - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
  - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
  - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
  - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
  - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

# Aria Capelli

## EDUCATION

- ████████████████████ 08/2021 - Present • GPA 4.0 (Unweighted)
- Fluent in Chinese and Spanish

## ATHLETICS

- ████████████████████ 02/2018 - Present • Futures Swim Cuts
- Swim breaststroke and IM, consistently placing in the top 30 in Western United States.

## ACTIVITIES

### Meaningful Teens, *Founder* • 03/2020 - Present

- Founded a virtual nonprofit with 1000 volunteers to teach English literacy to underserved students.
- Procured sponsorships from corporations including BNY Mellon Bank and Chevron.
- Created high school to college plan to advise path to obtaining BA/BS degree.
- Initiated Be A Teacher program to encourage students of colors to be teachers across the US.

### Meaningful Gardens, *Founder* • 09/2021 - Present

- Founded a nonprofit to educate youth about different forms of gardening.
- Funded school gardens and indoor gardens to ten classrooms & affordable housing communities.

### Smart Recycling Now (SRN), *Founder* • 10/2021 - Present

- Founded nonprofit recycling face masks to build owl boxes for natural rodent control.
- Built 21 owl boxes to date; Coordinating SRN at 27 high schools.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Club, *Ambassador* • 09/2021 - Present

- Selected as an advocate for civil discourse and conflict mediation while embracing differences of race, ethnicity, physical ability, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.

### HumOn App, *Creator and Designer* • 10/2021 - Present

- Designing an app to engage users in authentic connections to eradicate unconscious bias.
- Inspired by Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Contest.

### Student Council, *Leader* • 08/2021 - Present

- Elected by peers as liaison between students and administration to facilitate student initiatives
- Lead Friday morning school meeting to discuss grade-wide activities and programs.

### Peer Counselor • 08/2021 - Present

- Provide one-on-one confidential support for peers on a broad range of topics.

### Nibbi Brothers Construction Intern • 03/2021

- Organized and filed union contracts, reviewed blueprints for low income housing construction, brainstormed community engagement opportunities, researched zoning and tax laws.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- **President's Volunteer Service Gold Award** • 2020 and 2021