

CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • ONE CITY HALL PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor  
Honorable Sheng Thao

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Letter of Appointment

February 6, 2024

Dear President Bas and members of the City Council:

Pursuant to City Charter Section 601, the Mayor has appointed the following person as a member of the following board or commission, subject to City Council confirmation:

**Budget Advisory Commission**

**Jane Yang**, to serve a three-year term as the District 1 representative on the Budget Advisory Commission beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2026, filling the seat previously filled by Brenda Roberts.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sheng Thao

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## Profile

Jane

First Name

Yang

Middle Initial

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Street Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Suite or Apt

[REDACTED]

State

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

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### What City Council district do you live in?

District 1

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone

Administration for Children and  
Families via Federation of  
American Scientists

Employer

[REDACTED]

Alternate Phone

Senior Advisor for Data Analytics  
(Impact Fellow)

Job Title

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

Budget Advisory Commission: Submitted

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## Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

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Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission. BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION (BAC) A budget is a reflection of values. Where a city invests its money tells a story of how the city approaches foundational infrastructure, quality of life, sustainability, and community building. As a resident of Oakland, I would be honored to serve on the Budget Advisory Commission. I am concerned that over half of the seats on the BAC are currently vacant. I believe my skill sets in data analysis (including financial planning and analysis), community organizing, policy development, and plain English writing will be valuable to the Commission. Were I to serve on the BAC, I would be an active contributor. As my history of community service indicates, I am dedicated to civic engagement and using my skills to improve my community. In addition to the BAC's core functions and asks from City Council, I would be interested in exploring the following initiatives: Commission membership recruitment: 8 out of 15 seats are currently vacant on the BAC. I would like to engage in proactive recruitment campaigns to ensure there is a diverse set of resident perspectives on the BAC, thereby strengthening the recommendations provided to the City Council on budgetary matters. Improved city budget transparency: Oakland's open budget book is a great start but currently is not designed for the layperson. Most of the resources are dense narratives and the interactive dashboard is dependent on understanding which programs and services are housed under which departments. I would like to improve how Oakland city budget information is communicated to the public. As resident representatives tasked with advising City Council on expenditures, revenues, financial policies, and Budget proposals, the BAC has a role in educating Oakland residents on their city's budget and the impact of budgetary decisions in order to best amplify the voice of the resident on budgetary matters with City Council. I am experienced in survey methods, data visualization, and plain English writing – skills that would be helpful in this endeavor. Improved BAC transparency: the current link to the board activities, <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityAdministration/d/BudgetOffice/o/BudgetAdvisoryCommittee> does not work and there is no background information on the current commission members. The information on <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/budget-advisory-commission#documents> is out-of-date, linking only to the 2019-2021 budget. While there is information on the BAC's advisory work for the 2021-2023 budget, it takes digging around to find it. The meeting minutes pages are out-of-date, only listing minutes through 2021; for more recent meetings, one must dig into individual event postings to find agendas and minutes. I would like to increase resident awareness of the BAC's role in advising City Council and add more visuals such as a tracker demonstrating how City Council responded to the recommendations from the BAC. Strategic planning with stakeholder input: I am not sure when the next BAC strategic planning cycle, as required by Section 2(b) of Ordinance No. 13337 C.M.S., is scheduled to take place. When due, I am interested in driving a collaborative planning process that involves Oakland residents, City Council Finance and Management Committee members, and the Budget Bureau. LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) The library is a magical place. One of the few remaining hubs that bring together residents of every background, libraries are essential cornerstones of any community. As a lover of libraries, I would be happy to serve on the LAC if my background and skill sets would support a more diverse, complementary commission. In reviewing the information provided by the LAC on <https://oaklandlibrary.org/lac/>, I believe I have the skill sets and dedication needed to be an active member of the commission's core fiduciary functions. In addition, I could be helpful in the following ways: Pro bono data analysis support, such as to identify operational improvements that could enable the Oakland Public Library to stretch its budget further. Strategic planning with stakeholder input, to understand from Oakland residents and Oakland Public Library staff how the LAC can further amplify their voice and support their work. Thank you for your consideration of my applications, Jane Yang

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***Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.***

[Jane Yang Resume -  
Oakland Commissions.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.

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Please click the acknowledgement below.

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Service on City of Oakland boards, commissions, and committees may require filings of the FPPC's Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700). Upon appointment and determination of filing status, I will comply with all filing obligations.

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I Agree \*

# Jane Yang

civic data scientist



## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Administration for Children & Families, 2/2023 — present Senior Advisor for Data Analytics

Developing agency-level data strategy and demonstrating how data can deliver for ACF's mission through analytics, technical advisory, hiring, and acquisition support.

### Federation of American Scientists, 11/2022 — present Impact Fellow

Serving in a selective program that places technical talent in high-impact roles across the federal government.

### Harvest, 9/2021 — 10/2022 Senior Research Scientist

Leveled up Harvest's nascent data function, leading team culture and proactively improving decision-making through core analyses such as monthly business reviews.

### Basecamp, 1/2019 — 5/2021

#### Head of Data & Senior Policy Analyst (promoted)

Was right-hand person to CTO, advancing intentions into visions with "how-to-get-it-done" processes. / Led multi-functional team in development of [Use Restrictions Policy](#) and standardize processes to remediate product abuse cases. / Co-launched and directed \$2M+ via Basecamp Gives, a quiet "paying it forward" [initiative](#) to support systems-thinking groups that provide basic services, and Basecamp's [carbon negativity promise](#). / Amplified voice of the customer through survey data collection and analysis. / Democratized data access through more transparent reporting and choice dashboards.

### IFF, 8/2017 — 1/2019

#### Director of Data Analytics (promoted)

Launched data analytics function, hiring and managing 5-person team that stewards IFF's data from collection to storage to usage. / Redesigned and rolled out a new data system across 100+ staff members in 6 offices. / Streamlined and developed more effective, time-saving business tools at various levels of governance to improve decision-making.

## EDUCATION

### Princeton University, 2011

BS Chemical Engineering, Honors. Spirit of Princeton, School of Engineering Joseph Clifton Elgin Prize, and Ernest F. Johnson Distinguished Service Awards.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Upwardly Global, 2018 — 2023

Chaired 10+ member Chicago Leadership Council, cultivating new advocacy initiatives to support new American jobseekers and organizing professional development events for Upwardly Global program alumni.

### Ladies of Virtue, 2018 — 2023

Mentored student who became first in her family to attend college.

### Asian Americans Advancing Justice, 2021 — 2023

Led legislative workgroup in successful campaign to embed Asian American history into Illinois public K-12 curricula.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### Aspen Tech Executive Leader, 2023

Published [policy brief](#) on better supporting aging-out foster youth in their transition to adulthood through a youth-driven web application.

### Homeowners Association Board, 2018 — present

Introduced concept of budget vs. actual analyses and significantly improved document management.

**One Acre Fund, 8/2014 – 8/2017**

**Strategy & Research Senior Manager (promoted)**

Identified and prioritized opportunities to raise social return on investment and made One Acre Fund an even better place to work. / Co-managed 10+ person team: drove team vision; hired, developed, and retained members. / Scoped and oversaw 65+ projects delivered directly and by my direct reports including:

- Evaluated potential agriculture, health, energy, and education product and service offerings based on impact evidence, financial models, and operational risks
- Facilitated senior-leadership working groups in charge of: budgeting; R&D; and staff inspiration
- Designed and launched formal, fully-inclusive mentorship program in Kenya operations resulting in over 90 successful mentorship pairs in first 18 months

**Deloitte, 7/2012 – 7/2014**

**Strategy & Operations Consultant (promoted)**

Backstopped Emerging Markets Infrastructure & Sustainability senior leadership team. Projects included:

- World Bank-administered Water & Sanitation Program: was primary client liaison; scoped and led teams of 2-4 in delivering collateral designed to attract participation of domestic private actors in base-of-pyramid water and sanitation markets.
- USAID-funded Jordan Energy Sector Capacity Building Program: coordinated project, managing reporting, relationships with implementing partners, compliance, and monitoring & evaluation tool development.

**International Rescue Committee, 6/2011 - 6/2012**

**Programs & Grants Fellow**

Assisted in managing \$22M, 40+ grants portfolio, writing winning proposals for \$10M+. Produced communications on projects across health, protection, and economic development sectors with a readership of over 118,000.

**SKILLS**

Vision setting. Team management. Project scoping and management. Budgeting and financial oversight. Staff capacity building. Data analysis and storytelling. Writing with heart.

**INTERESTS**

Civic engagement, reading, rock climbing, hiking, strategic board games, cooking, organizing, traveling.