



CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS

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City of Desert Hot Springs
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY COMMISSION/BOARD APPLICATION

February 15, 2017

GENERAL / CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: Miller Brown
 LAST FIRST MIDDLE

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
 STREET ADDRESS
 Desert Hot Springs CA 92240
 CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE: [REDACTED]
 HOME WORK CELL

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

DATE: February 5th, 2017

Appointed Commissioners must be a resident and registered voter of the City (DHSMC §2.24.040)

Length of Residency in Desert Hot Springs:

5 yrs

Registered Voter in Desert Hot Springs since:

2012

Indicate the following Commissions/Committees/Boards in which you are most interested in serving.

Number in order of preference (Example: #1 for 1st choice, #2 for 2nd choice, #3 for 3rd choice, etc.)

2nd <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Commission	3rd <input type="checkbox"/>	Oversight Board to the RDA Successor Agency	➔ (Members not subject to residency requirements)
Not Interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Commission	4th <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture and Landscape Review Committee	
1st <input type="checkbox"/>	Community & Cultural Affairs Commission (CCAC)			

See attachment for Commission/Committee/Board descriptions or visit the City's website at www.cityofdhs.org for more information

Occupation and Employer: Disabled/Self Employed (brownianproductions.com)

(If retired, indicate last occupation/employer)

The following information consists of some of the factors used by the City Council, and/or subcommittee thereof to select final applicants: 1) Background, education, experience to demonstrate sound judgement; 2) Diversity in commission membership; and 3) attendance at commission meetings prior to interview

Background / Work Experience / Civic Involvement:

I have served as a commissioner on the CCAC in the past and was a director of media and technology for Art Foundation Desert Hot Springs (AFDHS) whose president, Janice Gough, also served on the CCAC. I am currently on the marketing committee for the CREATE Center for the Arts Palm Desert and I work as a freelance social media consultant and content producer.

During my term on the commission, I was involved in the reinstatement of the Holiday Lights and Yard Beautification programs and the completion of the Simi Dabah sculpture installations. Through my work with the AFDHS and the commission, as well as my social media consultancy brownianproductions.com, I worked closely with many public artists and commissioners on a variety of projects over the past 3 years. Some of the artists I have worked with include Jorge Sicre, Simi Dabah, Bijan Masoumpanah, Bernard Hoyes, Yudit Escedy, many and others.

It is a personal mission of mine to support and promote the arts and cultural activities in Desert Hot Springs and the surrounding area. I also wish to see our city connect to the global creative community and embrace the multicultural international arts world. I love this city and I am committed to helping it grow and thrive.

Education / Training:

I was homeschooled by my parents, both licensed California educators, and I excelled in the areas of visual arts, music and film production as a child. In 1990, I started attending courses in a variety of arts, media, and technology at City College of San Francisco. My choice of curriculum did not equate to any degree or certification offered at the time but 4 years later it would fit perfectly into the multi-media studies program certification. Unfortunately my credits were not transferable so I never received any kind of certificate.

Being homeschooled with the John Holt "unschooling" methodology, I learned how to learn without the aid of instruction. As such, I have continued to expand my scope of knowledge and develop my skills according to my interests and as necessity occasionally dictates. I am a "quick study" so to speak. In dynamic organizations, I do well and gain the respect of my peers. In mediocre and pedestrian ones, I'm less popular but more motivated to enact change and open my coworkers minds to new possibilities.

Have you served on a City Commission or Board in Desert Hot Springs or any other City?

☐ No ☒ Yes **If yes, complete below:**

Desert Hot Springs	CCAC	2016	6 Months
CITY	COMMISSION/POSITION	WHEN	LENGTH OF SERVICE
CITY	COMMISSION/POSITION	WHEN	LENGTH OF SERVICE
CITY	COMMISSION/POSITION	WHEN	LENGTH OF SERVICE

Have you ever attended a City Council Meeting? ☐ No ☒ Yes

Have you ever attended a City Commission Meeting? ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, list which commissions and approximately how many.

CCAC: numerous, Planning Commission: few

Describe your knowledge of the functions, regulations and procedures of the Commission (1st choice) on which you would like to serve:

I am well acquainted with Chapter 2.44 of the Desert Hot Springs Charter regarding the Community & Cultural Affairs Commission's powers and duties. I am of the opinion that the ordinances relating to the arts, cultural events, historic preservation, community identity, and public relations need to be incorporated into a new branch of the community development department which would have the following functions:

- A) Review all planning projects using panels of experts in design, architecture, real estate, social services, etc. and offer recommendations.
- B) Conduct community engagement campaigns that inform the public about development plans and provide an accessible forum for feedback and participation in shaping the city's physical appearance and public amenities.
- C) Promote the work of artists and the accomplishments of local businesses, organizations, and individuals by holding press events, dedications, honorary events, awards, etc. and publishing a journal of local stories and producing innovative tourism guides and campaigns.

What specific skills, attitudes, and experience do you think you have that will enhance the work of the Commission?

I believe in a visionary model of community development. I feel we should embrace the most innovative, progressive, and inclusive movements in the fields of city planning, cultural affairs, social services, housing development, and sustainable economics, incorporating them into our administration's knowledge base and workplace conversation. Advocacy planning, land banking and community land trusts, creative placemaking, etc.

Professionally, I have worked mostly in marketing, beginning with an early email marketing startup in Half Moon Bay in 1998. In the post dot-com era I applied my skills to the local music and club scene in San Francisco using self-publishing platforms like MP3.com to help artists grow their own fan bases. Media production and online marketing is a skillset I share with other current commissioners and I believe having more of us with knowledge of technology, promotion, and public relations will make the commission a more savvy and agile presence in the digital world.

What specific issues or problems face the commission? Do you have suggestions to address these issues or problems?

- A) The commission is not connected with people in the community. This is the whole purpose of public arts agencies, which should be a binding and strengthening lattice interwoven throughout and across a community's many layers and sectors. We need to connect with our constituents.
- B) The CCAC needs to be supported by a Public Arts Department with at least one staff member with experience/training in public arts admin. We also need to partner with and officially designate a Local Arts Agency to perform some on-the-ground work that the CCAC isn't equipped to handle.
- C) The overall arts and cultural community in DHS needs an attractive public image, a brand, that people here can find pride in and people in other communities will be drawn to. The move towards creating an arts district was an excellent idea, but it was not well executed and not followed through. There are enormous resources available for free to communities who wish to develop a cultural district. I continue to insist that we should use these resources and become educated about this subject before proceeding any further.

Appointed Commissioners may be required to submit a Fair Political Practices Act, Statement of Economic Interests (pursuant to Government Code §87200 and/or Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code Section §2.20.050

NOTE: This document is a public record and is subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Personal contact information will not be released without consent. Your Application will be considered by the City Council, provided that a vacancy exists on a Commission or Board for which you have applied. If there is no vacancy, your application will be kept on file for two years, to be considered when an opening does occur.

I hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

Brown Miller
Applicant's Signature

2/6/2017
Date

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Save the application for your records
- AND → Submit the application to jsoriano@cityofdhs.org
- OR → Print and mail to: City of Desert Hot Springs
Office of the City Clerk
65950 Pierson Boulevard
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240