

Dear Steven Flythe,

My name is Bobbi Van Gilder, and I am writing to express my interest in joining the Somerville Commission for Women. I am a new resident of Somerville, since November 2024, but have lived in Boston since 2020. I welcome the opportunity to become more involved in my local community, and I believe that my expertise and experience could be beneficial to advancing the goals of the SCW.

I am currently the Director of women's and gender studies, and an Associate Professor of global and cultural communication, at Suffolk University. I am passionate about advocacy, education, and community engagement. I have extensive experience with program planning, workshop facilitation, and event organizing. Further, in my work as a teacher, scholar, and advocate, I have consistently strived to challenge systems of oppression, amplify marginalized voices, and create a more just and equitable society.

As a commissioner, I would aim to pursue programs and events that create meaningful impact, promote equity, and amplify diverse voices. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and help shape initiatives that reflect the values and priorities of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Van Gilder, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)