

Janaki Perera
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Dear Cathy,

My name is Janaki Perera and I'm writing to express my interest in joining the Somerville Public Library Board of Trustees. I want to join the Board because I love the library and want to use my skills to give back to the community.

Growing up I was an avid reader and frequented the local bookshop and library. My siblings and I all love books- reading aloud as a family was a huge part of my childhood. We were so enthusiastic about reading and sharing our excitement for books that we put together special window displays for our local bookstore and hosted activities for the release of new Harry Potter books. As a south asian family in northern Florida, we also made a point of attending enrichment programs hosted at our local library and I even wrapped my first sari at a library event. As an adult, the Somerville library helped me return to reading - when a librarian mentioned I could check out ebooks through the library that changed my life. I started reading on my daily commute and never looked back.

I work as a user experience designer at a health tech company. In my day job I work to understand the needs of people who use my company's apps, and design solutions that meet their needs. I've designed everything from new product offerings to websites and digital communications. I also work with our internal teams to host workshops on our company's processes or our team's strategy. I always get involved with planning and coordination - I've planned several company wide events including my last company's hackathon and product "science fair".

Being an active member in my community brings me joy. Outside of work I've also served as the business manager and president of my a cappella groups - planning shows, coordinating with other musical groups, and organizing our members. While in college I was also very active in our community, chairing our community service organization and serving as a class representative in my senior year. I think my skills could be useful to the library and I'd really love to help in whatever ways our community needs.

Thank you for your consideration! And if you have any questions, please let me know!

Best,
Janaki Perera