

From

Anandavalli Thiagarajan



To

Cathy Piantigini
Director of Libraries
Somerville Public Library
79 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Statement of interest for the Somerville Public Library Board of Trustees

Dear Ms. Piantigini,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the position of a member on the Somerville Public Library Board of Trustees, as advertised. As a dedicated resident of Somerville, I have always held a deep appreciation for the valuable role our public library plays in fostering knowledge, community engagement, and personal growth.

I am very passionate for volunteering and books, so I think I am well suited for this role. I have loved and cherished books and library from a young age. My fondest childhood memories have been accompanying my dad to library in India and being able to pick out new books I could try and enjoy. I am excited by the opportunity to contribute to the Board's efforts in shaping the library's policies and direction. I believe that a well-functioning library is the heart of a vibrant community, and I am committed to working collaboratively to ensure that the library remains a cherished resource for all residents.

I moved to Somerville from India in 2015 and have been very invested in developing and contributing to the city in any way I can. I do love volunteering and photography and have been a volunteer at the following organizations: Somerville Growing Centre, Somerville Asian Family Network (SAFN), Food for Free, Mutual Aid Medford And Somerville (MAMAS), Project SOUP and Union square Main Streets. I am also a volunteer at the Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) of Massachusetts and have been awarded the Rosoff award in 2019 for my contribution to the community through the work done in BBBS. As a member of the SAFN, I have participated in the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) book drive and have read and contributed my suggestions to the books which need to be included. I also designed the flyer for the Cambridge Somerville Asian festival and donated all the proceeds from the design to the AAPI book drive.

Somerville libraries hold a special place in my heart as I visit it every week and know quite a few of the staff. My week starts with me checking the library calendar and to favorite and mark my calendar on which events I will be attending. I have applied and displayed my street photography as an exhibit in Somerville Central Library for the whole month of June 2023. I did

contribute my street photography to the Cambridge Somerville Asian festival and was featured in the Somerville Times for this.

I am drawn to the responsibilities of the Board, particularly the chance to assist in long-range strategic planning, advocacy, and outreach initiatives. Leveraging my skills in Management, I am confident in my ability to support the Library Director and fellow Trustees in making informed decisions that benefit our diverse community.

My primary motivation is to serve the library and what I can offer is a diverse perspective from my experience volunteering and from past experiences of growing up in India. I want to be a good role model for my son who is a Somerbaby and want him to learn and imbibe love for books and volunteering.

The chance to volunteer my time and expertise as a Trustee is an honor I deeply appreciate, and I am fully committed to upholding the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members. If appointed, I look forward to contributing constructively, engaging in meaningful dialogue, and collaborating with fellow Trustees to achieve the library's goals.

Thank you for considering my application. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my background aligns with the Board's needs in more detail. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I am excited about the possibility of serving my community in this capacity and contributing to the continued success of the Somerville Public Library.

Sincerely,

Anandavalli Thiagarajan