

Sandra Sarrouf—Personal Statement

Fifteen years ago when I moved to Los Osos I was asked to run for Los Osos Community Advisory Council (LOCAC) as I had been doing a lot of community based environmental work in SLO. Having just moved, I knew I didn't know Los Osos well enough to be a voice for the community. Fifteen years later, with a better grasp of Los Osos life; as a mother, small business owner, community organizer and cultural worker, I feel ready to jump in and work to represent the multiple perspectives of our community.

With a BA in Environmental Studies and Political Science, I have worked in the non-profit sector to protect our environment and advocate for vulnerable populations through outreach and education efforts. I have worked on policy issues, coordinated grassroots campaigns, worked collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to problem solve, and served on Boards. Also, a small business owner, my husband and I have operated a landscape management company for the past 15 years. I have 2 kids still in elementary school and 1 in the workforce. Most recently I led the effort to bring 5th grade camp to Baywood kids so that all 5th graders would have the opportunity to experience outdoor camp regardless of their socio-economic status. In a short time and working collaboratively we raised close to \$13,000 within our community. I have been involved with Los Osos Community Coalition, Baywood PTA, and am just completing my MA in Cultural Sustainability.

With my professional background in the private and community sector, my community outreach and marketing expertise, community building skills and speaking 3 languages I think my experience; varied background and ability to listen to multiple perspectives will bring a new lens to LOCAC. Los Osos is a gem; a town I have grown to love and am fortunate to raise my children in. There's a lot of work we can do to build community, provide more resources and opportunities, protect our environment and create a Los Osos that is strong, healthy, and appropriately represented in our County.

Thanks for taking the time to read this!

Sandra Sarrouf