

Date Submitted: 09/29/2022

First Name: Meha

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Mailing Address: 15630 Hayden Lake Place, San Diego, CA 92127

Organization or Industry: I have an MBA, UChicago 2001, and BScEconomics UPenn 1996.

Skills, Qualifications:

- Management
- Outreach
- Sustainability

Other Skills or Qualifications

From 2013-2019, I lived in India where I volunteered with environmental causes around water pollution. I was also Changemaker Faculty at Inventure Academy where I worked with 40+ schools all over Bangalore to encourage high school students to create and implement projects with a social impact. I encouraged different schools and communities to participate in projects that helped the environment/urban poor. Separately, while still in India, I started a volunteer program at our local government school - so we went from my being one of two volunteers at the school to about 25 volunteers two years later. That program has now grown to about 40 volunteers.

Prior to that, I grew the art program at my children's elementary school in San Diego to include all the classes rather than just a couple. I like to engage with the community around me on causes that are good for the environment.

Prior to the pandemic, I worked on a business plan that encouraged schools to become more sustainable by giving them easy access to reusable dishware rather than using disposables on a daily plan. The business plan was selected to move to Phase II of the University of Chicago's Alumni New Venture Challenge.

<https://polsky.uchicago.edu/2020/01/24/phase-ii-teams-selected-for-the-2020-alumni-new-venture-challenge/>

The business plan did not get implemented due to Covid but I am still interested in issues around sustainability

Do you have previous experience serving on boards or committees?

Not officially but I believe much of the volunteer work I did while living in India was similar to being on a board or committee.

How would you contribute to the mission and vision of CaUFC?

I am personally enamored with trees. When I go hiking and come across the new red bark on a manzanita, I can't help but touch it and appreciate

it. I grew up in Kenya and ate mulberries sneakily harvested from the neighbor's mulberry trees. My children are lucky to have been able to experience trees and nature - my daughter's goal in 5th grade was to climb all the trees on her school campus. More recently, I have been reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer and it has moved me to tears.

But at the same time, the analyst in me is sad to observe that poorer neighborhoods have less tree cover, and therefore, are hotter and less pleasant to be in. Simultaneously, richer neighborhoods in SoCal are covered with lawns. I imagine how much better our neighborhoods would be if the water wasted on lawns was used to water trees in poorer neighborhoods.

I would like to learn what trees are best for our local neighborhoods and to create innovative programs and ways to fund their growth and watering.

Why are you interested in joining the board?

Please see above

Are you willing to contribute to our fundraising efforts?

Yes

Will you be able to meet these commitments as a board member?

Yes