



KPFK 2015 STAFF CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 4, 2015.

You may cast your ballot by returning the enclosed ballot in the mail or cast your ballot online.

VOTE ONLINE

<https://pacifica.simplyvoting.com>

In order for quorum to be met (25%), approximately 67 votes need to be returned. For more information about the candidates, the campaign schedule and more, visit the official campaign website at **elections.pacifica.org**

STAFF CANDIDATES

Alexander, Jonathan
Benavides, Jose
Cohen Johnson, Sue
Coie, Allan

Grewall, Tejvir "Tej"
LePique, Maggie
Lexa, Ali
Muhammad, Charlene

Pride, Steve
Turner, Kiyana
Velazquez, Fernando

Para leer las declaraciones de los candidatos, las instrucciones de como votar y para elegir su voto en español, visite el sitio <https://pacifica.simplyvoting.com>

DISCLAIMER: Opinions and facts in the Candidate Statements belong to the author of the statement only and should not be assumed to be true or to reflect the editorial stance or policy of the Pacifica Foundation or the opinions of its management, the Pacifica National Board, the Local Station Boards, the staff of the stations or the other listener members.

JOHNATHAN ALEXANDER

I previously served on the local. It is a lot of work. I am running for the board again because I care about the station and network and both are in sad shape. KPFK, Pacifica and our listeners are so important and valuable; we need to do what we can to keep them on the air and online. I am stepping up again to offer my expertise and reason to the board.

JOSÉ BENAVIDES

My name is José Benavides: I'm a broadcast media professional producer and engineer at KPFK. My past experience ranges from Television production, shooting, editing, producing and directing for networks, including KMXE 830am, NBC, BBC, UNIVISION, TRU TV, ANAHUAC SOUL, among others. I have produced Television shows, reality series, documentaries and my own productions. I also produce Contragolpe with award-winning journalists Rubén Luengas and Encuentros with Gregorio Luke - a badge of honor for KPFK Spanish Language programming. For KPFK I have produced many successful off-site fundraising events, and I'm eager to continue to create new ways to outreach and help reach the many untapped communities and listeners from all of Southern California who are hungry for fresh new content that is relevant to them. If you elect me I will work for the following: Stay true to our mission statement, Bring quality programming, Produce large scale fundraising events, Create unity among Staff and boards, Help make our station the most listened to Community radio station in the United States and beyond, Look into the possibility of acquiring a new signal for Spanish language programming, Eliminate nepotism and internal conflicts. I believe KPFK is on the brink of extinction, we lack visionary management and our fundraising model needs to be overhauled. Listener fatigue along with the unwillingness to change with the times leaves us teetering on a cliff and about to plummet. If we are to be relevant to our listeners, we must practice what we preach; we cannot act like we are the progressive voice of Southern California while we destroy ourselves from within. Our audience has many choices in this day and age on the web, we need to re-inspire our listeners with a new image and creative branding to make us the number one listener sponsored radio in the world. - Producer José Benavides

SUE COHEN JOHNSON

3rd1000Yrs@gmail.com PacificaKPFK2014.com

Dear Fellow KPFK Supporters, The LSB and the other elements of the station and network need to rally together and minimize all this CONFLICT. We need to address all our community needs, as well as, the crushing oppression in this country. Boards other than ours fundraise. It's time MY FUNDRAISING EXPERTISE was added to this board. I did OFF-AIR FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT, promotion/outreach and marketing, collection of unpaid pledges, etc., before, when we were having 10-DAY FUND DRIVES, 3 times per year. But we shouldn't 'dumb down' our programming in order to increase income. My history: I was Subscriptions/MEMBERSHIP DIR. FROM 1985-1996. We were down to 5 paid employees at KPFK and we had to pull it back from the brink of death. Then I and two others had a SHOW, and I was a broadcast BOARD OPERATOR. I speak enough SPANISH to understand about half of what is said on the shows. KPFK's average listener is 'elderly', soon to retire. We need to keep our good STRIP PROGRAMMING that garners loyal members, while adding in more young community VOLUNTEERS, keeping a BALANCE. I respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you, Sue Cohen Johnson

ALLAN COIE

We are at a point in the trajectory of Pacifica when our dissenting voice is critically needed. The voices of protest must be heard. Where else if not on KPFK? Elmer Gantry had a message for the people but they would only hear the message if he could get them into the tent. Radio is a unique medium and we need to reach our audience where they are, not where we wish they were. We must insist on high quality programming. Likewise, if bee pollen makeup and wealth hypnosis tapes get people to pull out their credit cards, and this is true as a matter of record, then we must deal with it. We can have a voice but, if the ears don't perk up, we will be left

without a transmitter and the voices we would carry will have lost important listeners. IMHO Pacifica made a serious error when it prevented Maggie's recording studio from being completed.

TEJ GREWALL

Roots in India, and born in USA with a loving family of support, I began engaging in social justice issues since 10 years of age, and became educated over many geopolitical issues that eventually lead me toward a global perspective, taking on Undergraduate Studies in International Studies, Art Studios, and Graduate Studies in Education. I am a secondary school Mathematics Teacher in Los Angeles Unified School District. I ADVOCATE FOR THE YOUTH, INDIGENOUS and UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES and member of UTLA. I am a producer on "Freedom Now" with Host Dedon Kamathi. and have served on the Local Station Board since 2012 (and chaired since 2013 to the present), participating in committee meetings, town hall meetings, community events and attending Pacifica National Board meetings. I see the Pacifica Mission Statement as a vehicle conduit toward connecting the World with a native format of communication as Non-Commercial Education on all principles. Therefore, I fully support the Pacifica Mission Statement. I look toward another term at the KPFK LSB-Local Station Board, to guide and learn new comers to the board and continue working on the critical issues most pressing to us all. There are many areas that are not being represented within the KPFK Programming Grid, which is why I am steadfast for the truth and justice of the Youth and all the voiceless in our communities. Please consider my name Tej Grewall at your highest position on your Ballot when you cast your vote for the next 2015 LSB Election. Thank you for your attention.

MAGGIE LEPIQUE

Hi my name is Maggie LePique and I'm running for the Local Station Board because I care about KPFK and want to be a part of an honest, financially fruitful and hard-working governance. I have been with KPFK since 1994, first starting as a volunteer board-op, eventually hosting the popular Monday Night Jazz Program "Straight No Chaser" with my co-host Michelle Coltrane (daughter of John & Alice Coltrane). I was hired part-time in early 2000-2001 and eventually became a full-time employee, working my way form literally the bottom, with a enormous amount of hard work and dedication. I also hosted the Monday Global Village show for almost 10 years and not only produced my show but all 5 Global Village shows which are proven fundraisers. I would like to see KPFK grow with its listenership and find alternative ways to raise funds for the station. I have already worked and implemented a new system for media sponsorships and have been a key fundraiser for KPFK for well over a decade, having raised well over ONE MILLION DOLLARS for KPFK and have negotiated about the same with in-kind donations including CD's, DVD's, tickets to shows (high-profile and local). I look forward to serving KPFK's listeners, who are the most vital part of the station network. Thank you and please vote for me, Maggie LePique, a name out listeners know and trust!

ALI LEXA

I previously served on the local and national boards. It is a lot of work. I am running for the board again because I care about the station and network. KPFK and Pacifica are so important and valuable, we need to do what we can to keep them on the air and online. I am stepping up again to offer my technical expertise and reason to the board.

CHARLENE MUHAMMAD

I'm "Sister" Charlene Muhammad. I'm running for the KPFK Local Station Board to help maintain Pacifica's Mission to promote the full distribution of public information and to obtain access to sources of news not commonly brought together in the same medium. I want to see KPFK reach more listeners and eradicate its debt. I feel if KPFK feeds the people, the people will feed KPFK. I would use my two decades as an award-winning, international print journalist for The Final Call Newspaper (and contributor to New America Media, Los

Angeles Sentinel, LA Watts Times, the National Newspaper Publishers Association) and 12 years as an award-winning radio broadcast programmer/reporter to serve our Local Station Board. I want to see more community outreach, remote broadcasts, and end to the marginalization of Black and Spanish Language programmers. My commitment to KPFK and Pacifica is a matter of public record as is my commitment to my community and all peoples who suffer injustice, who are plagued by corruption in our society, and who need a voice to dialogue about and reach solutions. I am running for the Local Station Board in hopes to expand my commitment.

STEVE PRIDE

Steve Pride has been a KPFK volunteer programmer for the past 20 years working on the weekly LGBT radio magazine IMRU. As a Staff Representative to the KPFK LSB for the past two years I've had 1st hand experience with this polarized, dysfunctional group. An experience I was looking forward to putting behind me... BUT, based on the feedback I've received from programmers over the last few days, I am instead running for a 2nd term. Primarily because the voices of the staff continues to be ignored by both the listener representatives and a few factionalized staff representatives. And whether I like it or not, the last two years have left me better equipped personally to fight this battle. As a disabled, gay, Native American in my 50's, I understand that there are few community treasures greater than KPFK - a station that each day gives voice to the marginalized and disenfranchised among us. I also understand that this must be balanced with achieving financial solvency. While we face several major challenges, success can be achieved, when we stop fighting one another and get back to working on the common objective: the perpetuation of the KPFK we all love.

KIYANA TURNER

I, Kiyana Turner, would like the opportunity to be instrumental in further promoting KPFK, its programming, events and the Pacifica Foundation. Should I become a member of the Local Station Board, I will work with my fellow members to keep KPFK progressing in terms of increasing listeners, listener sponsorship, programming and promotions. Thank you in advance for your support and consideration. I hope to serve you well!!!

FERNANDO VELAZQUEZ

For more than 30 years I have worked at KPFK in many capacities; News Director, Co-Producer of the Spanish weekly "Noticiero Pacifica," News Engineer, On Air Engineer, Executive Director of "Sin Fronteras/Without Borders," an English national monthly magazine, Executive Producer of the weekly magazine "Clave Latina," Executive Director of "People Without Borders/Pueblos Sin Fronteras," a daily bilingual news program, and since August 2006 as Project Director of "Informativo Pacifica." The thousands of hours of volunteer work I have donated to the foundation are a testament of the unquestionable determination I have for the faithful application of the very essence of the Pacifica Mission; to promote the cause of peace through journalism and the artistic expression of our community. After the year 2000, I served in the Local Station Board, and now I'm running for the same post with more wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the treasure that KPFK and Pacifica Radio represent in this country and in this world. In closing, I can only tell you: make a good investment in KPFK's future, vote for me in 2015.