



**AGENDA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

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July 21, 2023

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
County Commissioners

FROM: Cheryl J. Gillespie, Supervisor   
Agenda Development Office

SUBJECT: Appointment to Library Board of Trustees  
**DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM AUGUST 8, 2023**

On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, you will be asked to adjourn as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Library District Governing Board to consider the appointment of Ashley C. Mejia to succeed Danielle Levien as a City of Orlando representative on the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Mejia's nomination was approved by the City of Orlando on May 15, 2023. The term of the appointment will expire December 31, 2023.

Ms. Mejia's application is attached for your review. Please let me know if you require further information.

**ACTION REQUESTED  
OF THE GOVERNING  
BOARD:**

**Appointment of Ashley C. Mejia to the Library Board of Trustees as a City of Orlando representative with a term effective August 8, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2023.**

Attachment

cc: Stephanie Herdocia, City Clerk, City of Orlando

# Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 5/16/2023

**Application Number:** 86862

**Application Expires:** 5/16/2025

**Name:** Ms. Ashley C. Mejia

**Business Address:**  
Not Listed

**Home Address:**  
12825 Bovet Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32827

**Mail Address:**  
12825 Bovet Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32827

**Email Address:** ashleycisneros@gmail.com

**Home Telephone Number:**  
(407) 608-8765

**Work Telephone Number:**  
Not Listed

**Employer:** Self-Employed

**Job Title:** Writer & Marketing Communications  
Entrepreneur

**Years Employed:** 14

**Education:**

**School:** University of Florida  
**Degree:** MS Entrepreneurship

**School:** University of Florida  
**Degree:** BS Journalism; minor in Sociology

**Boards of Interest:**  
Library Board of Trustees

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I run Talk Freelance To Me, a community that helps fellow women writers build flourishing, sustainable freelance writing businesses! I also host The Talk Freelance To Me Podcast. I have been writing professionally since 2005, and my work has appeared in USA Today, among other publications. I strongly believe that serving as a member of the Orange County Library System Board of Trustees is a way for me to give back to a community that has given me so much. Growing up in a humble background, the library was a place of refuge where my love for reading and writing was ignited. The library opened doors to the world for me and allowed me to pursue my dreams of becoming a journalist and professional writer. During the pandemic, I turned to the library for virtual resources to homeschool my three children. I became involved in a grassroots residential effort to ass a public branch closer to my community and became the volunteer chair of the Lake Nona Area Library Campaign Committee. Through my involvement, I attended almost every OCLS board meeting from November 2020 to July 2022. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Trustees, library staff, local elected officials, and the City of Orlando, we look forward to our new branch here in Lake Nona in the coming years. I want to serve on this board because I believe in the library's impact and ability to change lives. I have served on two national boards for Hispanic-based nonprofits, as well as on the boards of Quest, Inc. and Compassionate Hands and Hearts Breast Cance Outreach in Central Florida. In 2012, I attended a Board Governance training at Rollins in conjunction with my volunteer work for Quest, Inc. Additionally, my studies in business and experience in various organizations have equipped me with the necessary competencies to do a great job as a board member for the library system.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Tom Keen

**Phone Number:** (260) 797-1266

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Phelycia Marsh

**Phone Number:** (954) 258-9695

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Donna Raphael

**Phone Number:** (321) 287-7271

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Not Listed

**Professional Organizations:** Lake Nona Area Library Campaign Committee (Chair)

**From:** 11/01/20

**To:** Present

**Professional Organizations:** Quest Inc. (Board Member)

**From:** 02/01/12

**To:** 08/30/13

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Resident Since:** Unlisted

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**District:** Orange County District 4

**Previously Served On:** Unlisted

**Year Previously Served:** Unlisted

**Gender:** Female

**Disabled:** No

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Hispanic

**Race:** Other