

# VIDA Projects Fall 2020

Doing civic engagement work in the time of Covid-19 is very different, but we think it can be great for keeping you having a sense of connection and purpose in these hard times. Some of the projects below are straightforward. Some ask you to show up and distribute food or provide other forms of direct assistance. The advocacy and campaign projects all have virtual options, such as phone banking, letter writing, and attending virtual advocacy meetings. Others will require you to use a bit more initiative and take some leadership to make a project happen. We hope that you are able to find the right project for your interests. VIDA office staff will be around to guide you on how to do your project if you decide to do something that requires more leadership and initiative than you are used to exercising. You might want to do a project at a team with some classmates so you can have someone to talk it through with.

**The pages below are organized into the following categories:**

Advocacy and Organizing

Election Work: a) Getting People to Vote and b) Campaign Work

Direct Services

On-Line service

## Advocacy and Organizing:

### Higher Education for Ab540/ Undocumented Students

**HEFAS** is an educational student resource center and program that provides educational resources, reduces financial stress, and creates a safe learning environment for all students with an emphasis on undocumented/ AB-540 information. HEFAS is dedicated to helping students build their leadership skills, promote social change and advocate for higher education! Our vision is to provide students, parents, educators, and staff the tools to empower students regardless of their status and the barriers that may exist.

**Volunteers will:** help support some of the online services HEFAS will continue to provide for the immigrant community.

**Contact:**

[ab540hefas@gmail.com](mailto:ab540hefas@gmail.com)  
[deanza.edu/vida/hefas](http://deanza.edu/vida/hefas)

## De Anza Renters Rights

Join a movement to fight back against skyrocketing rents, unjust evictions and displacement of tenants! Housing is a human right! Participants will attend meetings and join some of the most influential non-profits in San Jose in spreading awareness, gathering votes and convincing city council members to approve measures to stabilize rents in San Jose and make the Silicon Valley affordable to live in.

**Volunteers will:** Canvass and petition, attend housing related meetings, meet with council members, come out to rallies, participate in workshops and much more!

**Contact:**

[darentersrights@gmail.com](mailto:darentersrights@gmail.com)

## Student for Environment and Equity at De Anza

SEED aims to help transform De Anza and the surrounding area's policies and laws in order to ensure that clean air, land, water, and food are accessible to all inhabitants in our community. We intend to do this by educating and growing sustainability/ eco-friendly awareness on campus by hosting workshops and working to amend current De Anza practices to minimize the environmental impact of our students. We believe that the time to act is now, to ensure not only the success of current students but for the success of future students to come.

**Volunteers will:** Help advocate for environmental policies to take place at De Anza and the surrounding area by promoting petitions, making classroom announcements, network with local environmental leaders, attending weekly meetings and any SEED endorsed events such as marches and protests. Volunteers at any level of expertise and majors are welcomed and encouraged to participate

**Contact:**

[DeAnzaSeed@gmail.com](mailto:DeAnzaSeed@gmail.com)

## SIREN

**SIREN** is the largest immigrant rights organization in Silicon Valley, they service the community through 3 different components: 1. Legal Services 2. Policy Advocacy 3. Community Organizing Ideal volunteers should have a strong interest in learning about immigration law, immigrant rights, and policy. Position could involve working with local elected officials on strengthening protection policies for immigrants in Santa Clara County.

**Volunteers will:** Help with outreach and citizenship/DACA free workshops and more! Great opportunity for immigrant students, or children of immigrants. Spanish or Vietnamese language preferred but not required.

**Contact:**

[jeremy@siren-bayarea.org](mailto:jeremy@siren-bayarea.org)

## Find a cause

Find a cause you care about and research who is doing what on that cause, and find a way to help. You can spread the word through social media, do fundraising through your networks, reach out to politicians, and asking friends and classmates to do the same. You can work with the VIDA office via Zoom for support and to have your hours verified.

**Contact:**

[kaufmancyntia@deanza.edu](mailto:kaufmancyntia@deanza.edu)

## Work on a Policy

Find a policy goal that you care about and then do a political campaign. There is so much in the world that is in flux right now and governments are doing a lot. It is actually a great time to advocate for things related to Covid 19: an end to evictions, paid time off, unemployment insurance, investment in a Green New Deal, better health care, unemployment benefits for undocumented people, access to health care for undocumented people, releasing people from immigration detention camps, moratoriums on foreclosures or turning off water and utilities, etc.

Here is some general advice for doing a political campaign (but VIDA can help via Zoom!):

1. Find a goal that your thing is achievable, like helping to pass some sort of a bill that a larger group is already working on.
2. Do research to find out what others are doing on the issues and to learn about the issue.
3. Pick a target, someone who has influence over the thing you are trying to impact who you think might listen to you. Politicians are always the most responsive to the people they represent. See list of elected officials below.
4. Develop arguments to influence that politician.
5. Get others to also contact them with that message. You can get others via your social media networks, asking students in other classes, doing an online petition, writing a letter to the editor of a paper and more!
6. For help developing a strategy you can use Leading Change Chart at <http://www.deanza.edu/vida/LeadingChangeChart.png>

**Contact:**  
[kaufmancynthia@deanza.edu](mailto:kaufmancynthia@deanza.edu)

## Our City Forest

Our City Forest is San Jose's leading urban forestry non-profit organization. Our mission is to cultivate a green and healthy Silicon Valley by engaging the community in the protection, growth, and maintenance of our urban ecosystem, with a special focus on our urban forest. We believe in the power of trees to transform homes, communities, and cities. We believe in the power of people to help us achieve this needed transformation.

Students can participate in volunteering with Our City Forest on Tuesdays - Saturdays. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities - they can attend our nursery workdays (help out with various tasks at our nursery and learn about the tree and shrub species we carry) or help out on our tree care and watering routes (head out into the field with OCF Americorps members and learn how to prune/water our trees that have been planted throughout San Jose).

### Contact

volunteer@ourcityforests.org

## California History Center

The California History Center (CHC), founded in 1969, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and engagement of the public in the study of California, its environment, history, its institutions, and its people, with a special focus on the Santa Clara Valley region. CHC operates the Stockmeir Regional History Library and Archives that provides local history research opportunities, and the Audrey Edna Butcher Civil Liberties Education Initiative, which promotes the study of civil liberties issues, concerns, and democratic values as informed by local and regional history and current events.

### Contact

Tom Izu -  
izutom@fhda.edu  
Lisa Christiansen -  
chcstocklmeirarchives@fhda.edu

## Office of Equity

The Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education promotes – through programs and services – an academic, cultural and social environment that provides equity, social justice and academic success for all members of the De Anza College campus community. It supports the district and college missions, which consider diversity an essential component of student education in the 21st century. The Equity Office takes this charge seriously. We have expanded our mission of fostering a climate of healthy diversity that values individual and group differences and respects the perspectives of others by working to eliminate institutional oppression or barriers that perpetuate inequity, injustice, and mono-cultural education.

Volunteer Tasks: Document History of the Office, Create content for social media, newsletter, and LibGuides, Create video stories, Outreach through class and event presentations, Co host virtual hours

Co create workshops to learn about equity, Learn popular education frameworks, Create visuals to promote equity values online

### Contact

Adriana Garcia:  
garciaadriana@fhda.edu

Website:  
<http://www.deanza.edu/equityoffice/>

## 1500 stories

1500 Stories is a collaborative art and digital storytelling project about economic inequality in the U.S. At its core is open-ended, in-depth interviews with people at different economic positions about what their lives are like. These interviews get edited down into short narratives that live on the 1500 Stories website to educate people about economic inequality and build empathy and community.

Volunteer Tasks:

Transcribe audio interviews collected in New Jersey

Conduct, record and transcribe interviews right now (through Skype, for example) about how people at different economic positions are experiencing the COVID-19 crisis.

If you are an experienced art or music maker, consider reaching out also. The project director will work with you on creative projects related to economic inequality.

### Contact

Jennifer Myhre:  
[jennifermynhre@1500stories.org](mailto:jennifermynhre@1500stories.org)

## LGBTQ Youth Space

The LGBTQ Youth Space is a non-profit organization serving the youth ages 13-25 who identify as LGBTQ or Allies residing within the County of Santa Clara.

Each interested individual will be worked with on a one to one basis to provided volunteer instruction and guidance based on a person's current skill or interest within the program. All volunteer work will be completed remotely.

### Contact

Erika Cisneros,  
[ecisneros@fcservices.org](mailto:ecisneros@fcservices.org)

Mobile: (408)430-9488

## National Equal Justice Association

National Equal Justice Association is an all volunteer, 501(c)(3), non-profit organization dedicated to supporting grassroots, community based organizations of poor and minority working people who face issues of constitutional significance, but lack the resources to reach those of concern across the country affected by the issue at stake.

Volunteer (virtual or non virtual):

with our Campaign for Sustainable Recovery and Development! Or Campaign to Abolish Prison Slave Labor and Police Brutality.

### Contact

Gail Williamson

123 Webster Street San  
Francisco, CA 94117

Email: nej1981@att.net

## Sacred Heart Community Service

PANTRY: We see about 400 families a day so we URGENTLY need volunteers ON-SITE to make food boxes for Sacred Heart Members. We especially need volunteers from 11:30a to 2:30p and 2:30p to 4p. Safety measures in place to protect you.

PHONE BANKING: From now until the elections, we will be calling and texting eligible voters (in multiple languages) and letting them know about why it's important to vote, and what policies we believe will make a difference in our communities. We will train and provide scripts.

RESOURCE CALLS: During these difficult times, we are doing wellness calls to all of our Members and connecting them to resources available at Sacred Heart and the county. You'll get to learn in detail about each Sacred Heart program and other resources in the county.

### Contact

volunteers@sacredheart  
cs.org

Marita Z:  
maritaz@sacredheartcs.  
org

## Amigos de Guadalupe

Amigos de Guadalupe is currently taking volunteers for work in the office, remote/virtual work, and a hybrid of both. Our office has 3 primary focus areas of work: housing, education, and immigration. All 3 programs need volunteers to assist with a wide range of work including case work, research projects, artistic projects like working on flyers and handouts, data entry, and even translation work. Our Operations Team also has many opportunities for students to assist with our administrative work in the office as well--if the student is interested in learning about how a nonprofit runs and the kinds of work that help keep the organization running day to day.

### Contact

Jose Murillo, Director  
of Finance and  
Operations:  
jmurillo@amigosdegua  
dalupe.org

Office Phone Number:  
(408) 341-6080

## De Anza Associated Student Body

DASB gives voice to and fights for the students of De Anza on campus, in the district, and at the Statewide level

### Contact

Kirana Rafli -  
kiranarafli13@gmail.co  
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## “Fund FHDA Students!” Campaign

Mission: Pushing for greater student governance over De Anza’s Student Resources, eliminate inequities that harm students from vulnerable communities, and ultimately reshaping our institution to put student’s needs first.

Current Issue: Stopping the Hire of two new police officers, and urging the Board of Trustees to reevaluate the impacts of police on campus, such as harassment of students/faculty of color, and their costs to our budget.

What We Need:

Outreach: help spread awareness about the issue of police harassment

Design posts/surveys for social media,

Reach out to your friends personally

Doing presentations/informing people in your classes about the issue

Testimony: sharing your concerns or real experiences with the Board of Trustees

Making comments at the Board of Trustees meetings, in person or via email

**Contact:**  
khari@crawfordnet.com

## Election Work:

Up to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, there are MANY ways to get involved with elections. VIDA posts election engagement opportunities as they are given to us. Having them listed does NOT imply an endorsement from VIDA.

### Getting People to Vote and Protecting Democracy

#### Public Policy School/Voter Registration Drive

VIDA and the Political Science Department created the Public Policy School (PPS) to teach students about the policymaking process, to train them in public advocacy, and to empower them to advance community interests. Under the supervision of political science professors, students put their public policy advocacy skills to work at the local, state, and federal level. PPS interns are committed to engaging in the nitty-gritty of the policy-making process, which includes research, policy analysis, meeting with legislators and staff, and building coalitions of support for policy ideas.

In Fall 2020, PPS will focus on voter registration and voter education. We're looking for volunteers to help us raise awareness of the issues and candidates, and to tap into people's political power! We'd love your help!

**Volunteers will:** help support some of the online services HEFAS will continue to provide for the immigrant community.

**Contact:** PPS intern  
Ananya  
Bapat, [ananya.p.bapat@gmail.com](mailto:ananya.p.bapat@gmail.com)

## Voting Resources

**Protect the Vote** (<https://protectthevote.net/>) “If you agree that every eligible voter deserves to have their voice count, you can take action from home or in person by serving as a nonpartisan Election Protection volunteer.”

**Reclaim Our Vote** (<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup>)

Ongoing voter suppression and voter list purging have been disenfranchising millions of eligible voters -- especially voters of color. Reclaim Our Vote works in those voter suppression states.

Our volunteers inform and mobilize voters of color to make sure they are registered and they know how to get a ballot and vote. It is a nonpartisan campaign of the nonprofit 501(c)3 Center for Common Ground.

**Vote Forward** (<https://votefwd.org/>)

Sending a Vote Forward letter is one of the easiest things you can do to increase turnout. It takes two minutes and one stamp, and meaningfully increases the odds that the recipient will vote. A concrete action you can take, no matter where you live, to get unlikely-to-vote fellow citizens to the polls.

**Power the Polls** (<https://powerthepolls.org>) “is a first-of-its-kind initiative to recruit poll workers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters.”

**Choose Democracy** (<https://choosedemocracy.us>) is “helping regular people all across the country get ready to take to the streets if it becomes necessary after the November election. We’re collecting lessons from people who have stopped coups, tactical advice, and distributing handbooks and materials to prepare people.”

## Campaign Work

### Faculty Association Political Action Committee (FA PAC):

Join with the FA PAC student interns and other members of the FHDA community to fight for community college students, staff, and faculty. The FA PAC is the political arm of the faculty union (the Foothill-De Anza Faculty Association), an independent labor union representing full- and part-time district faculty.

Since 2012, FA PAC interns have fought for, and won, increases in the minimum wage, massive increases in funding for community colleges, and strong political representation in our state legislature, and policies and funding for affordable housing. Interns have organized training workshops and advocacy trips involving hundreds of students, have participated in legislative lobbying and other grassroots political advocacy work, and have achieved substantial gains for community college students by participating in electoral campaigns.

In Fall 2020, the FA PAC will do voter registration, education, and mobilization for critical ballot measures (including 15 and 16) and candidates supportive of community college funding and democratic control centered on real student and faculty/staff needs. Join us! We would love your help!

**Contact:** FAPAC intern  
Jeffrey Kaspro, [fapacintern.kaspro@gmail.com](mailto:fapacintern.kaspro@gmail.com), (650) 919-4829

Volunteer sign up: [FA PAC Volunteer Form Fall 2020](#)

## Asian Law Alliance

### PROTECT THE VOTE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE is recruiting volunteers to be non partisan poll monitors in Santa Clara County during early voting and on Election Day. Your role will be critical to helping voters make their voices heard. Join us and PROTECT THE VOTE! No experience necessary. Training will be provided. Volunteers may be eligible for a stipend.

**Contact:**  
dorothy@asianlawalliance.org or

click on our sign-up link available at:  
[www.asianlawalliance.org](http://www.asianlawalliance.org)

## Campaigns/Organizations

### **Jake Tonkel for San Jose City Council District 5**

Contact: <https://jake4d6.com/meet-jake/>

**Sierra Club** (through their electoral arm: <https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/>) offers textbanking, phonebanking, and letter-writing to swing state voters, and is one great way to elect Democrats while building political power for the climate justice movement.

### **Flip the West**

FTW works with organizations in conservative states to involve volunteers from liberal states to flip the senate

Contact: [flipthewest.com](http://flipthewest.com)

### **Trump Campaign:**

Contact: <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

### **Republican State Leadership Committee:**

Contact: <https://rslc.gop/>

### **Biden Campaign:**

Contact: <https://joebiden.com/>

### **Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee:**

Contact: <https://www.dlcc.org/>

**Next Gen America** (<https://nextgenamerica.org/volunteer/>) lets you sign up to text swing state youth voters – sign up for one or more set time slots.

## Direct Services:

Sacred Heart Community Service	
<p><b>Sacred Heart Community Service</b> brings our community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley. Through a comprehensive array of community organizing committees, mutual support programs, and resources, the SHCS community is working together to improve our lives. Our vision is a community united to ensure that every child and adult is free from poverty.</p> <p>They are taking in volunteers to work with the food pantry, distributing food and clothes throughout the community as well as financial assistance to help families impacted by COVID-19. Their volunteer hours are Monday-Thursday from 9am to 4pm.</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="https://sacredheartcs.org/volunteer/">https://sacredheartcs.org/volunteer/</a></p>
South Bay Mutual Aid	
<p><b>South Bay Mutual Aid</b> is a coalition of community organizations (Serve the People San José, Silicon Valley DSA, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Anakbayan, Rapid Response Network, South Bay Community Land Trust), students, workers, and community members organizing a mutual aid fund.</p> <p>They are coordinating food and supply drop offs to people's front doors during the COVID-19 quarantine. Please use this form if you would like to make deliveries or donations.</p> <p>They are prioritizing folks who are sick, disabled, quarantined without pay, elderly, undocumented, queer, Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color -- including those displaced from the South Bay in near by areas.</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VDRra0HatJM8jjQ6GpmO4dHgQCkPG6M7l-zg27xhVYg/viewform?edit_requested=true">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VDRra0HatJM8jjQ6GpmO4dHgQCkPG6M7l-zg27xhVYg/viewform?edit_requested=true</a></p>
Opening Doors 2020	
<p><b>Opening Doors 2020</b> is now accepting volunteers to assist with our temporary outdoor meal program during the COVID 19 crisis. Only (1) hr of service required. Help keep the food safety network open for our most vulnerable population in the St.James Park Corridor.</p> <p>They are also accepting donations of masks, water, juice, hand sanitizer, lysol, vinyl gloves, sanitizing wipes, paper towels.</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:info@od2020.com">info@od2020.com</a> <a href="https://www.od2020.com">https://www.od2020.com</a></p>

## Online Services:

Zooniverse	
<p><b>Zooniverse</b> is a research focused platform. Volunteers can pick from a variety of projects focused on different topics such as arts, climate, history, medicine and so on. Working alongside professional researchers, volunteers will create new discoveries, datasets useful for wider research, and publications.</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.zooniverse.org/get-involved">https://www.zooniverse.org/get-involved</a></p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@zooniverse.org">contact@zooniverse.org</a></p>
Voces	
<p>While staying at home, you can volunteer for Voces. Voces has recorded over 1,270 interviews of oral history. Volunteers watch interviews on YouTube and help clean up the transcripts. Voces will provide you with unedited transcripts in a Word document and you will email back an edited transcript with timestamps.</p> <p>What you need :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do you have broadband access to watch the YouTube interview?</li><li>2. Do you have Microsoft Word or another text-editing program to edit the transcript?</li></ol> <p>Not necessary but Voces would like to know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do you use Google Form? (another way if editing the transcript)</li><li>2. Can you read/edit Spanish?</li></ol> <p>If you're interested in volunteering, email Voces your answers to those four questions.</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:voces@utexas.edu">voces@utexas.edu</a></p>

Further suggestions for online community service

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/articles/9-places-to-volunteer-online-and-make-a-real-impact>

## Finding Your Elected Officials:

**How to find and contact your San Jose council members and mayor:**

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/city-council>

If you live outside of San Jose do an internet search on your city council. For example a search on "Cupertino city council" turned up this link:

<https://www.cupertino.org/our-city/city-council/city-council-members>

**How to find and contact your state representatives:**

<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/>

**How to find and contact your federal representatives, senators and the president:**

<https://whoismyrepresentative.com/>

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) or also

<https://democracy.io/#!/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>