

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

Submitted on 12 February 2025, 11:58PM
Receipt number 81
Related form version 10

I am interested in serving on the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. By checking this box I am affirming that I understand this appointment will be a 2-3 year commitment. Yes, I understand

I understand that this document will be a public record and any information I provide could be subject to release upon request. Yes, I understand

Date of application 02/10/2025

Contact Information

Full name Daniel Myungho Sim

Phonetic pronunciation Daniel My-ungho SHIM

Gender Male

Pronouns He/him/his

Email address danielsim22c@gmail.com

Phone number 7067567082

Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number Mobile

Secondary phone number

Indicate home, work, mobile for secondary number

If you have a social media presence (Instagram, Facebook, X, Tiktok, LinkedIn, etc.) please share the best way to find you @danielsimadventures at instagram

Residential street address 1349 Boxwood Drive

City Columbus

Zip code 43229

How many years have you lived in the City of Columbus?	4
What district of the City of Columbus do you live in? (1-9 or outside of city limits)	4
Age	36-45

Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable)	South Korea
How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival)	08/10/2002
What immigrant group or groups do you represent?	Korean Americans
What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient)	Korea(fluent) English(fluent) Basic level - spanish, french, portuguese
Do you identify as one of the following: Immigrant (a person who has come to a country that is not their own in order to live there permanently), Refugee (a person who has come to a country that is not their own to avoid persecution in their country of origin), First-Generation (children of foreign-born parents)	Yes
Ethnicity and race (please check all that apply)	Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese, Bhutanese, etc.)
Occupation (if retired, please share former occupation)	Software Engineer
Do you identify with any of the following affinity groups?	Not applicable

Questionnaire

Why are you interested in serving on this commission?
(maximum 250 words)

Columbus is a city I proudly call home, not only for its vibrant social life, but also for its rapidly growing diversity. From new businesses, restaurants, and art venues to religious institutions, many of these contributions come from immigrants and refugees, enriching our community in countless ways.

I am committed to fostering a city where everyone can thrive, regardless of their background. Representing immigrants and refugees is vital to building a community that embraces cultural richness and mutual understanding. Columbus has immense potential to grow by leveraging the strengths that come with diverse perspectives, experiences, and talents.

I'm motivated to serve on this commission to raise awareness about how diversity not only enhances our city's cultural vibrancy but also drives economic success. Immigrants and refugees bring skills, entrepreneurial spirit, and resilience, contributing to innovation and job creation. By supporting inclusive policies, we can empower these communities and build a more dynamic and prosperous city for all.

I'm also eager to bridge gaps between communities and ensure that newcomers have access to the resources and support they need. This commission offers a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact in creating a welcoming city, where all residents—regardless of origin—can feel at home and flourish.

What do you hope the commission will accomplish in the short term and long term? (maximum 250 words)

In the short term, I hope the commission can focus on providing refugees and recent immigrants with the necessary resources and support to help them successfully acclimate to life in Columbus. This includes access to language programs, job training, housing assistance, and community-building initiatives. I also want to foster greater cultural understanding, encouraging residents to learn more about the diverse backgrounds and traditions of those who make up our growing community. My goal is for Columbus to become an even more welcoming and inclusive city where people of all backgrounds, regardless of where they come from or how they arrived, feel supported and valued.

In the long term, I hope to see immigrants and refugees who have lived in the U.S. for a time become integral carriers of American traditions, values, and culture. Their unique perspectives can further deepen the cultural and social fabric of our country while enriching the heritage of Ohio and Columbus. I also want to ensure that immigrants and refugees are treated with the same respect as native-born residents, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

As the world rapidly evolves, immigrants can serve as a vital bridge, connecting Columbus to global opportunities and driving innovation. By empowering them, we not only help them succeed, but also position Columbus to excel in a competitive, interconnected world.

Please describe and share relevant activities and accomplishments that relate to the community that you represent (maximum 250 words)

In my professional and personal life, I have consistently sought to bridge cultural gaps and foster mutual understanding among diverse groups. I have led training sessions and facilitated both technical and non-technical discussions with individuals from various backgrounds, helping to create inclusive environments where people can learn from one another. One of my passions is sharing my Korean heritage, which I've done by introducing my friends to Korean culture, language, and cuisine, providing them with cultural experiences that expand their perspectives. Additionally, I have significant experience assisting immigrants and refugees as they acclimate to American culture. Through personal friendships and religious ministries, I have helped newcomers by offering transportation, sharing housing arrangements, and providing food. These efforts have allowed me to build strong relationships and offer support during their transitions.

With a master's degree in Computer Science, I bring technical expertise to the table, including using innovative technology solutions to help bridge cultural divides. My current part-time studies at a Christian seminary further deepen my ability to serve others, as I lead a Bible study in Delaware prison through the Gideons ministry, helping men discover a renewed sense of purpose through Christianity. Additionally, I've spent five years leading a Sunday school for children, where I've developed skills in mentoring, leadership, and community engagement. These experiences have equipped me with the ability to understand and serve diverse communities, and I am eager to use these skills to support and represent immigrants and refugees in Columbus.

List any experience that would assist you in serving on this commission (maximum 250 words)

My professional and personal experiences have equipped me with a strong foundation to serve on this commission. I have worked extensively to bridge cultural divides by leading training sessions and facilitating discussions with individuals from diverse backgrounds. This has helped me develop the skills to create inclusive environments where people feel heard and respected.

I also have direct experience supporting immigrants and refugees as they adjust to life in the United States. Through personal friendships and religious ministries, I have provided transportation, housing support, and food, helping newcomers acclimate to American culture. These hands-on experiences have deepened my understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants and refugees and the importance of community support. Additionally, with a master's degree in Computer Science, I bring technical expertise that can be applied to improve communication, access to resources, and cultural understanding. My studies at a Christian seminary, along with my leadership role in the Gideons ministry, where I assist incarcerated individuals in finding new purpose, demonstrate my commitment to service. I also have five years of

experience leading a Sunday school, which has honed my skills in mentoring, leadership, and community engagement. I have also participated in short-term mission trips to Brazil and the Philippines, which further illustrates my commitment to understanding and supporting cultures vastly different from my own. These diverse experiences have shaped my ability to serve the immigrant and refugee communities and contribute to making Columbus a more inclusive and welcoming city for all.

Are you related to any elected City official or city staff member? If yes, please explain. No

Do you or any of your family members work for or serve on the board of directors of any organization which has contracted with or applied for funding from the City of Columbus? Do you anticipate any involvement of this kind in the future? If yes, please describe the relationship. No

Please indicate any activities you are involved with that may present a conflict of interest with the commission applying for. At this time, I am not involved in any activities that would present a conflict of interest with the commission I am applying for. My current work, including my role in the Gideons ministry and leading a Sunday school, is centered around community service and support, which aligns with the mission of the commission to foster inclusivity and support immigrants and refugees. My studies at the Southern Baptist theological seminary further enhance my ability to serve others, but they do not conflict with the goals of the commission. I remain committed to serving the diverse communities in Columbus and bringing my skills and experience to help create a more inclusive city for all residents.

References

Reference #1	D.J. Young
Relation #1	Ministry Co-lead
Phone number #1	419.627.1199
Email #1	djyoung757@gmail.com
Reference #2	Chintan Parmar
Relation #2	Manager
Phone number #2	6147072868
Email #2	chintan.parmar@chase.com

By filling out the reference section, I hereby authorize the City of Columbus to conduct a reference check by contacting the individuals listed above. As a reminder, this document is subject to public records requests. Yes

Resume & Letters of Reference

Optional: Please attach your resume and any letters of reference here. If you plan on mailing this form please

[Daniel Myungho Sim experience.pdf](#)

remember to attach a copy of your resume and any letters of reference.