

Housing Finance Authority

Applicant Package - Citizen-at-large (knowledgeable in labor, finance or commerce)

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Term 01 Sep 2024 - 31 Aug 2028

Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- MUELLER, LEZA

Name: MUELLER, LEZA

Address: 10326 NW 28th Pl, Gainesville, Florida, 32606-86

Email: lmuellers.gator@gmail.com

Board Name: Housing Finance Authority

Primary Phone:

352-359-6023

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::

Chamber of Commerce Diplomat Board Member, Rotary Member since 2016, Small Business Owner, Homeowner in Alachua County, Former Budget Director Alachua County, Former Budget Supervisor Alachua County

Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:

none

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:

I have Budget experience and have worked for local governments in high level positions in the past. I am a community advocate with the Chamber and my own personal business. Receiving grants from my own personal company to bring money into our community.

Please Agree with the following statements:

I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:

Yes

Are you currently serving, or have you ever served, on an Alachua County advisory board? :

No

I do hereby attest that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- 1. I have maintained good moral character throughout my personal and professional life.**
- 2. I have not engaged in any conduct or behavior that would reflect adversely on my honesty, integrity, or ethical standards.**
- 3. I have not been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor involving dishonesty, fraud, or moral turpitude.**
- 4. I have adhered to all applicable laws and regulations in my personal and professional dealings.**
- 5. I strive to uphold the principles of fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my interactions.:**

Yes

Time of Submission: 04/09/25 8:12:27 AM

Attachments

- Update Resume 2025 (1).pdf

Elizabeth (Leza) Mueller

Gainesville, FL | lmuellers.gator@gmail.com | (352) 359-6023

Professional Summary

Dynamic and results-driven leader with extensive experience in business ownership, marketing, event planning, publication management, and nonprofit development. Proven ability to drive strategic initiatives, build strong community relationships, and lead teams to success. Adept at financial management, fundraising, and public speaking, with a passion for empowering others and making a meaningful impact.

Education

Master of Public Administration | University of Florida | August 1990

Bachelor of Arts | University of Florida | December 1987

Core Skills & Expertise

- ✓ Leadership & Team Building
 - ✓ Strategic Planning & Business Development
 - ✓ Marketing & Social Media Management
 - ✓ Event Planning & Fundraising
 - ✓ Public Speaking & Community Engagement
 - ✓ Financial Management & Budgeting
 - ✓ Publication & Editorial Direction
 - ✓ Nonprofit Development & Donor Relations
-

Professional Experience

Publication Director & National Content Writer

Gainesville, FL | August 2021 – Present

- Lead editorial direction, ad production, and magazine design for a luxury publication with over 60K monthly readership.
- Develop and write national content for a leading online magazine organization.

Franchise Owner & Cabi Fashion Stylist

Cabi Style with Leza / June 2016 – Present

- Consult and assist clients in personal styling and wardrobe selection.
- Oversee marketing, social media, and brand development.
- Organize and lead fashion events, boosting customer engagement.

Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Board Diplomat

January 2024 – Present

- Serve as a Board Member and Events Coordinator for Chamber Diplomat meetings and ribbon cuttings.
- Strengthen relationships between local businesses and the Chamber.

Rotary Club of Gainesville – Chair for Meeting Presenters

July 2023 – June 2024

- Coordinate and secure speakers for 49 weekly meetings, engaging an audience of 200+ members.

Development Director

Bread of the Mighty Food Bank / June 2021 – February 2022

- Led fundraising, donor relations, and grant writing, securing support for a nonprofit that distributes 16M+ pounds of food across five counties.
- Managed all social media, event planning, and donor engagement strategies.

Event & Fundraising Leadership

Beyond Bourbon – Co-Chair & Auction Chair / August 2016 – 2022

- Increased fundraising event revenue from \$27K to over \$106K in four years.
- Developed successful hybrid event strategies to maximize donor participation.

Early Career & Leadership Roles

Management Analyst & Budget Director (Acting) | Alachua County & City of Gainesville | 1989 – 1997

- Managed multi-million-dollar budgets and supervised finance teams.
- Led strategic planning and financial analysis for city and county departments.

Rotary Foundation Board Member & Events Coordinator | 2019 – Present

- Supported grant distribution exceeding \$13M for community projects.
- Organized major fundraising and outreach initiatives.

Ronald McDonald House Advisory Board Member | 2016 – Present

- Assisted in planning and fundraising efforts, increasing event success and donor participation.

Community Engagement & Volunteer Leadership

- **UF Career Connections Center Speaker** (2019 – Present) – Provide career and professional attire coaching.
- **Rotary Speaker & Contributor** (2020 – Present) – Deliver presentations on community growth and nonprofit strategies.
- **Gainesville Chamber Diplomat & Board Secretary** (2023 – Present) – Strengthen business partnerships and mentor new entrepreneurs.
- **Board Member, Gainesville Opportunity Center** (2022 – Present) – Advocate for mental health employment programs.

Technology & Tools

- ✓ Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ✓ Zoom & Virtual Event Management
- ✓ Adobe InDesign & Canva
- ✓ Social Media & Digital Marketing Platforms