

2026 Employee of the Year Nomination: Edgar Manoukian

It's my pleasure to nominate Edgar Manoukian for the City of Burbank's Employee of the Year Award. Edgar is a Recreation Coordinator within the Youth Sports Section and has dedicated eight years of service to the Parks and Recreation Department. Throughout his career, Edgar has demonstrated innovation, professionalism, collaboration, and a strong commitment to creating meaningful recreation opportunities for the Burbank community.

Edgar's accomplishments are especially noteworthy because they were achieved while successfully managing significant responsibilities of his regular assignment. As a Recreation Coordinator, Edgar oversees the coordination of 234 youth sports teams serving 2,389 youth participants throughout FY 2025-2026, across seven sports leagues, while also organizing 45 contract sports camps serving approximately 1,200 youth during the summer. The scale, coordination, and attention to detail required to deliver these programs is a monumental responsibility. Despite this demanding workload, Edgar consistently identifies opportunities to enhance services, develop programs, build partnerships, and advance the Department's strategic priorities above and beyond his normal duties.

Beyond his regular responsibilities, Edgar played a critical role in advancing several of the Department's most impactful initiatives by expanding youth sports opportunities, advancing inclusive recreation, securing external funding, and developing partnerships that have enhanced the community's recreation experience.

Edgar secured a \$26,000 World Cup 26 Champions Grant to expand Powerchair Soccer programming and equitable youth sports access for athletes. This initiative supported the Department's commitment to inclusive recreation while aligning with the legacy goals of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The project culminated in a Power Soccer video showcasing adaptive athletes and highlighting Burbank's commitment to opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

Edgar also secured a \$2,500 National Recreation and Park Association Million Coaches Challenge Grant to strengthen coach education and support inclusive youth sports programming. This funding enhanced the Department's ability to provide safe, positive, and high-quality sports experiences for young athletes.

Through his ability to build strategic partnerships, Edgar created exceptional opportunities for youth. He coordinated the Youth Baseball Camp featuring Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Dalton Rushing, providing local youth with professional instruction focused on skill development, teamwork, confidence, and sportsmanship. He also established a partnership with the Real Madrid Foundation to bring an internationally recognized Youth Soccer Camp to Burbank, providing participants with elite coaching focused on technical development, leadership, discipline, and character.

Edgar further demonstrated his commitment to youth development by leading the planning and implementation of the Girls in Motion Summit in partnership with Athletes Unlimited and Her Story. The event empowered young women through sports, leadership development, mental wellness, and mentorship.

Additionally, Edgar played a key role in planning and implementing the FIFA World Cup Fan Zone, Park and Recreation Activation Zone, coordinating with City departments, partners, and stakeholders to deliver a successful community event that showcased Burbank on an international stage.

Edgar's accomplishments reflect his ability to transform ideas into impactful programs, build meaningful partnerships, and advance the Department's priorities while maintaining excellence in his day-to-day responsibilities. His dedication, creativity, and commitment to public service make him an exceptional representative of the Department.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend Edgar Manoukian for the City of Burbank's Employee of the Year Award. His leadership, accomplishments, and positive impact on the community make him exceptionally deserving of this recognition.