




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Jo Bechtold		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Human Rights Commission		Position Title: Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Date Appointed:	Term of Position: * 7/23/2021 to 7/22/2023 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: Mount Baker	Zip Code: 98144	Contact Phone No.:
Background: Jo Bechtold is a Montana-born community organizer and artist. She was raised by a single father in a rural ranching community. Growing up, her family had frequent interactions with both the medical and prison industrial complex. Her experience growing up in poverty ignited in her a deep passion for organizing along the intersections. She is excited to help build the people's movement and serve her community. Jo received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Seattle University. She is currently the Public Policy Coordinator at the Mockingbird Society, an organization dedicated to transforming the foster care system and ending youth homelessness.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: Tammy J. Morales Councilmember, District 2	

Jo Bechtold

RELEVANT PRIOR EXPERIENCES:

- Public Policy Coordinator at the Mockingbird Society*** **Summer of 2021-present**
- Support public policy efforts to expand youth voice in King County homelessness work in order to transform the foster care system and end youth homelessness
 - Maintain a written tracker of legislative priorities, emerging issues, and administrative priorities for coalitions seeking to end youth homelessness
 - Organize partners and youth to engage at key advocacy opportunities
 - Approach planning and organizing work with a commitment to advancing racial equity and addressing systemic oppression.
 - Collect data, stories of impact, and other materials to evaluate success and refine strategies.
- Community Organizing Intern at Poverty Action Network*** **Summer of 2021**
- Help plan, facilitate, and execute community conversations which will influence legislation priorities affecting low-income communities.
- Serve on Just Future board to ensure Washington state's most vulnerable community members have access to economic opportunities.
 - Research the intersection of disability justice and economic justice to provide context for Poverty Action Network's Basic Needs campaigns.
 - Assist in creation of content and branding for Poverty Action Network's social media accounts.
- Voter Outreach Specialist for Jessyn Farrell Campaign*** **Summer of 2021**
- Educated Seattle voters by informing them of the Democracy Voucher program.
 - Mobilized and engaged constituents about the policy positions of Jessyn Farrell through individual conversations.
- Outreach Specialist Intern for UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center*** **Fall 2020-Spring of 2021**
- Developed "Dementia Friends" educational campaign in Okanogan County, WA.
 - Trained and supervised volunteers to lead information sessions in Seattle, WA with specific outreach to the LGBTQ+ community.
 - Developed and executed creative arts series for folks living with Dementia and their caregivers, in addition to grant writing.
 - Attended virtual lobby day and town halls for the Alzheimer's Association.
 - Served on the Dementia Action Collaborative board, which entailed delivering policy recommendations to serve members of the LGBTQ+ community living with Dementia.
 - Researched and wrote article about the intersection of LGBTQ identity and Dementia diagnosis, published on UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center website.
- Social Work Legal Mitigation Intern at the Office of Public Defense in Seattle, Washington*** **Fall 2019-Spring 2020**
- Worked with clients to create discharge plans and referrals to community resources.
 - Helped determine clients' mental health diagnoses.
 - Wrote social histories to use in client's defense hearings and accompanied clients to court.
- Graduate Assistant for Seattle University's Bachelor of Social Work's Research Capstone course*** **Spring of 2021**
- Advise students during the development of their research projects.
 - Edit students' papers and supply constructive feedback.
- Staff for Silver Kite Community Arts*** **Summer of 2019**
- Community outreach for intergenerational community arts campaign. Served as liaison between guest teachers and participants.
 - Utilized social work skills to engage with the community and ensure needs were being met at Lake City Community Center.
- Scenic Design Properties Lead for Seattle University Theatre Department*** **Winter of 2017-Spring of 2020**
- Designed and constructed all props for performances in the Seattle University Theatre Department.

- Worked on a multidisciplinary team to achieve the creative dream of designers. Worked in a high-paced environment gaining skills in program management. Oversaw work of other members on the creative team and gave constructive feedback.

FELLOWSHIPS:

Young People For

Spring 2019-Winter 2020

- Developed a “Blueprint for Social Justice” with mentors from across the country.
- Researched tangible ways to create a nonprofit that ‘queers’ shelter systems in rural areas, adjusting policy to be more trans-inclusive, and eliminating the structural barriers that lead to poverty.
- Attended civic engagement trainings, webinars, and racial caucuses for young social change leaders.

VOLUNTEER WORK:

Ignite the Mission, President

Fall 2018-Spring 2020

- Organized with other students to hold Seattle University accountable to its social justice mission. Helped facilitate teach-ins promoting transformative justice and critiques of the criminal justice system in the United States with over 50 attendees.

White Students Against Racism, Member

Fall of 2017-Fall of 2018

- Organized with a student coalition at Seattle University. Dedicated to unpacking internalized White Supremacist values and become allies to students of color in their campus and community organizing.

Teacher at Center for Exploratory and Perceptual Arts in Buffalo, New York

Summer of 2017

- Wrote lesson plans and taught a group of about ten school age children basic photoshop, dark room, and Digital Single Lens Reflex skills.

AWARDS & PUBLISHED CREATIVE WRITING:

Taylene Watson Social Justice Award, Seattle University

- Awarded every year to one graduating Bachelor of Social Work student who has shown dedication to promoting social justice.

Op-Ed ‘Seattle Tenants Deserve Legal Council’

- Published in the forthcoming April 2021 edition of Seattle University’s student newspaper, *The Spectator*. Accessible from tinyurl.com/bechtoldwriting

Article ‘The Intersection of LGBTQ Identity and Dementia’

- Published on the UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center Website. Accessible tinyurl.com/bechtoldwriting.

Poem “An Open Love Letter to My Working Class Girls”

- Published in *Fragments*, Seattle University’s literary magazine in the Spring of 2018 edition. Accessible from: tinyurl.com/bechtoldwriting.

Poem “Rotten Roots”

- Published in *Monologue Zine* at Seattle University in the Spring of 2019 edition. Accessible from tinyurl.com/bechtoldwriting.

Poem “Tender Creature”

- Published in *Fragments*, Seattle University’s literary magazine in the Spring of 2020 edition. Accessible from tinyurl.com/bechtoldwriting.

Article “The Intersection of LGBTQ Identity and Dementia Diagnosis”

- Published on the UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center website. Accessible tinyurl.com/bechtoldwriting.

EDUCATION:

Master of Social Work, Seattle University, Summa Cum Laude

June, 2021

Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, Seattle University, Magna Cum Laude

June, 2020

Relevant Coursework: MSW | Advanced Public Policy, Public Policy & Advanced Practice | BA | Welfare Policy, Queer Social Movements, Social Work in Groups, Race and Ethnicity

- Examined contemporary welfare policy and its effect on American populations. Learned therapeutic techniques for individuals and families. Studied the history of the LGBTQIA+ rights in American history and the gaps in social services that exist for queer populations today. Learned how to facilitate a group therapy session. Explored the of race in America and its effect on contemporary culture and policies.

