



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Maria Zepeda Flores</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Immigrant and Refugee Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<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:	Date Appointed: 10/5/2018	Term of Position: * 1/31/2017 2/1/2018 to 1/31/2019 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>District 5</i>	Zip Code: 98195	Contact Phone No.:
Background: <p>Maria Zepeda Flores spent years working directly with immigrant populations in California and Connecticut prior to coming to Seattle. In her short time here, she had the privilege of volunteering with the City of Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs at the Seattle United Mega-Workshop. This experience reminded her that even though there's a lot of needs and work that needs to be done, we can make meaningful impacts through concerted effort.</p> <p>Maria is also a graduate student at the University of Washington Events School of Public Policy and Governance where she explores the consequences for immigrant communities in adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. She is also a development organizer with the Washington Bus.</p> <p>As a child of immigrants and someone who has worked with immigrants for several years, she hold dear the opportunity to make a bigger impact for these communities who face additional needs and barriers to success.</p>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): 		Appointing Signatory: <i>M. Lorena González</i> Councilmember, Position 9

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

MARIA ZEPEDA FLORES

May 31st, 2018

Maha Jahshan, Language Access Program and Policy Specialist
Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
700 Fifth Avenue
Suite 1616
Seattle, WA 98104-5058

Dear Maha Jahshan,

Working directly with families struggling to make ends meet reinforced my understanding that my own personal experiences growing up were not anomalies, but part of the challenges that families face nationwide. Barriers to employment, housing, and education can be even pronounced for immigrants and refugees. Individuals and families do not live single-issue lives and understanding the compounding effects of interrelated issues is crucial to addressing their full needs.

As a graduate student in the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, I bring these experiences to classroom conversations and projects. In my time as a student here, I have chosen to explore through my coursework housing conditions of American Indian & Alaska Native populations, a proposal to have an entirely online community college, and what the consequences for immigrant communities in California are of adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census.

In my position as a Community Support for Families Worker I connected families with community resources. After the election of the new administration, several of the undocumented families I was working with began to express more fear and stress about the uncertainty of their status in this country, and what would happen to their families if they got deported. I gathered and compiled resources for our undocumented families and trained fellow staff on how to effectively use these resources with families.

As a passionate and dedicated advocate for immigrant communities, my goals align well with those of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission. My strong organizational skills, positive attitude, and experience with the challenges that families face will allow me to make a positive impact while growing personally and professionally in this commission. I welcome the opportunity for an interview to discuss my qualifications in person. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Maria Zepeda Flores

MARIA ZEPEDA FLORES

SUMMARY

- Experienced nonprofit professional studying public policy with a focus on social policy
- Skilled in research, data analysis, and creative problem-solving strengthened through MPA coursework
- Native Spanish bilingual speaker and experienced working with populations including women, people of color, LGBTQ+, immigrants, and individuals with disabilities

EDUCATION

Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington, Seattle, WA June 2019

Master of Public Administration Candidate GPA 3.67

- Nancy Bell Evans Endowed Fellowship; UW Graduate School's Graduate Opportunity – Minority Achievement Program Award; Omega Phi Beta Golden Calibri Grant
- Relevant Coursework: Race & Equity in Policy and Governance; Macroaggressions and Macroassaults – Equity in Praxis

Yale University, New Haven, CT May 2014

Bachelor of Arts: Psychology

- Relevant Coursework: Ethnicity, Race & Migration; and U.S. Gay & Lesbian History

WORK EXPERIENCE

Development Organizer (Jan 2018 – Present); *Development Intern* (Oct 2017 – Dec 2017) Oct 2017 – Present

The Washington Bus – Seattle, WA

- Spearhead transition from Salesforce and other systems to EveryAction by identifying program and development staff's needs to ensure smooth transition
- Coordinate with staff members, organizational partners, and various platforms to streamline communication and provide logistical support for EveryAction transition

Bilingual Community Support for Families Worker Sep 2015 – Jul 2017

Wellmore Behavioral Health – Waterbury, CT

- Advocated for families using knowledge of educational, clinical, and community systems to establish families' stability in their homes and increase community engagement
- Launched initiative for undocumented families by adapting and distributing a resource packet, focused on informing families of their rights, of community legal services, and of the need to create an action plan
- Collaborated with other local agencies and nonprofits through Waterbury's cradle-to-career partnership to increase parent engagement,

Program Leader Aug 2014 – Jul 2015

AmeriCorps/Think Together – San Jose, CA

- Implemented character building lessons for 18+ second graders by utilizing research-based activities
- Collaborated with parents and teachers on a daily basis to strategize on improving students' behavior and/or academic performance

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Evans School Partnership for Community & Diversity Sep 2017 – Present

- Advocate for policy changes regarding racial and social equity within the Evans School
- Lead fundraising initiatives for the 2nd Annual Voices and Visions Awards Breakfast

Various Positions Mar 2014 – Present

Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

- Organize panels, discussions, and community service events to raise awareness of violence against women
- Develop and implement cultural sensitivity curriculum focused on inclusivity and the LGBTQIA+ community

Immigrant and Refugee Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to *Ordinances 12822 and 120345 and SMC 3.14.545*, [all] members subject to City Council confirmation, [14 [have 2-year terms, (1) Get Engage Member has 1 year term:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 8 Mayor-appointed
- 0 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify):

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
1	F	6	1.	Member	Maya Babla Appiah	2/1/17	1/31/19	1	Council
1	F	6	2.	Member	Jessica Yu	2/1/17	1/31/19	1	Council
2	F	1	3.	Member	Medhanit A. Abebe	2/1/17	1/31/19	1	Mayor
3	F	1	4.	Member	Jeniffer Calleja	2/1/17	1/31/19	2	Mayor
1	F	7	5.	Member	Shelani Vanniasinkam	8/1/17	7/31/19	1	Council
3	M	5	6.	Member	Luis Ortega	8/1/17	7/31/19	2	Mayor
3	F	3	7.	Member	Marilena Morales	8/1/17	7/31/19	2	Mayor
8	F	4	8.	Member	Naheed Aaftaab	2/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
3	F	5	9.	Member	Maria Zepeda Flores	2/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
2	F	2	10.	Member	Farhiya Mohamed	2/1/18	1/31/20	2	Mayor
5	M	3	11.	Member	Eric Holzapfel	2/1/18	1/31/20	1	Mayor
3	F	5	12.	Member	Vanesa Gutierrez	8/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
1	F	7	13.	Member	Riddhi Mukhopadhyay	8/1/18	7/31/20	2	Mayor
9	F	2	14.	Member	Ankita Patel	8/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
1	M	2	15.	Get Engaged Member	Johnson Nguyen	9/1/18	8/31/19	1	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
	Men	Women	Transgender	Unknown	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other (Specification Optional)	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	3	5			2	2	4						
Council	0	7			3		2					1	1
Other													
Total	3	12			5	2	6					1	1

Key:

- *D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)
- **G List *gender*, M = Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, U= Unknown
- RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A