



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Maria-Jose Soerens</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Community Involvement Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>City Council District #1 Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" 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: <i>4/2/2018</i>	Term of Position: * <i>6/1/2018</i> to <i>5/31/2020</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>South Park</i>	Zip Code: <i>98108</i>	Contact Phone No.:
Background: <i>Maria-Jose "Coté" Soerens is a social entrepreneur and community organizer in the neighborhood of South Park. She is the founder of Resistencia Coffee, a neighborhood coffeeshop curating a local space where neighbors and community can grow. She is also the founder of Puentes, an immigrant-led organization mobilizing mental health resources for immigration justice. A new immigrant herself, Maria-Jose was born in Chile and has made Seattle her home, where she has lived with her husband Tim and their sons for the past 12 years. Maria-Jose is part of several boards and projects all focused on mobilizing the natural assets of community to build more inclusive and equitable neighborhoods.</i>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Councilmember Sally Bagshaw</i> <i>Chair of Finance and Neighborhoods Committee</i>	

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

Maria-Jose Soerens, MA, LMHC

Objective

To become available as a member of the Community Involvement Commission for the City of Seattle on behalf of District 1, including West Seattle and South Park neighborhood.

Experience

Resistencia Coffee, LLC, Seattle, WA

June 2017-Present

Founding CEO, Majority Owner

- Resistencia Coffee is a social enterprise that curates a space in the heart of South Park for neighbors and community to grow.
- Manages daily operations, customer relationships, and customer experience.
- Manages startup operations

Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling & Education, Seattle, WA

April 2017-Present

Director of Community Initiatives

- Responsible to identify emerging leaders in the Latino immigrant community and provide technical assistance to design and implement programs that will foster access to mental health.
- Design and implementation of the Community Care Worker Network for youth core and adults.
- Coordinate efforts for housing justice in South Park from the perspective of monolingual Spanish speaking, low-income, immigrant neighbors, on behalf of Nuestro Barrio South Park.
- Grant application and management.
- Provides supervision to clinical and peer-support staff at Puentes.
- Writing curriculum for training of community mental health workers.
- Training of clinical staff on forensic assessments for immigration proceedings.

Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling & Education

June 2014-April 2017

Founding Executive Director

- Established the organizational structure for Puentes as a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation dedicated to increase access to justice through culturally relevant mental health services for immigrants in WA State.
- Raised financial resources growing the organization from 1 to 5 staff members in three years.
- Established board of directors.
- Managed overall operations of Puentes including accounting, staff, fundraising, and growth.
- Provided clinical services to immigrants in the community.
- Designed and implemented community initiatives led by immigrant community members.
- Was a founding member of the WA Immigrant Solidarity Network.
- Supervised clinical interns and clinical staff.
- Designed trainings for mental health professionals wanting to learn about Forensic assessments for immigration proceedings.
- Conducted forensic assessments for immigration proceedings, working alongside immigration attorneys and testifying in court when necessary.
- Mobilized advocacy efforts on behalf of immigrant members of the community and mobilized campaigns on behalf of detainees at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma in collaboration with immigrant rights organizations in WA.

The River Beneath Counseling, PS

May 2009-May 2014

Owner, Licensed Mental Health Counselor

- Provided professional mental health services in Spanish and English in the context of private practice in Seattle, WA.
- Conducted forensic assessments for immigration proceedings, working alongside immigration attorneys and testifying in court when necessary.

Pilgrim Africa, Seattle, WA

February 2009-May 2009

Director of Marketing and Communications

- Produced and developed stock photography and video to communicate Pilgrim Africa's mission. This project included travel to Northeastern Uganda to interview members of the community about the impact of Pilgrim's work in the areas of Economic Opportunity, Health, and Education.

Agros International, Seattle, WA

August 2007-January 2009

Creative Services Associate

- Supported Agros International's efforts to communicate its mission through graphic design, web management, social media, video and photography edition. Through this work I had the opportunity to do significant field work in the rural areas of Central America and learn about the impact of marginalization for the rural poor, as well as the importance of access to markets.

The Nature Consortium, Seattle, WA

August 2006-July 2007

Site Coordinator, Rainier Vista

- Coordinated the after school arts program hosted at the Neighborhood House in Rainier Vista.

ING Chile, Santiago, Chile

December 2003-July 2005

HR Analyst

- Design and implementation of performance evaluation system for 5,000 employees.
- Designed and managed the incentive programs for the Sales Force.

Education

Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Middlesex University, School of Law, Social Policy Group

2011-

MPhil/PhD

Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, Northwest University

2005-2007

MA in Counseling Psychology

BA in Clinical Psychology & Organizational Development, Universidad Central de Chile

1999-2005

Summa Cum Laude

Volunteer Leadership Experience

Communities First Association, Chicago, IL

July 2016-Present

Board Vice-President

Communities First Association equips and networks community development leaders to build community strength and seek just sustainable transformation.

South Park Neighborhood Association, Seattle, WA

February 2017-Present

Board Member

SPNA is a community membership organization that gives voice to residents of South Park. We bring neighbors together, foster a sense of community, and provide a forum for residents to make South Park better.

Equitable Development Initiative Interim Advisory Board, Seattle, WA **March 2017-Present**
Board Member

The EDI Board helps to determine criteria for projects and programs that will receive Equitable Development funding.

Duwamish Valley Equitable Housing Coalition, Seattle, WA **August 2017-Present**
Co-founding Member

The Duwamish Valley Equitable Housing Coalition works to implement strategies that decrease displacement and increase opportunity for neighbors in South Park.

Fellowships

JustLead, Washington Bar Association, Access to Justice Board **July 2015-Present**
Cohort 3 of the Equal Justice Leadership Academy

Academic Experience

Faculty, University of Washington, School of Law, Pro-Bono clinic. **October 11, 2016**
"Working with Clients Experiencing Crisis."

Panel Speaker, The Justice Summit, Washington DC **June 24, 2016**

Keynote Speaker, Latino Women's Conference, Seattle, WA **May 21, 2016**

Keynote Speaker, Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society, Seattle University, School of Education **May 7, 2016**

Presenter, Society for Applied Anthropology, Vancouver, BC **April 1, 2016**
Becoming a Victim: Governance and the Lived Experience of Asylum Seekers in the U.S.

Lecturer, University of Washington School of Social Work. **November 10, 2015**
"From Case to Cause: Clinical praxis with the oppressed."

Faculty, University of Washington, School of Law, Pro-Bono clinic. **October 17, 2015**
"Working with Clients Experiencing Crisis."

Panel Speaker, University of Washington, School Medicine. **February 9, 2015**
"Activism, Solidarity, and Structural Competency in the Health Professions."

Faculty, University of Washington, School of Law, Pro-Bono clinic. **October 11, 2014**
"Working with Clients Experiencing Crisis."

Faculty, Washington State Bar Association **July 15, 2014**
"Achieving Inclusion: Providing culturally competent legal services to undocumented trauma survivors."

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Soerens, M. J. (2015). Violence in the Borderlands: A Dialogical Approach to Intimate Partner Violence among Migrant Women. *Psychology & Society*, 7(1), 64–81.

Soerens, M. J. (2016). (Sub)Mission: Kēnosis as prophetic and political action in migrant detention. In S. J. Tira & T. Yamamori (Eds.), *Scattered and Gathered: A Global Compendium of Diaspora Missiology* (pp.460-460), Oxford, UK: Regnum.

Community Awards

2015 Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Outstanding Community Partner Award to Puentes

2017 WA Bar Association's Access to Justice Board, Justice Partner Award to Puentes

2017 Business Impact Northwest, Best StartUp, Resistencia Coffee

Languages

Spanish, Native written and spoken

English, Advanced written and spoken

Computer Skills

Advanced Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Google Apps.

Web hosting and Content Management Tools.

Design Software: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign.

Marketing & Communication tools like social media and email management platforms.

Quickbooks.

Other Skills

Group facilitation

Public speaking

Writing

Networking and connecting people

Leadership Development & Coaching

Power Analysis

Grassroots & Grasstips Organizing

Social Entrepreneurship

Starting Businesses and Organizations

Community Involvement Commission

Sixteen Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125192, all members subject to City Council confirmation, one – and two-year terms for the initial round of appointments, two-year terms thereafter:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 2 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify): Commission-appointed

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
3	F	1	1.	City Council District #1	Maria-Jose Soerens	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	City Council
2	F	2	2.	City Council District #2	Thais Marbles	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	City Council
2	F	3	3.	City Council District #3	Natalie Curtis	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	City Council
9	F	4	4.	City Council District #4	Alison Turner	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	City Council
			5.	City Council District #5	VACANT	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	City Council
6	M	6	6.	City Council District #6	Benjamin Mitchell	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	City Council
9	F	7	7.	City Council District #7	Patricia Akiyama	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	City Council
1	F	2	8.	Member At Large	Hoai (Julie) Pham	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	Mayor
			9.	Member At Large	VACANT	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	Mayor
			10.	Member At Large	VACANT	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	Mayor
2	M	7	11.	Member At Large	Bereket Kiros	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	Mayor
1	F	7	12.	Member At Large	Emily Kim	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	Mayor
5	O	2	13.	Member At Large	Sonja B. Christopher	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	Mayor
1	M	3	14.	Get Engaged Member	Felix Y. Chang	9/1/17	8/31/18	1	Mayor
6	F	5	15.	Commissioner	Sally Kinney	6/1/17	5/31/19	1	Commission
1	F	6	16.	Commissioner	Carol Redfield	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	Commission

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)	
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial					
Mayor	2	2		1	3	1			1									
Council	1	5				2	1			1								2
Other	0	2			1					1								
Total	3	9		1	4	3	1		1	2								2

Key:

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

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.