

September 4, 2018

Accelerator YMCA

2100 24th Ave S. #250

Seattle WA. 98144

City Council;

Please find below a list of the names who will, pending your confirmation, be joining the Get Engaged program for the 2018 – 2019 term. Along with the names of our candidates, we've included a very brief bio for each candidate.

Jose Ochoa - Board of Parks Commissioners— Jose works as a customer service specialist for King County Public Health and is a adjunct professor at Seattle Central College. Jose demonstrates a variety of skills both in the administrative, community and public policy sectors. Jose hopes to bridge the gap between policy and communities on the Board of Park Commissioners with the support from his degree in political science from UW.

Rani Hanstad – Community Involvement Commission - Rani is a partnership associate for Equal Opportunity Schools in Seattle. Rani is experienced in communication relations in the community, supporting large fundraising and other related events, and has a significant amount of technological skills

Smriti Chandrashekar – Community Technology Advisory Board - Smriti is a research associate for Hintze Law in Seattle. Smriti expresses a great deal of interest in technology and how it transcends boundaries and areas in the world. Smriti also has interests in international public affairs which is evident in the four technology/political-related publications. While studying law at Harvard Law, Smriti gained perspectives in law and policy, economics, ethics, and money governance and globalization.

Carson Hartmann – Design Review Board - Carson is an applied researcher working as a Research Analyst with Research and Policy Lab, The National Trust for Historic Preservation in Seattle. In this position, Carson maps, analyzes, and inputs data into various reports for evaluation and design planning. Carson is an advocate for built infrastructure and political systems that advances equity and sustainability.

Matt Olszewski – Design Review Board - Matt is an economic development specialist for Downtown Seattle Association in Seattle. In this position, Matt manages and supports a team that is coordinating and planning various projects across King County. While studying urban planning and business

operations at University of Cincinnati, Matt studied abroad in Europe and India learning more about design and planning practices.

Alan Guo – Landmarks Preservation Board - Alan is a Civil Engineer for Davido Consulting Group in Seattle where he performs design work for site drainage, grading and water/sewer services. Alan was a research assistant during his undergraduate career at UW where he demonstrated a variety of laboratory tasks such as extraction and analyzation of disinfection by-products, and assisted with preparation of test samples and daily administrative tasks

Emma McIntosh – Pioneer Square Preservation Board - Emma is currently a volunteer coordinator for Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle. Within this position and many alike, Emma developed various skillsets. Some of those skills are collaboration, independent work and working on a team, and manage and plan projects within various capacities

Nilofer Rajpurkar – Seattle Arts Commission - Nilofer is a computer engineer at Microsoft who graduated from Purdue University this past winter. Though nilofer does not work in the arts professionally, she is a lifelong musician and being involved in the arts played a large role in her upbringing. Nilofer is a highly logical thinker, deeply aware of complex social and political dynamics, and a powerful proponent of the arts.

Florence Williams – Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board - Florence is a youth counselor for YouthCare and an on-call overnight supervisor for ROOTS Shelter. Florence has experience working with people primarily youth, collaboration at the policy level, and managerial roles. Florence has an interest in evidence-based social interventions which synchronizes perfectly with the efforts that the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board.

Samuel Russell – Seattle City Advisory Commission - Sam is curious, thoughtful, and very interested in playing a bigger role in supporting the downtown and Seattle Center areas. Sam is an experienced construction engineer and project manager who studied at Arizona State University, and is currently pursuing his MBA at Seattle University.

Leah Miller – Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities - Leah comes to the Commission for People with Disabilities with an impressive background in galvanizing students in the biology field, particularly students who have disabilities that might impact how hands-on they can be in the field. She is a student at Highline College and has spent several years teaching youth and young adults. Leah is friendly, passionate, brings a unique lens and understanding of what advocacy for, and with, people with disabilities looks like

Rikerrious Geter – Seattle Design Commission - Rikerrious is a Georgia Native who attended the University of Georgia Atlanta and was recruited by one of Seattle's top design firms in 2016. Rikerrious comes with stellar recommendations and a well-balanced approach to design. He is technically and creatively proficient but also brings a cultural and historical lens to his work. During his interview for the Get Engaged program, Rikerrious spoke about the importance of being equitable in the way that the city prioritizes projects as well as the importance of honoring local design aesthetics and resources in projects.

Annie Dimitras – Seattle Human Rights Commission - Annie brings a strong educational and practical set of experiences to the Human Rights Commission. She completed a Masters in Human Rights and Democratization at the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization in 2016 and has been working in equity, social justice, and human rights professionally since 2013. She currently at DSHS' Office of Human Rights as an Admin Coordinator

Johnson Nguyen – Seattle Immigrant & Refugee Commission - . Johnson is a skilled community advocate, boasting several years of experience supporting diverse communities feel welcomed and supported in the United States. Johnson takes a data-driven approach to advocacy and engagement, frequently offering strong data sets to bolster work. As a UW Evans School student and King County Wastewater Community Engagement intern, Johnson is continuing to hone and exercise his community engagement skills.

Alejandro Castillo – Seattle LGBTQ+ Commission - Alejandro is a Fundraising Associate for Raven McShane Strategies in Seattle. Alejandro is passionate about making positive impacts and relationships in organizations and companies to bridge gaps in partnerships amongst community vendors and is excited to bring these qualities to the Seattle LGBTQ Commission.

Manette Stamm – Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board - Manette is an avid walker and current Masters of Urban Planning student at the University of Washington. She has worked with students and young people for several years and maintained a strong interest in transit and pedestrian related issues during that time. As a Masters in Planning student, Manette has deepened her knowledge of the pedestrian landscape in Seattle. In her interview for the Get Engaged program, she wowed the panel with her creative ideas to improve the pedestrian experience as well as with her awareness of the landscape at large.

Veronica Guenther – Seattle Planning Commission - Veronica is a recent graduate of the University of Washington and current Land Use Planner in the city of Bellevue. Despite being a recent graduate, Veronica brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Planning Commission. She has supported several political campaigns and worked in urban planning spaces throughout her studies. As a Land Use Planner, Veronica brings a deep technical knowledge of municipal land use code to the table - a crucial need of this Commission.

Farah Ali – Seattle Renter's Commission - Farah is an Attorney for Farmers Insurance where she represents and defends clients. Farah has a significant amount of legal experience as she has been in various attorney and legal services roles both in her undergraduate and graduate careers. Farah's professional and personal experiences bring a unique dynamic to this Commission.

Lucas Simons – Seattle Transit Advisory Board - Lucas is a Master's in Urban Planning and Master's in Public Administration candidate at the University of Washington. He has spent the last five years working on public affairs in one way or another, with an emphasis on public transportation. He is well-versed in transit issues in the City of Seattle thanks in part both to his academic work as well as his work experience.

Diana Im – Seattle Women's Commission - Diana is a Project Marketing Manager at Microsoft. She is concurrently in two separate volunteer positions as a HERLead Ambassador for Vital Voices and Co-

founder and Project Manager for Triumph Project Guatemala at Harvard. Diana expresses the need for technology and social intersections at the societal level in which leverages the power of accessibility in all concepts.

Bonnie Lei – Urban Forestry Commission – Bonnie currently works at Microsoft as a project manager, but has worked in various places around the world: China, Myanmar, Uganda, and UK. In these positions, Bonnie has gained in-depth perspectives pertaining to the environment and policy. Bonnie has also supported and managed programs in each of the positions.

We are confident that this is yet another year of stellar young adults who will drive the Get Engaged program and the City's board and commissions forward. For more information on the candidates, please see their respective Notice of Appointment packets. If there are any questions or concerns about our incoming cohort, please feel free to contact me, Jeff Lindstrom Get Engaged Program Director at jlindstrom@seattleyymca.org or 206-549-3055. We hope that Council has a productive session after its recess and we wait your decision regarding the confirmation of our 2018 – 2019 Get Engaged class.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lindstrom

Program Director – Ytech, Get Engaged, Horn of Africa

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