



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

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CITY OF SEATTLE  
19 FEB 14 AM 9:36  
CITY CLERK

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <p style="text-align: center;">Stephanie Ellis-Smith</p>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Museum Development Authority		<b>Position Title:</b> Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		<b>Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: MDA Governing Council	<b>Date Appointed:</b> 1/10/2019	<b>Term of Position: *</b> 7/12/2018 to 7/11/2021  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood/Council District:</b>  Council District # 7	<b>Zip Code:</b>  98119	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b>  
<b>Background:</b> <p>Stephanie Ellis-Smith is the owner of the philanthropy advisory firm Phila Engaged Giving. She is the founder and former Executive Director of the Central District Forum for Arts &amp; Ideas (CD Forum), an organization that presents and produces lectures, readings, and performing arts events rooted in African-American culture. Prior to the CD Forum, she worked with the Jacob Lawrence Catalogue Raisonné Project that located, catalogued, re-photographed, and published the 1,100 work oeuvre of the artist. Before the arts, she was in the biological sciences where she studied at UCLA and the University of Washington. Stephanie has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Washington State Arts Commission, appointed by Governor Gary Locke; the Seattle Arts Commission, appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels; and the Central Waterfront Committee, appointed by Mayor Ed Murray. She is on the board of YWCA King/Snohomish County, the outgoing Board Chair of Artist Trust, and an Advisor to the University of Washington Press and BlackPast.org. She has been a trustee for KUOW Public Radio serving as its Vice President; Leadership Tomorrow, and City Club. She has received numerous awards including PSBI's "40 Under 40" and the Seattle Weekly's "Best Expander of Cultural Boundaries". She is married to the Russian historian, Douglas Smith and has two teenagers and a Doberman.</p> <p>The appointment represents Ms. Ellis-Smith's first term.</p>		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b>  Douglass A. Raff Chair, MDA Governing Council

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

# STEPHANIE ELLIS-SMITH



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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I am a seasoned civic participant for well over 20 years in Seattle. I am widely known as a highly analytical, organized, and efficient leader with the proven ability to identify and maximize opportunities for philanthropic individuals, non-profits, foundations, government agencies, and corporations alike. I have served the public and private sectors as a CEO, COO, Commissioner, and Trustee. These roles have taught me how to be a strong influencer, evangelist, and strategic thinker who easily builds productive relationships in a variety of sectors. Leadership to me is inspiring people with imagination, empirically-based reasoning, and authentic human connections.

Expertise: philanthropy, start-ups, board governance, corporate social responsibility, social media, gamification, fund development, strategic planning, non-profits, facilitation, organizational change, community development, public relations

## EMPLOYMENT

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### **Founder/Principal, Phila Engaged Giving (May 2017-Present)**

- Phila Engaged Giving is a philanthropic advisory that works with individuals/families, estates, foundations and businesses that are interested in leaving a philanthropic legacy. Our goal is to help clients understand the issues that move them, gain confidence in their giving, and make meaningful investments in organizations and enterprises that best align with their interests.

### **Chief Operating Officer, Earthbongo, Inc. (Nov. 2010-December 2012)**

- A start-up, enterprise social media platform that increased employee engagement around environmental sustainability, philanthropy, and corporate citizenship. I worked directly with the CEO to build this company from conception. Role encompassed P & L responsibility, business development, product development, sales strategy, and branding.
- Worked with the CEO to build processes, grow our user base, and develop strategy to successfully present the company for venture capital funding. One round of \$2,500,000 in VC funding was pending before the company closed in 2012.
- Facilitated deal between Major League Baseball, Seattle Mariners and BASF a large, multi-billion dollar German conglomerate to use Earthbongo's software platform to track use of BASF made compost bins given away at stadiums to encourage composting. Earthbongo's platform was to be used to gain data, metrics and engagement not just with the product and users, but also how gamification can transform challenging goals into reality and positively influence behavior.
- Led the company's filing to become a Benefit Corporation (B-Corp).
- Earthbongo was among the first social media companies of its to use gamification to drive social action and promote sustainable employee behavior. Others in this space are Limeade, Super Better, and WeSpire.

**Founder/Executive Director, Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas (Feb. 1999-June 2009)**

- Founder of a multidisciplinary arts organization in Seattle that presents and produces community-based discussions, literary readings, and performing arts rooted in African-American culture. Oversaw all areas of management of a small to mid-size organization.
- My experience included resource development, governance, event management, public relations, financial management and strategic planning. Creating and leading this dynamic and nationally unique organization, I managed multiple projects and people quickly, accurately, and compassionately.
- My role was the primary spokesperson of the organization to the media, institutional funders, governmental agencies, and individual stakeholders. Leading the fundraising for CD Forum, we raised over \$2M in start-up funding during my tenure. For my work there and other regional agencies, I was named one of the Puget Sound Business Journal's *Top 40 Under 40* business leaders.

**BOARDS AND LEADERSHIP**

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**Immediate Past President, Board of Directors, Artist Trust (Presidency: 2014-2016, Tenure: 2012-current)**

- Served as Vice-President from 2012-2014, Chair Governance Committee and Current Co-Chair of Campaign for a Creative Future, a \$3.5 million campaign for working capital to support individual artists.
- Facilitated leadership change and led search for new CEO hired in 2014.
- Oversaw the internal reorganization of staff and program divisions.
- Reorganized and standardized board governance policies and procedures to be more in line with the organization's mission and values.
- Led the organization in the development of strategic and equity plans which guide the 30-year-old organization toward more fully meeting its statewide mission.
- Represented Artist Trust as the beneficiary organization of the inaugural Seattle Art Fair in 2015.

**Board Member, past Secretary, YWCA of Seattle, King and Snohomish County (Secretary: 2014-2016, Tenure: 2013-Current)**

- Executive Committee member to oversee programs and financial performance of \$41M organization, the largest YWCA affiliate in the nation.
- Co-Chair of Fund Development Committee to engage board and inspire area philanthropists to prioritize YWCA in their giving to reach a \$5M goal annually.
- Co-Chair of 2017 Inspire Luncheons which raise over \$2M annually for YWCA programs.
- Served on the Executive Search Committee which conducted a national search to hire the first new CEO in 20 years.

**Member, Central Waterfront Committee (2014-Current)**

- Appointed by current Mayor Ed Murray.
- Overseeing the Office of the Waterfront's delivery of the Waterfront Seattle Program, which includes construction of a new Elliott Bay seawall, reconnecting the city to its waterfront, creating an active public space for residents and visitors alike, and providing an adequate thoroughfare for people and commerce through the center of the city.

**Vice-President, Board of Directors, KUOW/Puget Sound Public Radio (2005-2011)**

- Oversaw program delivery, P & L, and succession planning for \$12M public radio station, the second largest in the nation.
- Served two years as Secretary and member of the Executive, Finance, Fund Development, Governance, and Strategic Planning Committees.
- Led the finance and executive committees in the acquisition and development of KXOT in Olympia, WA. Oversaw FCC regulation and compliance issues.
- Helped develop a plan for community partnerships with peer organizations and small businesses.

**Commissioner, Mayor's Office for Arts and Cultural Affairs (2008-2010)**

- Appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels
- Served on Education and Communications Committees as well as on adjudication panels for the Mayor's Arts Award and other annual awards.

**Commissioner, Washington State Arts Commission (2000-2007)**

- Appointed for two consecutive terms by Governor Gary Locke
- Chaired Visual Arts and Executive Search Committees.

**Current Organizational Affiliations**

- Council on Foundations, member
- Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network, member
- Family Firm Institute, member
- Seattle Art Fair, Host Committee member
- Graywolf Press, International Advisory Board
- University of Washington Press, Advisory Board
- BlackPast.org, International Advisory Board
- UCLA Parent Philanthropy Committee, member
- Washington Women's Foundation, member
- Association of Fundraising Professionals, Seattle chapter member
- NW Next Leaders Council, member
- Net Impact, member

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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City of Seattle Proclamation "Stephanie Ellis-Smith Day" October 21, 2009  
Best Expander of Cultural Boundaries, *Seattle Weekly*  
The Pride Foundation's Ted Lord Allied Award  
Puget Sound Business Journal *Top 40 Under 40* Honoree  
Talented Tenth Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Microsoft Community Hero Award  
Community Service Award, Loren Miller Bar Association  
The Evergreen Award for Non-Profit Leadership  
The Bent Writer's Institute Organizational Leadership Award

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

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- Adept at organizational development in corporate and non-profit sectors.
- Experienced in strategic planning, fiduciary oversight, fund development, community relations, and board governance and development.
- Superior people management and leadership skills; broadband cultural competency; comfortable delegating and empowering talented and motivated executives.
- Excellent relationship-building skills with a broad range of constituencies including but not limited to: high net-worth individuals, funding organizations, partnering organizations, business leaders, and public officials.
- Unafraid calculated risks, such as experimenting with a new idea or concept, to advance a goal.
- Experienced in program evaluation methods and best practices that achieve impact.

## **LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTES**

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- Thrives in a highly visible role with leaders from all sectors (business, government, philanthropists, various nonprofit entities).
- Strategic, decisive, passionate, and visionary leader who can motivate internal and external constituents to achieve organization and community goals.
- Excels in an environment that requires broad learning to create something new; works well with ambiguity to achieve goals.
- Comfortable and adept at influencing others about intangibles such as concepts or ideas.
- Ability to exhibit sensitive, calm and thoughtful leadership, even amidst disagreement.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and enjoyment in building rapport with those who have varying viewpoints and perceptions.
- Direct experience and strong understanding of the political dynamics as well as local political sensitivities that may impact organizational growth and development.
- Comfortable with complexity, displays strong business acumen and assures results are achieved.
- Exceptional communication skills including public speaking, writing for general and specific audiences, and reading and analyzing complex documents.

## **EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS**

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Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®), 2018  
American College of Financial Services

Certified Advisor and Facilitator in Family Philanthropy, 2017  
21/64

Certificate, Women Board Directors Program, October 2016  
University of Washington Foster School of Business

B.A., English Literature and Biochemistry, June 1992  
University of California at Los Angeles

# Museum Development Authority

FEBRUARY 2019

9 Members: Pursuant to RCW 35.21.730 and Seattle Municipal Code 3.110, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- # City Council-appointed
- 3 Mayor-appointed
- 6 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify):
  - 3 – Seattle Art Museum (SAM)
  - 3 – MDA Governing Council

**Roster:**

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
3	F		1.	Member	Rosita Romero	7/31/16	7/31/19	4	Mayor
6	F		2.	Member	Margaret Walker	7/31/16	7/31/19	3	SAM
									MDA Governing Council
2	F		3.	Member	Dorothy Mann	7/12/16	7/31/19	9	MDA Governing Council
2	M	3	4.	Member	Henry McGee	10/1/18	9/30/21	6	Mayor
6	M	3	5.	Member	Robert Strong	7/12/18	7/11/21	4	SAM
									MDA Governing Council
6	M	7	6.	Chair	Douglass Raff	7/12/18	7/11/21	7	MDA Governing Council
2	M		7.	Member	Robert Flowers	7/12/17	7/13/20	4	Mayor
6	M		8.	Member	Douglas Norberg	7/12/17	7/13/20	3	SAM
									MDA Governing Council
2	F	7	9.	Member	Stephanie Ellis-Smith	7/12/18	7/11/21	1	MDA Governing Council

**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	1				2	1											
MDA Council	1	2				2				1								
SAM	2	1								3								
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>4</b>								

**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.*