




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Falisha Kurji</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Urban Forestry Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Natural Resource Agency or University Representative</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: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Date Appointed: <i>mm/dd/yy.</i>	Term of Position: * <i>4/1/2022</i> to <i>3/31/2025</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>TBD</i>	Zip Code: <i>TBD</i>	Contact Phone No.:
Background: Falisha Kurji (they/she) is a graduate of the University of Florida with majors in Sociology and Sustainability Studies. They are deeply passionate about the intersections of environmental and social justice, and seek to advocate for BIPOC, lower-income, and unhoused communities' access to green spaces. They are an alum of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at the University of Washington, where they developed a strong foundation and experience working on environmental justice issues. They are currently the Community Partnerships Coordinator at Seattle Parks Foundation, where they work with various community-led groups who are working to create safe and accessible public green spaces. In their free time, they enjoy learning about ethnobotany, connecting with their South Asian heritage, and dancing. <i>Falisha is being appointed to serve a three-year term ending March 31, 2025.</i>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): April 28, 2022	Appointing Signatory: <i>Dan Strauss</i> <i>Seattle City Councilmember</i> <i>Chair, Land Use Committee</i>	

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

Falisha Kurji

She/They | [REDACTED]

Education

University of Florida Honors Program

Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies, *Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, *Summa Cum Laude*

Minor in Geography

GPA: 3.89/4.00

May 2020

Experience

Community Partnerships Coordinator, *Seattle Parks Foundation*

August 2021-Present

- Foster partnerships with Seattle-based community led organizations to champion green spaces
- Manages grants and reporting processes in collaboration with community groups
- Attends community-led public green space events
- Advocates for increased services for priority projects in under-invested neighborhoods

Environmental Aide, *King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks* **October 2020-May 2021**

- Facilitated outreach and established partnerships with BIPOC community members
- Co-created the King County Swimming Beaches Survey and analyzed 1,000+ results
- Co-authored a report of survey findings
- Updated 10 King County Lakes webpages to improve accessibility and accuracy

Undergraduate Researcher, *UF Department of Sociology*

August 2019-May 2020

- Conducted qualitative and quantitative content analyses of 100 American journalistic articles using Excel spreadsheets
- Synthesized a literature review of existing research about the fast fashion industry with a focus on its implications for women and environments in the Global South
- Authored an Honors Thesis in Sociology with Summa Cum Laude Distinction

Doris Duke Intern, *Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program, Woodland Park Zoo*

June 2019-August 2019

- Created an informational packet for Indigenous community members to prepare for a cultural exchange of ecological knowledge
- Collected qualitative data and documented the exchange through interviews, photography, and videography during the 2019 Annual Tribal Canoe Journey
- Informed the Woodland Park Zoo's Public Relations Team on Indigenous conservation to assist with their press release

Student Organizer and Co-Founder, *Divest UF*

January 2018-September 2019

- Advocated for ethical investment in multiple meetings with members of the UF Investment Corporation and the Board of Trustees
- Established partnerships with faculty, student organizations, and community groups to gain support for fossil fuel divestment
- Facilitated organizational meetings and developed detailed meeting minutes
- Coordinated logistics for direct action events

Urban Forestry Commission

13 Members: Pursuant to SMC 3.14.920, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	F	6	1.	Wildlife Biologist	Julia Michalak	4/1/20	3/31/23	1	Council
3	M	6	2.	Urban Ecologist	Joseph Sisneros	4/1/20	3/31/23	1	Mayor
1	NB	3	3.	Natural Resource Agency or University Representative	Falisha Kurji	4/1/22	3/31/25	1	Council
6	F	4	4.	Hydrologist or Similar Professional	Becca Neumann	4/1/21	3/31/24	1	Mayor
6	M	4	5.	Arborist	Stuart Niven	4/1/21	3/31/24	2	Council
1	M	5	6.	Landscape Architect	Hao Liang	4/1/21	3/31/24	1	Mayor
6	M	3	7.	NGO Representative	Joshua N. Morris	4/1/22	3/31/25	1	Council
6	M	7	8.	Development Community or Utility Representative	David Michael Moehring	4/1/22	3/31/25	2	Mayor
6	M	n/a	9.	Economist, Financial Analyst, Realtor, or Similar Professional	Blake Voorhees	4/1/20	3/31/23	1	Commission
6	F	7	10.	Get Engaged Member	Laura Keil	9/1/21	8/31/22	1	Mayor
9	F	4	11.	Environmental Justice Rep.	Jessica Hernandez	4/1/21	3/31/24	1	Council
6	F	7	12	Public Health Rep.	Jessica Jones	4/1/21	3/31/24	2	Mayor
9	F	2	13	Community/Neighborhood Rep.	Lia Hill	4/1/21	3/31/24	1	Council

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	Caucasian/Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	3	3			1		1			4			
Council	2	3		Non-Binary	1					3			2
Other	1									1			
Total	6	6		1	2		1			8			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.