



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Ricky Graboski		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Arts Commission		Position Title: Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		Term of Position: * 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
Residential Neighborhood: North Seattle	Zip Code: 98103	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: <p>Ricky Graboski's personal and professional history are intertwined with America's underground DIY scene. He currently serves as Executive Director of The Vera Project, an all-ages music venue, arts incubator, and community center in Seattle. Before Vera, Ricky coordinated grassroots initiatives in Detroit, worked in musician engagement in New York, and ran a national community organizing training center based in Houston. During that time, he also played in terrible punk bands and volunteered at influential DIY spaces Death by Audio and Shea Stadium in Brooklyn. At Vera, Ricky has dedicated his time to advocating for the DIY scene and community-centered cultural spaces, building all-ages programming at the intersection of art and activism.</p>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 2/27/24		Appointing Signatory: Tanya Woo Council Member, Seattle City Council

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

Ricky Graboski

Experience

Executive Director – The Vera Project

October 2019 – Present

- Oversee and contribute to all day-to-day activities at The Vera Project, including shows, classes, community organizing and engagement work, special events, and fiscal sponsorships
- Direct and operate all strategic development, fundraising, and partnership efforts for The Vera Project and affiliated programs
- Manage ten staff members, 20 event production trainees, 10 teaching artists, one-hundred members, and hundreds of volunteers.

Co-founder & Organizer – West Coast All Ages

June 2020 – Present

- Co-lead a community-driven coalition, grant program, and advocacy network for all-ages spaces in the Western United States
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Development & Advocacy Director - The Vera Project

June 2018 – October 2019

- Directed all community organizing, community engagement, and fundraising activities for The Vera Project

Executive Director – The Reservoir Coalition

January 2017 – August 2018

- Directed a nationwide grassroots organizing training center for young people, offering training, resources, and partnership opportunities for emerging activists and youth community leaders
- Managed two employees, rotating interns, twelve regional volunteer leaders, advisory board, and dozens of national volunteers
- Provided consulting services to several nonprofits and activist groups working to expand their community impact

Community Engagement Manager – Volunteer Houston

June 2015 - January 2017

- Directed and coordinated all community outreach, advocacy, and corporate service programming at Volunteer Houston
- Created and directed Sustainable Schoolyards program to engage community partners in building outdoor classrooms, planting community gardens, providing progressive educational programming, and campaigning for the environment at Title 1 schools

Organizational Development Coordinator – Jazz Foundation of America

March 2014 - June 2015

- Led various jazz & blues community concert series to offer employment, housing, and healthcare opportunities to elder musicians
- Worked directly in musician/client outreach, operated all social media, developed database, and coordinated benefit events

Organizer – Harriet Tubman Center

February 2012 - September 2013

- Coordinated collaborative, youth-led campaigns to promote ceasefire initiatives and fight police brutality
- Assisted in the promotion and obtainment of multi-million-dollar Ceasefire grant and associated programming for Detroit

Field Supervisor - Southwest Solutions

March 2011 - October 2011

- Led groups of young people in Southwest Detroit to campaign for youth empowerment opportunities and ceasefire efforts, building large-scale mobilizations, canvassing for GIS data on local crises, and holding community-led town halls

Project Supervisor – Building Blocks

July 2010 - January 2011

- Supervised a group of forty neighborhood residents and two youth employees in environmental campaigning, weatherization and neighborhood beautification projects, extensive grassroots outreach, grant management, and town hall meetings
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Education

NYU Wagner School of Public Service

August 2013- May 2015

Master's Degree in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy with a focus on International Development

Kalamazoo College

September 2009- June 2013

Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology/Sociology with a concentration in Public Policy and Urban Affairs

Total	1	5		1	2		2			2			1
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Key:

***D** List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

****G** List *gender*, **M** = Male, **F**= Female, **T**= Transgender, **U**= Unknown, **O**= Other

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.