




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Joelle Vedovatti		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Youth Commission		Position Title: Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>		Term of Position: * 9/1/2021 to 8/31/2023 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: Greenwood/Bitterlake	Zip Code: 98103	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: As a black female who lives with a single mom in low income housing, I know what it feels like to have less opportunities available to me. Since my mom is an immigrant and her first language isn't English, she hasn't been able to help me as much with school but she has always been really supportive and helped me as best as she could by getting me a touter and finding people to help me. There are a lot of kids with immigrant parents who are also first generation students like myself. Students like these can sometimes have more trouble in school because of the language barrier and the fact that they aren't getting enough support. I want to make sure that this isn't happening anymore and students who are first generation or have immigrant parents have more support and are prioritized.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 8/29/2022		Appointing Signatory: <i>Bruce A. Harrell</i> <i>Mayor of Seattle</i>

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

Name: Joelle Vedovatti

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Age: 15

School information: Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences

Passionate about Seattle, becoming involved with the youth commission to become an agent of change, eradication of homelessness and poverty, health and employment equity, education, and soccer.

Education:

- Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences: 10th grade (22/23)
 - High honor roll (6th grade to now)
- Meridian School (elementary education)

Volunteering experience:

- Seattle Arab Festival: Children's activities, Since 2011
- Meridian school organized student volunteering: lunches for homeless, FamilyWorks, Wallingford senior center, neighborhood cleanup

Skills and activities:

- OL Reign Academy Soccer team
- High School Varsity Soccer team
- Writing and research
- Circus performer
- Cooking
- Photography
- Trilingual (French, Arabic)

Attachment: Original SYC application

Name: Joelle Vedovatti
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Age: 14
School information: Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences
1201 E Union St.
Seattle Washington 98122

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. Why do you want to become a member of the Seattle Youth Commission?

Since I was younger, I have always wanted to be a change in our community. Whether that be picking up garbage off the street in my neighborhood, volunteering at the annual Arab Festival at Seattle center, or preparing lunches for the homeless with my classmates. Being able to have a more significant impact in my community is one of my goals. In addition, it would provide me a taste of local policies, issues, and public office, as well as help me better understand how our city government works. While younger people don't have the power of the ballot box, we do have the power to sway public policy.

2. What are the issues in your community that you are passionate about and why?

Multiple issues need addressing in our community. The one that stands out the most to me is that there is a woefully high number of people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Walking down the street and seeing so many people without necessities is heartbreaking. Knowing that I could do something to aid these people makes me want to have this opportunity even more. Many people have the power to do something and make a difference in our community but aren't even batting an eye at the people in need. But, there are plenty of people who see what is happening and work for change. *I want to be one of these people and hope to be a part of that change.*

Another issue that I have noticed that contributes to homelessness is growing income inequality. The gap between the rich and poor is expanding each year. According to the Seattle Times, our city's wealthiest earners are among the top three in the nation in yearly income. That's quite a contrast when we see the number of impoverished people in our parks and under our bridges.

Lastly, a topic that resonates with me is the need for more recreational venues within the city. I have played competitive soccer for the past seven years and have competed on almost every field in Seattle. The quality of many athletic fields in our city could be improved. Furthermore, there are not enough athletic playfields, as seen on any given evening when areas are packed with young and adult athletes. I think that more attention should be focused on our parks and playfields.

3. What do you hope to gain from this experience?

- Gain knowledge in politics
- Learn more deeply about the issues in our community and what is being actively done
- Learn about the policies put in place
- Be able to have an impact
- Seeing other people's views on topics
- Be a part of a team and grow in it
- Become a better person

4. What do you think makes your perspective unique to others?

- Well-read and well-traveled

- Experienced many cities
- Interracial family
- See things from the perspective of a teenage girl
- Born in this beautiful city at UWMC, raised here, and hope to stay here

5. The City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative advances racial equity in the city government and the community. What are your ideas about applying race and social justice principles as a Seattle Youth Commissioner?

The topic of race is spoken about considerably, but there isn't enough being done about the problem. Of course, this issue cannot be fixed overnight. Still, some ideas and principles can be applied in our community to start slowly making our way to change, including race and the criminal justice system, healthcare, housing, education, credit and debt, voting rights, employment, and immigration.

To focus, I would choose health equity and employment.

The COVID-19 epidemic vaccination efforts brought to light the distrust that many BIPOC communities have for the healthcare system, and the pharmaceutical industry. This stems from a deeply rooted lack of access to proper care as well as mistreatments of minorities in clinical trials and experimental medicine in the past. Raising awareness, speaking about this, providing free medical care and insurance to those who can't afford it, and offering clinical trials to all peoples of color will help.

Another important topic in Seattle is employment and pay inequity. People with blue collar and small businesses jobs can't afford to live in the city at all and have to commute. Providing higher pay, better benefits, transportation vouchers, and childcare support is key. I was surprised to know that many of my teachers can't afford to live close to my school, and have to commute from Renton and Tacoma, or rent very small apartments close by. Lower paying wages typically affect people of color more. The BIPOC communities typically rely more on public transportation, this can influence employment security.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer these important questions, and applying to be a Seattle Youth Commissioner.

Please provide two references.

Diana Ishak: [REDACTED] Aunt and Mentor
[Abby Drivdahl](#) [REDACTED] Teacher

Joelle Vedovatti

Seattle Youth Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125029, 15 members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms:

- 7 City Council- Appointed
- 8 Mayoral- Appointed

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
3/4	F	3	1.	Member At-Large	Tatiwyat Buck	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor
9	F	5	2.	Member At-Large	Ahana Roy	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor
1	F	2	3.	District #2	Phi Tran	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	City Council
1	F	2	4.	Member At-Large	Pauline Adonis	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor
1	F	5	5.	District #4	Katherine Kang	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	2	City Council
9	F	5	6.	Member At-Large	Nyla Moxley	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor
6	F	5	7.	District #6	Eleanor Cennane	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	Mayor
6/8	F	4	8.	Member At-Large	Joelle Vedovatti	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor
1	M	5	9.	Member At-Large	Julian Chong	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	City Council
1	M	1	10.	Member At-Large	Kevin Jackson Hu	9/01/2021	8/31/2022	2	City Council
9	F	5	11.	District #5	Samara Wijesekera	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	City Council
2	F	5	12.	District #7	Kayla Haile	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	City Council
3	M	2	13.	District #1	Diego Escame-Hedger	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	City Council
6	F	4	14.	Member At-Large	Caroline Carter	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor
2	M	2	15.	District #3	Lincoln Hilliard Wilmore	9/01/2021	8/31/2023	1	Mayor

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	1	7			0	1	1	1		3		1	2
Council	3	4			4	1	1	0		0		0	1
Other													
Total													

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.