



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Michael Johnson*

Board or Commission Name: *Seattle Center Advisory Commission*

Position Title: *Member*

☒ **Appointment** ☐ **Reappointment**

***Term of Position:** *9/29/2026 to 9/28/2029*

☐ *Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other: *Insert Appointing Authority*

City Council Confirmation Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Residential Neighborhood: *Council District 7*

Appointee brief overview: *Growing up in South Seattle, Michael Johnson developed a deep appreciation for the role public spaces play in shaping community identity and opportunity. That foundation continues to drive his commitment to serving others, including his volunteer work with St. Vincent de Paul, where he gives back to the communities that shaped him. For Michael, joining the Seattle Center Advisory Commission is an opportunity to help ensure that one of Seattle's most beloved civic institutions remains a welcoming, world-class destination for every corner of the city.*

Michael is a civic impact leader and urban placemaking executive with a passion for building public spaces that are vibrant, inclusive, and financially sustainable. As Director of Park Experience at Friends of Waterfront Park, Michael helped launch Seattle's new waterfront destination, delivering an award-winning grand-opening season and establishing the park as a cornerstone of Seattle's public realm.

With deep roots in Seattle's civic landscape, Michael has spent his career bridging community programming, equitable access, and operational excellence. His prior work as Director of Public Realm Operations at the Downtown Seattle Association gave him firsthand experience collaborating with Seattle Center's neighboring institutions, city agencies, and community partners to activate public spaces and drive meaningful impact for residents and visitors alike. Michael's background in both public and private sector operations brings a balanced perspective to advisory leadership that values bold programming, responsible stewardship, and Seattle's unique role as a gathering place for all communities. A proud graduate of Washington State University's Carson College of Business, he brings both academic grounding and real-world expertise to every table he sits at.

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed: *6/16/26*

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

Katie B. Wilson
Mayor of Seattle

MICHAEL JOHNSON

Civic Placemaking Leader | Community Steward | Urban Operations Executive



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seattle-rooted civic leader with a proven record of building vibrant, inclusive public spaces that serve entire communities. Expert in public realm operations, earned revenue strategy, equitable programming, and cross-sector partnership, with direct experience collaborating with Seattle Center, city agencies, and community organizations to shape Seattle's most ambitious public projects. Brings board-level strategic thinking grounded in a deep commitment to access, belonging, and long-term sustainability.

ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

- Public Realm Operation (2023): Recognized for implementing an updated deployment strategy that encompassed four downtown Seattle urban parks with updated programming and placemaking activations.
- Rising Star Award (2020): Recognized by ClubCorp for retention and profitability strategies during COVID.
- Top F&B Director (2019): Named one of the top three Food & Beverage Directors nationwide; completed training at CIA Copia, Napa Valley.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Director of Park Experience | Friends of Waterfront Park - Seattle, WA *2024 – Present*

Played a pivotal role in launching Seattle's new waterfront destination. Developed the organization's first earned revenue strategy, built a scalable staffing model for year-round operations, and collaborated with city agencies — including Seattle Center, SDOT, and SDCI — to prioritize public safety and inclusive programming.

- Spearheaded strategic planning and infrastructure for Seattle's new 20-acre waterfront park, integrating public programming with earned revenue models.
- Delivered award-winning grand opening season, including the Oodalalee Concert Series and Waterfront Park Market.
- Designed a 'Social Impact Layer' with capacity set-asides and fee-reduction tiers, creating a sustainable incubator pipeline for underrepresented entrepreneurs.
- Project Manager for brick-and-mortar buildouts on park property, coordinating with SDOT, Office of Waterfront Civic Project, Seattle Center, and SDCI.
- Reports directly to the Board on the intersection of fiscal health, equity, and community impact.

Director of Public Realm Operations | Downtown Seattle Association - Seattle, WA *2021 – 2024*

Orchestrated strategic revitalization and operational management of Seattle's central metropolitan core. Exercised full P&L stewardship over a multi-site portfolio of high-traffic urban parks, forging public-private partnerships that stabilized the downtown economy and prioritized engagement with underserved communities.

- Managed large-scale public realm operations across Seattle's urban core, including multi-site integration of four downtown parks with Seattle Parks and Recreation.
- Launched a transformative public-private initiative delivering 20+ murals and lighting installations along 3rd Avenue, enhancing safety and community pride.
- Developed a public asset tracking app integrated with city systems for real-time accountability.
- Built a strategic hiring and retention plan for ambassador teams, reducing turnover and establishing a culture of accountability.

Director of Operations | Columbia Tower Club - Seattle, WA

2019 – 2021

Directed all operations for a premier private club, with full P&L responsibility. Served as strategic liaison to the Board of Directors.

- Secured Board approval for capital improvements through data-driven presentations on facility modernization and member retention.
- Delivered significant annual savings through lean labor modeling and inventory optimization.
- Achieved an 11.5% year-over-year increase in member satisfaction scores.

Regional Director of Operations | Blue C Sushi - WA/OR/CA

2013 – 2019

Directed multi-state operations across a growing restaurant group, leading expansion, culture-building, and fiscal performance.

- Directed a team of 400+ across three states; opened flagship locations in Hollywood, Newport Beach, and San Francisco.
- Created a new retail revenue division and redefined forecasting systems to improve enterprise-wide financial visibility.

EDUCATION

B.A. Hospitality Management - Carson College of Business, Washington State University | Pullman, WA

Proud Cougar and committed advocate for education, community, and civic engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- St. Vincent de Paul, Federal Way - Volunteer, giving back to the South Seattle community that shaped him.
- Junior High Basketball Coach - Mentored youth ages 10-14, developing fundamentals, discipline, and teamwork.

Seattle Center Advisory Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinances 91885 and 108936, 3-year terms; 1 Member pursuant to Ordinance 121568, 1-year term; all members subject to City Council confirmation:

- 16 Mayor- appointed

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	M	7	1.	Member	Matthew Howard Roewe	9/29/25	9/28/28	1	Mayor
6	F	7	2.	Member	Adriane Musuneggi	9/29/25	9/28/28	1	Mayor
6	M	7	3.	Member	Michael George	9/29/25	9/28/28	3	Mayor
6	M	7	4.	Chair	Mark F. Dederer	9/29/25	9/28/28	6	Mayor
6	F	7	5.	Member	Sally Bagshaw	9/29/25	9/28/28	2	Mayor
6	M	7	6.	Member	John Olensky	9/29/26	9/28/29	3	Mayor
6	F	6	7.	Member	Sarah C. Rich	9/29/26	9/28/29	5	Mayor
6	F	1	8.	Member	Ashley McClaran	9/29/26	9/28/29	1	Mayor
6	M	1	9.	Member	Eric Berlinberg	9/29/26	9/28/29	3	Mayor
6	F	7	10.	Member	Michael Johnson	9/29/26	9/28/29	1	Mayor
2	M	4	11.	Member	Matthew Mead	9/29/24	9/28/27	2	Mayor
2	M	N/A	12.	Member	Eric Pettigrew	9/29/24	9/28/27	1	Mayor
7	F	2	13.	Member	Lara Mae D. Chollette	9/29/24	9/28/27	2	Mayor
6	M	N/A	14.	Vice Chair	Will Ludlam	9/29/24	9/28/27	5	Mayor
3	F	2	15.	Member	Gloria Alvarez Connors	9/29/24	9/28/27	5	Mayor
2	F	7	16.	Get Engaged Member	Lauren Campbell	9/1/25	8/31/26	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	8	8				3	1			11	1		
Council													
Other													
Total	8	8				3	1			11	1		

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.