



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Yolanda L. Spencer		
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 type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Commission	Term of Position: * 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2027 <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position	
Residential Neighborhood: Lakewood, WA	Zip Code: 98499	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Yolanda Spencer member of the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation and as well as Lummi Nation in Washington. She is part of the Swan Clan and carries her mother's Lummi name Cho Phosh Owet. She attended Haskell Indian Nations University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She has served with United Indians of All Tribes Foundation over a decade and has served as its strong leader for the past decade promoting education and employment rights, her knowledge spanned to outreach and education for both workers and employers for our Seattle Indigenous community. Yolanda has developed and administered Native Workforce Services Program since 2011. She is currently the new Community Services Director for the Chief Seattle Club that focuses on Reentry, Housing, and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault need within our Urban Indigenous. Chief Seattle Club non-profit organization dedicated to physically and spiritually supporting American Indian and Alaska Native people. She previously served on the WorkSource Seattle-King County Employer Outreach Partners and King Central Local Planning Area (LPA) that focuses on best practices and outreach for our underserved job seekers. She also served as a recovery coach for the White Bison Medicine Wheel that supported the incarcerated women at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) and participated as a traditional dancer that attended the Department of Corrections Pow Wow's across Washington State. She is also certified in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) to administer personality assessment tool, facilitator in White Bison Warrior Down/Recover Coach and Survivors of Homicide. She is an avid Seattle's sports fan for the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed) Yoon Kang-O'Higgins	Appointing Signatory: Megan Kiskaddon, Yoon Kang-O'Higgins Co-Chairs, Seattle Arts Commission	
<small>Yoon Kang-O'Higgins (02/03/2026 13:04:53 PST)</small>		

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

Yolanda L. Spencer

Experience

Jan 2023 – Present

Community Services Director- Chief Seattle Club

- Supervised: Reentry, Housing, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault departments to ensure program needs are met through budgets, programming, staffing and member services.
- Helped with tracking programs budgets for monthly meetings.
- Worked diligently to connect programs to appropriate services offered by Chief Seattle Club

June 2022 – January 2023

Reentry Director- Chief Seattle Club

- Managed all re-entry program grants so that services meet members needs and funder expectations, including supervising all reentry program staff.
- Established and strengthen partnerships to meet member needs in supportive services and program needs.
- supported relationships with funders around applications, reporting, and financial negotiations.
- Oversees the re-entry team, including the Re-Entry Program Manager, case managers, employment specialists, and other staff.
- Develop relationships with tribal jails, county jails, State Department of Corrections (DOC), and a network of reentry organizations to connect with providers, advocates, contracted vendors, and community resources to assess the member's status, identify needs and ensure access to appropriate services to achieve positive outcomes upon member's reentry to the community.

September 2021-June 2022

Program Director- Native Workforce Services Program

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation

Created and administered a federally funded grant Department of Labor for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that served federally enrolled Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian with employment and training program living in King County.

Administered a City of Seattle grant under Office of Labor Standards to promote community engagement/outreach to our Seattle Native Workers to understand their workers' rights under Seattle Ordinances. Spearheaded the Native Workforce Program for 10 years that drafted, edited, and reviewed grants.

JANUARY 2011 – September 2021

PROGRAM MANAGER- NATIVE WORKFORCE SERVICES PROGRAM, UNITED INDIANS OF ALL TRIBES FOUNDATION

Implemented new processes to improve current needs for urban Native Americans in search of employment and training. Assisted clients with accessing resources, such as work incentives planning, educational programs, and supportive services in King County area. Worked closely with clients to develop professional resumes and assist in search for employment. Provided advice to clients on how to advance their career or education and provided assessments to determine which career paths are best suited. Worked with Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act grant officer to renew grant by quarterly reports and submit grant renewal every four years. Plan and developed budget narrative for each grant period. Attended trainings related to improve needs within Native American for education and employment.

Administrative Assistant, Puyallup Tribe, WorkSource Investment Act (WIA) Department 2009- Present

Currently working part-time with WIA director in assisting in recruiting new applicants in the program and updating current client's files. Research job listings daily for clients looking for employment. Intake new applicants and set up interview dates for case managers. Document timesheets to update current clients file. Answer daily questions regarding the WIA program over the phone. Set up staff meeting according to director's schedule.

Teacher Assistant, Haskell Indian Nations University 2006

Worked directly with Social Work and Chemical Dependency Instructor. Researched and wrote weekly assignments related to weekly lessons related to social work, and peer related group projects. Played key role in preparing a presentation in awareness about Deaf Culture. Prepared weekly reports regarding my internship. Helped with grading and the posting of grades. Arranged meetings with students and faculty. Organized student contact information and messages for professors.

Education

Haskell Indian Nations University

Lawrence, Kansas

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 2008

Pierce College

Lakewood, WA

Associates of Arts Science, 2003

Additional Experience and Certification

participated on the

- WorkSource Seattle-King County Employer Outreach Partners and
- King Central Local Planning Area (LPA) that focuses on best practices and outreach for our underserved job seekers.
- Advisor to legislative subcommittee to Washington Statewide Reentry Council.

Certifications:

- White Bison: 12 steps for Men and Women
- White Bison: Warrior Down
- White Bison: Survivors of Suicide
- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) to administer personality assessment tool.

References

Available upon request

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

16 Members: Pursuant to ordinance 121006, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms (Get-Engaged member serves a 1-year term):

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed
- 1 Get-Engaged

(Roster as of 1/30/2026)

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	M	2	1.	At-Large	Ed King	01/01/25	12/31/26	1 st	City Council
6	F	7	2.	At-Large	Megan Kiskaddon	01/01/26	12/31/27	2 nd	City Council
3	F	1	3.	At-Large	Vanessa Villalobos	01/01/25	12/31/26	3 rd	City Council
3	F	1	4.	At-Large	Linda Chavez Lowry	01/01/26	12/31/27	2 nd	City Council
6	M	5	5.	At-Large	Ricky Graboski	01/01/26	12/31/27	3 rd	City Council
3	F	6	6.	At-Large	Diana Garcia (Dhyana)	01/01/26	12/31/27	2 nd	City Council
6	F	5	7.	At-Large	Kate Nagle-Caraluzzo	01/01/25	12/31/26	1 st	City Council
4	F	N/A	8.	At-Large	Yolanda L. Spencer	01/01/26	12/31/27	2 nd	Commission
			9.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
2 & 9	F	1	10.	At-Large	Avery Barnes	01/01/26	12/31/27	2 nd	Mayor
			11.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			12.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			13.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
1	F	N/A	14.	At-Large	Yoon Kang-O'Higgins	01/01/26	12/31/27	2 nd	Mayor
1, 4, & 6	F&O	7	15.	At-Large	Jo Mikesell	01/01/25	12/31/26	1 st	Mayor
6	M		16.	Get-Engaged	Jack Nash	09/01/25	08/31/26	One	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)			
	Men	Women	Transgender	Other/ Unknown	Asian	Black/ African America n	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other (Specification Optional)	Caucasian / Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	1	3		1	2	1		1		2			1
Council	2	5				1	3			3			
Other		1						1					
Total	3	9		1	2	2	3	2		5			1

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.