



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Sofia Michelakis*

Board or Commission Name: *Families Education Preschool and Promise Levy Oversight Committee*

Position Title: *Member*

☒ **Appointment**

☐ **Reappointment**

***Term of Position:** *6/1/2026 to 12/31/2027*

☐ *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: *Ballard*

Appointee brief overview:

Professionally, I have spent over two decades working at the intersection of education, philanthropy, and community-based systems change. In my current role as Managing Director at Phila Engaged Giving, a philanthropic advisory firm, I work with families and foundations to design and assess charitable investments. Many of these investments support early learning, K–12 education, enrichment programs, and postsecondary pathways. This work includes reviewing program data and outcomes, assessing alignment with stated goals, and offering critical support to strengthen effectiveness and equity. I regularly work alongside nonprofit leaders and community partners.

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed: *07/22/2026*

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

*Councilmember Maritza
Rivera*



Sofia Michelakis

Purpose-Driven Philanthropy Leader

Seasoned executive with over 20 years' experience helping individuals, families, and foundations translate values into meaningful action. Known for a calm, relational approach that builds trust across diverse communities, coaches teams through reflection and growth, and inspires collective action. Brings deep expertise in narrative change, partnership strategy, and developing collaborative vehicles to strengthen the philanthropic ecosystem for equitable, effective giving.

Contact

Phone

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

LinkedIn

[Redacted]

Education

University of Michigan Law School
Ann Arbor, MI

Juris Doctorate, cum laude

Stanford University
Stanford, CA

Bachelor of Arts, English

Areas of Expertise

- Philanthropic Vision & Action Strategies
- Donor & Community Collaboration
- Organizational & Team Development
- Thought Leadership & Storytelling for Impact
- Board Governance
- Multi-Generational Engagement
- Spend Down Planning

Selected Experience

Phila Engaged Giving, Seattle, WA

2023 - Present

An award-winning, values-aligned philanthropic advisory firm that helps individuals and families align their wealth with purpose.

Managing Director

- Advise ultra-high-net-wealth donors and families navigating major transitions and design giving plans rooted in values, trust, and accountability.
- Cultivate an inclusive, reflective team culture grounded in shared learning and community impact. Coach and mentor emerging advisors and staff, nurturing professional growth and values-aligned leadership across the firm.
- Oversee influence and communication strategies to advance the firm's mission to move more wealth in equitable ways.
- In collaboration with clients' finance, legal, and tax advisors, develop integrated giving and spend-down plans, converting complex assets into expanded philanthropic resources aligned with their goals and values.
- Partner with funders and boards to shape strategy, governance, and collaborative structures that shift philanthropic resources toward equity, innovation, and long-term systems change.

Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA

2013 - 2022

Deputy Director, Giving Pledge (August 2018 – August 2022)

Leader on the Philanthropic Partnerships Team. Principal point of contact for the Giving Pledge, which is made up of many of the world's wealthiest individuals and couples (www.givingpledge.org).

- Led the global strategy and community for the Giving Pledge, supporting individuals and families at all stages of the giving journey to increase their giving and collaboration.
- Served on the Philanthropic Partnerships leadership team, shaping strategy, culture, and DEI practices across the division.
- Managed a team of six with a collaborative, trust-based approach, fostering growth, creativity, and shared ownership of results.
- Created frameworks and peer learning opportunities that helped signatories advance equity-oriented, scalable giving strategies.
- Oversaw programming design and execution that inspired philanthropic collaboration and contributed to more than \$1B in new gifts during 18 months of the pandemic.
- Facilitated discussions among prominent philanthropists including Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates, Warren Buffett, and Tsitsi and Strive Masiyiwa.

Licenses & Certifications

Washington State Bar
Association, Attorney

Key Engagements

Transformative legacy

visioning: Thought partner to global philanthropists, families, executives, and boards to envision and actualize giving that seeds meaningful change.

Philanthropic innovation and

strategy: Design and scale creative, bold approaches and giving strategies that are grounded in the experience of populations impacted by those social problems and people working in the field.

Leadership development and

facilitation: Grow employees and emerging leaders to prepare for leadership roles; facilitate peer groups to meet organizational and personal evolution.

Motivating storytelling and

case studies: Draw key insights from real world successes and failures to advance the field of philanthropy; generate easy to use tools that help givers amplify their impact and avoid common pitfalls.

Experience, continued

Senior Program Officer, Giving Pledge (February 2013 - August 2018)

- Built trusted relationships with over 200 global philanthropists; recruited 75 new Giving Pledge signatories across 13 additional countries.
- Facilitated conversations at the World Economic Forum in Davos, expanding the global giving community and seeding new partnerships.

Social Venture Partners Seattle, Seattle, WA

2006 - 2013

A community of donors committed to shared values of collective giving and accountability and connection to frontline leaders.

Director - Partner Development

- Helped donors build authentic relationships with community leaders and nonprofits through meaningful service opportunities, site visits, and shared learning experiences.
- Designed SVP Seattle's donor education curriculum on nonprofit governance, power awareness and power sharing, and values-aligned giving.
- Matched 200+ donors with leadership and volunteer opportunities in the Seattle area, strengthening the connection between philanthropic intent and community need.

Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA

2008 - 2010

Adjunct Professor

- Co-designed and taught a 20-week clinical course linking law and business students with small business clients for pro bono advising.

Leadership & Board Service

Social Venture Partners International

2015 - 2021

Board President (2017-2020), Governance Committee Member (2020-2022)

- Co-led strategic planning, board recruitment, and executive search process.
- Co-founded and facilitated a peer learning community for board chairs across 40 affiliates worldwide.

Recent Articles & Speaking Engagements

- Opinion, [*Wealthy People Want to Give More, Why Aren't They?*](#) (Chronicle of Philanthropy, Oct 29, 2025)
- Moderator, *Land, Power, and Women's Rights* (Gates Alumni Event, Oct 9, 2025)
- Presenter, *For the Sunset Curious, What's Holding You Back?* (Assemble100, Oct 1, 2025)
- Presenter, *Navigating Change Together: A Collaborative Approach to Intentional Wealth Spend Down* (Purposeful Planning Institute, July 30, 2025)
- Author, [*Inspired by Bill Gates? 5 Moves to Start Your Own Spend-Down Journey*](#) (Phila Insights, May 12, 2025)
- Co-Author, [*Funders Fundraising: A New Philanthropic Trend*](#) (Stanford Social Innovation Review, Jun 18 2024)
- Presenter, *Tech Givers: Surfacing Solutions* (P150 Webinar, Jan 11, 2024)
- Author, [*The Benefits of Reciprocity*](#) (Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, Nov 28, 2023)

Forthcoming:

- Co-Author, *Demeter's Nurturing Power - Women in Philanthropy and Community Building* (Chapter in book *From Echo to Athena: The Evolution of Women In The Great Wealth Transfer*)

Families Education and Promise Levy Oversight Committee

17 Members: Pursuant to [Ordinance 127238], 12 members subject to City Council confirmation, with initial term provision for positions 1, 3, 6, 9, and 11 being 18-months to establish staggered terms. 2-year terms for all positions thereafter.

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 5 By Ordinance

Roster as of [insert date]

Position Number	Position Title	Appointee Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	*Term Number	Appointed By
1	Member	Amruta Mane	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
2	Member	Fathima Garcia	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
3	Member	Leon Garnett	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
4	Member	Erica K. Johnson	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
5	Member	Gabriel de los Angeles	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
6	Member	Sofia Michelakis	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
7	Member	James Williams	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
8	Member	Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
9	Member	Girard Montejo-Thompson	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
10	Member	Lizbet Huizar	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
11	Member	Lake ya Afolalu	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
12	Member	Zamzam Mohamed	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
13	Mayor of Seattle	Katie Wilson	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
14	Libraries, Education and Neighborhoods Committee	Maritza Rivera	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
15	School District Superintendent	Benjamin Shuldiner	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
16	School District Board Member	Joe Mizrahi	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
17	Chancellor of Seattle Colleges	Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238

Self-identified diversity chart

Appointing Authority	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/A	Asian	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	White/ non-Hispanic	Hispanic/ Latinx	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multi-racial	N/A
Mayor														
Council														
Other														
Total														

City Council districts represented

*P is for partial initial term. Appointee is eligible for full terms thereafter.