




## City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>N. Iris Friday</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Seattle Indian Services Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Chair, Governing Council</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	<b>Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> <i>11/1/2025</i> <b>to</b> <i>10/31/2028.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> <i>SISC Serves Seattle &amp; King County</i>	<b>Zip Code:</b> <i>98122</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> N. Iris Friday (Tlingit) is the Chair of the Seattle Indian Services Commission and a Native American Program Specialist at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She brings decades of experience advancing affordable housing and asset-building in Tribal communities across the country. A nationally recognized expert on Native housing and financial empowerment, Iris has also served in leadership roles with Native Action Network, the Center for Women and Democracy, and the Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Administration in Tribal Governance from Evergreen State College.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>    <b>DATE:</b> September 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <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.

## **N. Iris Friday**



### **PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Action oriented work plans focused on innovation, collaboration, coalition building, and proactive results
- Manage programs and projects with local, regional, and national results
- Recognized both within and outside of government for leadership, community development, and volunteerism

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### **PROFESSIONAL GOAL**

To provide quality service to our clients that builds individual and Tribal capacity resulting in expanded housing opportunities and strong, Tribal economies.

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### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

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#### **U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development**

**Native American Program Specialist**

**Office of Performance and Planning**

**Headquarters, WA DC - Out stationed to Seattle, WA**

**June 2019 – Present**

**40 hrs**

The Office of Performance and Planning oversees all major policy matters impacting the Office of Native American programs, formulation of the President's annual budget, congressional matters, intergovernmental relations, Tribal consultation, and special projects.

#### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

In my role, I draft, review and edit proposed HUD policies, budget justifications, NOFO's; coordinate Tribal consultation sessions with other HUD departments; advise on issues related to Tribal engagement and provide recommendations on how to connect with other organizations and develop outreach plans.

Specifically, I have advised the Office of Housing Counseling, SNAPS, Department of Energy, Administration for Native Americans, Veterans Affairs, Office of Children and Family Services, and others on how to develop outreach plans to connect with Tribal groups. My role also includes coordinating multiple staff and departments on how best to connect with Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and other Tribal entities.

In my personal and professional life I am connected to and have worked with Tribes, TDHEs, and Native nonprofits across the country and am knowledgeable on who best to connect with to implement HUD and other Federal initiatives. As a result, I am tasked with drafting recommendations on how best to move forward and support other Federal agency initiatives.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

In my role, I am tasked with working with Federal agencies, national intermediaries, urban Native nonprofits, Tribes, and other HUD departments on how best to draft Tribal Engagement strategies. I have drafted engagement strategies that resulted in consultation sessions that included Secretary Fudge, Deputy Secretary Todman, Deputy Assistant Secretary Frechette and other agencies to connect with Tribal leaders.

I have served on numerous HUD and national task forces and ad hoc committees that have resulted in new partnerships, webinars, publications, and guidance for Tribes and TDHEs. Specifically, I served on the [Tribal Healthy Homes Initiative](#) that resulted in a series of handbook publications for Tribes and TDHEs. I have overseen ONAP's Asset Building Summits, national best practices, interagency coordination, and internal team building. For instance, I developed a sharepoint site that highlights ONAP employees as a tool for team building. IT support highlighted this sharepoint site as a HUD site that was extremely well designed.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**Northwest Office of Native American Programs**  
**Native American Program Specialist**  
**Seattle, WA 98104**

**Jan 2004 – June 2019**

The Northwest Office of Native American Programs (NWONAP) is entrusted with serving the 42 tribes of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. In my role as a Native American Program Specialist I was responsible for ensuring that our department upholds the government-to-government relationship by proactively addressing the housing and community development needs of Tribal communities.

## **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Developed an Outreach & Marketing plan for NWONAP's Title VI & Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program that resulted in a 500% increase in 184 Indian Home loan activity and millions of dollars in Title VI loan activity. As a result, the Section 184 loan program grew from 53 loans per year to approximately 300 loans per year resulting in nearly 60 million in mortgage lending. Annually, our Title VI loan activity ranges from 2 - 9 million dollars in loans for affordable housing development.
- Partnered with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide training for lenders on how to do trust land transactions. Outlined the Title Status Report process, mortgage approval and recordation process, and the functions of the Realty Office versus the Land Title and Records Office (LTRO). As a result I developed a regional directory of key contacts for Realty offices, LTRO staff, along with a synopsis of trust land transactions. A final outcome is that our Section 184 Lenders have quick access to Title Status Reports.
- Partnered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the San Francisco Federal Reserve, and Veterans Affairs staff to host a series of workshops on "Connecting the Dots to Homeownership on Tribal Lands" that resulted in five workshops held throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. I developed the agenda, provided marketing, and presented several workshop topics. Outcomes included: new partnerships with lenders, new tribes approved for the Veteran Affairs Native American Direct Loan, and renewed collaboration between the Federal agencies.

- Partnered with the San Francisco Federal Reserve to form the Oregon and Idaho Federal Working Groups on Indian Affairs. In addition to hosting regular meetings to discuss how best to serve Tribes, I took the lead in developing a one day training agenda on “Working Effectively with Tribal Governments” for state and federal employees. Both workshops were oversubscribed and at maximum capacity.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- Wrote a white paper on Native Veterans and HUD-VASH that addressed the challenges Native Veterans have in accessing HUD-VASH vouchers on reservation. The paper was utilized as a conversation starter that highlighted the need to create a Native HUD-VASH program.
- Presented to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians on HUD-VASH and oversaw the consultation discussions related to Native HUD-VASH.
- Collaborated with the Native Veterans Affairs division to address HUD-VASH and the housing needs of Native Veterans. As a result, I presented at numerous VA conferences throughout our region.
- Organized regional and national HUD seminars and summits that required managing planning teams, budgets, and developing the agenda.

## **ASSET BUILDING**

I am a nationally recognized expert on Asset Building in Native communities and am regularly invited to present at conferences and host workshops.

- I advocated for and received approval to organize three national Native Asset Building conferences for HUD’s Office of Native American Programs. In this role I managed the planning to develop a two-day agenda for 150 Tribal attendees. All conferences were a resounding success with evaluations that ranked the conference at a 96% success rate.
- Collaborated with our federal partners at USDA Rural Development, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, First Nations Development Institute, Oweesta, Lakota Fund, and the Oklahoma Native Asset Building Coalition to present and assist with marketing the event.
- Co-Founded the Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition (NWNABC) that formed in November 2005 as a result of a meeting and training session that I organized. The NWNABC, is still in operation in 2023.

## **EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS**

HUD and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) to Public and Indian Housing Residents. I utilized the MOU to develop strong partnerships with the IRS to promote EITC in tribal communities by:

- Providing trainings to tribes on the EITC as an opportunity for families to pursue homeownership.
- Partnering with the IRS SPEC officers to provide trainings on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites. There are now three VITA sites in Washington that bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in EITC tax refunds for their tribal members.
- Presenting to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians general assembly.
- Working with the Internal Revenue Service Stakeholder Partnership, Education and Communications staff to bring together Native non-profits, housing and community development organizations, to highlight the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and how non-profit organizations could take a leadership role in marketing the EITC, free tax preparation, and connecting families to asset building opportunities, such as home ownership, college, and small business development.

Non-profits in attendance recommended the creation of a more formal entity to address EITC and asset building throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. I organized a team of community stakeholders and created a work plan that made the NWNABC a reality and now exists as a non-profit organization. The NWNABC has trained numerous tribal housing counselors, financial coaches, and expanded asset building throughout tribal communities in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

## **TRAININGS**

I am a certified financial education counselor, Pathways Home counselor, and Earned Income Tax Credit expert.

- Provided numerous trainings for northwest tribes on Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantees, Title VI loan guarantees, homebuyer education, financial education, earned income tax credits, asset building, and utilizing government guarantees for economic development.
- Regularly invited to present at state, regional, and national conferences. I have presented at numerous regional and national conferences including: Department of Justice, National American Indian Housing Council, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Center for Financial & Economic Development, National Community Tax Coalition, USDA Rural Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Buder Center, the San Francisco Federal Reserve, Department of Interior, USDA Rural Development, and Washington University.
- Responsible for facilitating numerous Government-to-Government Consultation sessions for HUD's Office of Native American Programs, including those on President Obama's Consultation Policy and the Native HUD-VASH program.

## **EDUCATION**

**Associate of Arts Degree** - Seattle Central Community College, Seattle, WA

**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science** - University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program**

**Masters in Public Administration – Tribal Governance**

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

- Honoree, Seattle Indian Health Board, Adeline Garcia Award, 2022
- Honoree, Potlatch Fund, Antone Minthorn Economic & Community Development Award, 2015
- Recipient, HUD Secretary Donovan's Award for Excellence, 2014
- Recipient, Excellence in Public Service Recognition, (SFEB), 2014
- Honoree, "*Heritage Keepers*," Women of Color Empowered, 2012
- Honoree, Northwest Indian Housing Association, HUD Employee of the Year, 2012
- Recipient, *Flying Eagle Woman Award for Community Based Philanthropy*, Native Americans in Philanthropy, 2011
- Recipient, Excellence in Public Service Recognition, SFEB, 2011
- U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development Star Peer Recognition, 2010
- Recipient, Excellence in Public Service Recognition, SFEB, 2007
- Recipient, Minority Executive Director's Coalition, Bernie Whitebear Unity Award, 2003
- Recipient, Tlingit & Haida Council Award for Outstanding Community Service, 2001

## **NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Leadership Kitsap, Class of 2013 – A one-year leadership initiative focused on leadership and professional development, community development, and a final community project. My project, entitled, “Kills Pill” resulted in a prescription drug take back program at the Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office.

2013 Delegate to the Center for Women and Democracy’s Global Networking trip to Rwanda. Presented on “Historical Trauma.”

2009 Delegate to Morocco, Center for Women and Democracy’s Global Networking Committee.

2008 Delegate, 3<sup>rd</sup> Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas, Panama

Certificate, John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program, Harvard University, September 1999

### **VOLUNTEER WORK**

- Treasurer, Native Action Network. Provide leadership training to women and young women. Oversee an annual budget of \$1.3 million. Organize the training curriculum.
- 2009 –2015 Board member and past Chair, former Chair of the Leadership Institute, Center for Women and Democracy
- 2013-2015 – Delegate, Tlingit & Haida Washington Chapter

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# Seattle Indian Services Commission

5 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 103387 and Revised Charter adopted in 2012, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 1 Mayor- appointed
- 4 Other Appointing Authority: SISC Governing Council  
(Note: Existing members represent previous appointing authorities (moving to Governing Council appointments at end of current term)).

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
4	F	N/A	1.	Chair	N. Iris Friday	11/1/25	10/31/28	8	Mayor
4	M	N/A	2.	Member	Robert E. Howard	11/1/25	10/31/28	2	Governing Council
			3.	Member					Governing Council
4	M	N/A	4.	Member	Michael L. Reichert	12/1/25	11/30/28	4	Governing Council
4	F	N/A	5.	Member/ Treasurer	Misha Rodarte	7/1/23	6/30/26	2	Governing Council

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Trans- gender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic / Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor		1						1					
Council	2	2						3					
Other													
Total	1	3						4					

## 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.*