




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Appointee Name: Melanie Ocasio | | |
| Board/Commission Name: Urban Forestry Commission | | Position Title: 11 – Environmental Justice Representative |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | Term of Position: * 4/1/2024 to 3/31/2027 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position |
| Residential Neighborhood: Capitol Hill | Zip Code: 98122 | Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED] |
| Background: Melanie Ocasio (she/her) is beginning her professional career with an understanding of the intersection between environmental justice and urban forestry. In her current role with iUrban Teen she's conducting work focused on urban landscapes and forestry and creating healthy community garden spaces for all POC communities on Seattle Parks property. In these spaces she intends not only to make a strong community, but also provide STEM related workshops on environmental studies for marginalized communities in South Seattle. Melanie has also worked on forest restoration and flood mitigation and forest thinning with federal agencies performing environmental conservation projects on our nation's public lands. Through the Urban Forestry Commission, Melanie wants to gain experience in city governmental policies and provide the Commission with fresh perspectives as a young BIPOC resident. She hopes to be a collaborative member of the Commission. | | |
| Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 3/20/2025 | | Appointing Signatory: CM Solomon Councilmember – District 2 |

Melanie Ocasio

Education

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

May 2021

B.S. Major *Conservation Biology* | Minor *Applied Statistics: Cum Laude*, CSTEP, Sigma Alpha Pi

Relevant Courses: Forest Biometrics, Watershed Ecology & Management, Natural Resource Law, and Ecology & Management of Invasive Species

SUNY Orange County Community College, Middletown, NY

December 2018

A.S. *Biology: Cum Laude*, LSAMP, Phi Theta Kappa

Software Skills

- ArcGIS/GPS
- MiniTab/MATLAB/Stata/SAS

Certifications

ESRI MOOC GIS for Climate Action

December 2023

Professional Experience

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

October 2024 - June 2025

Temporary Riverways Education Partnerships Program Assistant

- Support program implementation of STEM-based Short Outreach Events to rural and tribal schools by planning logistics, training UW student volunteer participants, and attending & implementing school visit sessions.
- Provide logistics and assistance for CASE UW students' site visits with CASE-Yakama, CASE-Quileute, and CASE-Makah programs.
- Summarize quantitative and qualitative program evaluations to meet NESPP grant requirement

iUrban Teen, Seattle, WA

February 2024 - December 2024

Environmental STEM Program Manager - Part-time

- Developing environmental STEM program by creating educational workshops, networking with partners, writing grants, and other research endeavors
- Creating title 1 school partnerships to provide eSTEM educational/career programming for 2024 - 2025 school year
- Researching a land management design proposal for iUrban Teen's eSTEM community garden focused the intersections of technology and urban farming at both Rainier Community Center alongside Seattle Park and Recreation's Urban Food Program
- Leading urban farming community research projects designs and practices to combat climate change on iUrban Teen's farm site with University of Washington's Dr. Yona Stipos' Food System Capstone Spring 2024 course and Dr. Julie Johnson's Landscape Architecture Fall 2024 course
- Mentoring two University of Washington interns in developing an understanding of the non-profit sector and operations

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

January 2024 - October 2024

AmeriCorps Education Equity Coordinator - Part-time

- Coordinating the UW Riverways Literacy Arts Spring Break 2024 program for rural and tribal K-12 students in Washington
- Works closely with tribal/rural schools in Washington and maintain relations with tribal organizations
- Performing project manager duties including outreach, budget, and creation and facilitation of professional development training sessions for undergraduate students
- Creating promotional media with Adobe PhotoShop, Canva, and PowerPoint for program student recruitment
- Mentoring eleven University of Washington undergraduate students in our program
- Creating operational procedures for file organization on SharePoint

SaltWater Inc. & Lynker Technologies, AK & HI

April 2022 - September 2023

NOAA Lead Fishery Observer

- Provided NOAA Fisheries classified field data regarding fish composition, bycatch identification, IUCN Red List species

interactions, biological data, gear performance, weather indicators, and vessel operations for real-time stock assessments and research studies

- Trained in Longline, Catcher Processor Vessel, Catcher Vessel, On-Shore Fishery Plants
- Filed federal reports of violations, oversaw data management, and data transfers
- Knowledgeable of Alaska fisheries including reporting and abiding to laws and policies
- Trained new employees on remote vessels
- Problem solving and resolution experience working with co-workers and diverse crew members
- Upheld vessel safety operations under the international, federal, and U.S. Coast Guard regulations
- Provided on-field feedback for improving operations for all NOAA Fishery Observers

American Conservation Experience, Hurricane, UT

June 2021 - March 2022

AmeriCorps Crew Member & Assistant Team Lead

- Assisted with logistics of crews performing climate based environmental restoration projects for stewards of our nation's public lands
- Reviewed contracted project proposals and final reports funded by NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS, ect.
- Managed and trained small crews performing tasks in a safe and effective manner
- Certified USDA/FS A-Sawyer thinning potential forest fire sites and clearing invasive trees
- Experienced in preventing continual riparian floods, reducing invasive species encroachment, endangered species habitat restoration, native seed preservation, rock construction, land stability, and anthropological identification

SUNY ESF Office of Experiential Learning and Outreach, Syracuse, NY

September 2019 - May 2021

Work-Study Assistant

- Promoted ESF and STEM education to local inner-city k-12 schools through verbal, visual, and interactive means
- Engaged remote meetings discussing program's objective and offered suggestions for program improvements during pandemic

Research Experience

Fair-Fish International, Remote - Switzerland

November 2023 - March 2024

Unpaid Research Intern

- Transferred datasets for the world's first recommendation of aquatic species human consumption website based on stock assessment and catching methods of wild fish
- Curated bi-weekly social media post on global fisheries' technology, policy, and studies for public education

NOAA Observer, AK

April 2022 - September 2023

Field Scientist

- Assisted with the stock assessment of Pacific Sleeper Sharks by providing biological data to their limited data sets
- Tested new sampling protocols at fish processing plants for Electronic Monitoring pollock vessels
- Recorded salmon species with a specialized camera system for SaltWater Inc.'s AI recognition software
- Participated in a NOAA independent study entitled "Big Red RockFish" to distinguish Shorttraker and Rougheye species

SUNY ESF Senior Capstone, Syracuse, NY

May 2021

Undergraduate Researcher

- Group researcher for thesis entitled "Webster Pond and Rand Tract Management Plan" submitted to the city of Syracuse including ecological and socio-economic suggestions for the city properties
- Compiled data based on BioBlitz, GPS/ArcGIS software, financial costs and projections, environmental historical analysis, and societal local survey

SUNY ESF Master's Thesis Research, Syracuse, NY

January 2021 - September 2021

Undergraduate Assistant

- Verified camera trap documentation of Galapagos tortoises and species interactions for in-situ research

SUNY ESF Ph.D's Thesis Research, Syracuse, NY

September 2020 - December 2020

Undergraduate Researcher

- Assisted Ph.D. candidate with the first implementation of statewide New York Mammal Survey with NYSDEC
- Led zoom meetings, extracted and recorded historic mammal habitat ranges in New York from scientific literature, and

Global CUNY International Research Program, Cartagena, Colombia

June 2019 - August 2019

Environmental Monitoring Undergraduate Researcher

- Continuation of a ten-year quantitative study on environmental pollutants from wastewater dumping and combined sewer systems, based on concentration of chemicals in Colombia's beach water and soil
- Chemical analysis of iron, nitrate, sulfate, ammonia, phosphate, pH, and Fecal Coliform concentrations with dilutions, reagent packets, petri dishes, and spectrometer
- Sanitation analysis of homeowner's septic tank efficiency based on contamination of Fecal Coliform in drinking water and soil samples

Presentations

"iUrban Teen's STEM Garden," Rainier Avenue Radio with Clean Greens, Seattle, WA, June 2024.

"Earth Day Panel with Black Farmers Collective, Urban League Seattle, and iUrban Teen" Rainier Avenue Radio, Seattle, WA, April 2024.

"iUrban Teen: Exploring Outdoor Hydroponics at Rainier Community Center," UW Senior Food System Capstone, Seattle, WA, April 2024.

"NOAA Fisheries," MobilizeGreen, Virtual Presentation, July 11, 2023.

"Rand Tract and Webster Pond Invasive Management Plan," SUNY ESF Syracuse, NY, December 1, 2020.

"Sulfate Analysis on Cartagena's Beach Quality," Global CUNY International Research Conference, Cartagena, Colombia, August 2019.

"Low Melatonin Production as a Symptom of Autism," SUNY Orange Achievements in Research and Scholarship Conference (SOARS), Middletown, NY, April 2019.

"Hydroponic Farming," SUNY Orange Achievements in Research and Scholarship Conference (SOARS), Middletown, NY, April 2018

Volunteer

SoundBio Lab, Seattle, WA

August 2023 - Present

Project Review Committee & Skills Workshop Instructor

- Reviewing community research proposals, and teaching laboratory science to inspire the next generation of scientists

Urban Forestry Commission

2/25/2025

13 Members: Pursuant to SMC 3.72, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms: Get Engaged clause added for 1-year term pursuant to SMC 3.51

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed

Roster:

| *D | **G | RD | Position No. | Position Title | Name | Term Begin Date | Term End Date | Term # | Appointed By |
|----|-----|----|--------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| 6 | M | 4 | 1 | Wildlife Biologist | Aaron D. Clark | 4/1/23 | 3/31/26 | 1 | Council |
| 1 | F | 6 | 2 | Urban Ecologist | Alicia Kellogg | 4/1/23 | 3/31/26 | 1 | Mayor |
| 1 | F | 3 | 3 | Natural Resource Agency or University Representative | Lani Chang | 4/1/25 | 3/31/28 | 1 | Council |
| | | | 4 | Hydrologist or Similar Professional | | 4/1/24 | 3/31/27 | 1 | Mayor |
| 6 | F | 6 | 5 | Arborist | Drue Epping | 4/1/24 | 3/31/27 | 1 | Council |
| 6 | F | 1 | 6 | Landscape Architect | Tristan Fields | 4/1/24 | 3/31/27 | 1 | Mayor |
| 6 | M | 3 | 7 | NGO Representative | Joshua Morris | 4/1/22 | 3/31/25 | 2 | Council |
| 2 | M | 7 | 8 | Development Community or Utility Representative | David Baker | 4/1/22 | 3/31/25 | 1 | Mayor |
| 8 | M | 1 | 9 | Economist, Financial Analyst, Realtor, or Similar Professional | Nathan Collins | 4/1/23 | 3/31/26 | 1 | Commission |
| 3 | M | 6 | 10 | Get Engaged Member | Timothy Patrick Randazzo | 9/1/24 | 8/31/25 | 1 | Mayor |
| 3 | F | 2 | 11 | Environmental Justice Rep. | Melanie Ocasio | 4/1/24 | 3/31/27 | 1 | Council |
| 6 | F | 2 | 12 | Public Health Rep. | Andrea Starbird | 4/1/24 | 3/31/27 | 1 | Mayor |
| 9 | F | 2 | 13 | Community/Neighborhood Rep. | Lia Hall | 4/1/24 | 3/31/27 | 2 | Council |

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

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