City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Avery Barnes		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: Pioneer Square	Zip Code: 98104	**Contact Phone No.*:*** [redacted]

Background:

Avery Barnes is an entrepreneur, African art curator, and community advocate. Awarded in 2023 for Forbes 30 Under 30 Seattle Class, Avery owns and operates TASWIRA, Seattle's only African art gallery and event space in the heart of Pioneer Square. Avery is active in the community and is often invited to speak on panels about her work and the inspiration behind it. She also campaigns for causes that empower women, people of color, and small business owners.

Established in 2022, TASWIRA has become a neighborhood staple designed to celebrate the diaspora of African arts and culture. Inspired by her roots, Avery journeyed to Africa to work with the Bamburi Women Empowerment Center in Mombasa, Kenya. It was at this place that the vision to create a social impact company was born. Today, TASWIRA has evolved into an established art gallery and community space that not only celebrates African heritage through historical pieces but is also home to a collective of local and globally renowned contemporary artists.

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Katie B Wilson **Date Signed (appointed):** 02/10/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Katie B. Wilson* *Mayor of Seattle*

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

AVERY BARNES AGE, 24

ENTREPRENUER - DESIGNER - PHILANTHROPIST

CONTACT

[redacted]

[redacted]

www. TASWIRA.Org

[redacted]

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE

- **Fundraising** (4 years)
- **Project Management** (4 years)
- **Fashion Design and Product Development** (5 years)
- **Creative Director in Fashion/Art Production** (6 years)
- **Community Events Organizer** (2 years)
- **Workplace and Youth Leadership Skills** (4 years)
- **Time Management:** Meeting Budget and Timeline Goals (6 years)
- **Arts Curator,** growing a global roster of newly discovered artist profiles.(4 years)
- **Hospitality Skills,** event space management and host. (2 years)
- **Brand Development and Marketing,** (4 years)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Makeup Artist and Advocate,** MAC Cosmetics + Viva Glam AIDS Fund Campaign (Dec. 2017 - May 2018)
- **Commercial Property Owner,** TASWIRA African Art & Design Gallery in Pioneer Square, Seattle (Mar. 2022 - Current)
- **Participant, Downtown Seattle Association** State of the Sector Arts and Culture Program (Aug. 2023 - Current)
- **Seattle Office of Economic Development Consultant,** Seattle Restored Small Business Research Cohort (Aug. 2023 - Sept. 2024)
- **Small Business Consultant,** Community Roots Housing Capitol Hill EcoDistrict Program (May 2022)
- **Panelist,** One Vibe Africa Kijiji Night Event at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (Jan. 2023)
- **Participant, Waterfront Park Cultural Masterplan:** Community Partners Roundtable (Oct. 2023)
- **Featured Business,** Bill & Melinda Gates Discovery Center Giving Marketplace (Dec. 2022/2023)

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Seattle Art Fair Cultural Partner** (July 2023)
- **Small Business Advocate - Seattle Mayor MID Bill Signing** (May 2023)
- **Awarded Forbes Inaugural 30 Under 30 Seattle Class** (Aug. 2023)
- **Awarded Best Designer,** Seattle African Fashion Week (May 2021)
- **Awarded City of Seattle Proclamation,** "TASWIRA Day" (May 4th, 2023)
- **Invitation Recipient,** Tanzania Delegation Welcome Reception at Lumen Field (May 2023)
- **Invitation Recipient,** The White House on Behalf of Vice President Harris: Inflation Reduction Act Remarks Event (Aug. 2023)
- **Grant Recipient,** Seattle Restored (Mar. 2022)
- **Grant Recipient,** U.S. Chamber of Commerce Coalition to Back Black Businesses (Nov. 2023)
- **TV Publications:** Fox13, King 5, and Converge Media, CBS
- **Online Publication:** Arte Noir, The Intentionalist
- **Printed Feature,** Seattle Met Magazine: Avery Barnes Brings African Style to Pioneer Square (Aug. 2022)
- **Launched Philanthropic Arts Campaign** with the Indigenous Maasai Tribe of Kenya (Oct. 2021)
- **Licensed For-profit Women's Empowerment Initiative** in Mombasa, Kenya (Dec. 2020)

VOLUNTEERING

- **Life Long Aids Alliance Volunteering with MAC Cosmetics** - Food Prep / $45,000 Donation (Dec. 2018)
- **2x Certified International Volunteer,** IVHQ Women's Empowerment and Small Business Development in Mombasa, Kenya (Mar. / Nov. 2019)
- **Panelist, The Seattle Public Library:** The Business of Community Open House (Oct. 2023)
  - Where small business champions from Minneapolis and Seattle came together for a unique learning and networking opportunity free for the public.
- **Panelist, The Seattle Public Library and EVOKE UPROAR:** "Banking on You" Workshop for Entrepreneurs (July 2023)
- **Panelist and Event Collaborator with REMAKE,** Nonprofit Organization for Sustainable Fashion Practices (Mar. 2023)
- **Sponsor, UW Human Centered Design & Engineering Capstone Project** (Jan. - Jun. 2023) and received the Impact Achievement Award
- **Guest Speaker, Seattle Central Community College** - School of Apparel Design and Development (Mar. 2022)

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	1st	City Council
6	F	7	2.	At-Large	Megan Kiskaddon	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
3	F	1	3.	At-Large	Vanessa Villalobos	01/01/25	12/31/26	3rd	City Council
3	F	1	4.	At-Large	Linda Chavez Lowry	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
6	M	5	5.	At-Large	Ricky Graboski	01/01/26	12/31/27	3rd	City Council
3	F	6	6.	At-Large	Diana Garcia (Dhyana)	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
6	F	5	7.	At-Large	Kate Nagle-Caraluzzo	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	City Council
4	F	N/A	8.	At-Large	Yolanda Spencer	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Commission
			9.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
2 & 9	F	1	10.	At-Large	Avery Barnes	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	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	2nd	Mayor
1, 4, & 6	F&O	7	15.	At-Large	Jo Mikesell	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	Mayor
6	M		16.	Get-Engaged	Jack Nash	09/01/25	08/31/26	One	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

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