



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Gülgün Kayim		
Board/Commission Name: Cultural Space Agency Public Development Authority		Position Title: Member
<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 type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		Term of Position: * 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2027 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
Residential Neighborhood: University Park	Zip Code: 98105	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
<i>Gulgun Kayim is an experienced cultural leader with a deep background in public sector arts policy, planning, and programming. She currently serves as Director of Arts & Culture for the City of Seattle, following over a decade leading Minneapolis's arts, culture, and creative economy work. Gulgun has launched major municipal arts initiatives, led strategic planning efforts, and managed budgets up to \$27 million. With expertise in public art, theatre, socially engaged creative practices, creative placemaking, and cross-sector collaboration, she is a recognized national voice in cultural policy and racial equity. Her career spans government, philanthropy, education, and experimental performance.</i>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): November 10th, 2025		Appointing Signatory: Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

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

GÜLGÜN KAYIM

KEY COMPETENCIES

Experienced collaborative leader and manager of innovative arts programming from design through implementation in government, philanthropic, educational, and non-profit settings with a focus on municipal systems change to support racial equity, inclusion and belonging:

- Experience working in a government setting to integrate the arts into community development in collaboration with policymakers, department leadership, city staff, community artists and activists.
- Strong experience launching and managing projects, programs, special events and initiatives in municipal settings.
- Strong experience managing permanent and temporary public art commissions and programming
- Demonstrated experience producing a wide variety of events such as festivals, civic commemorations, exhibits, performances and convenings
- Effective at leading and directing a team, assigning work, developing workplans and supervising budgets of up to \$5 million
- Experienced communicator working with a wide variety of stakeholders such as elected officials, commissions, board members, businesses, community leaders, arts organizations, artists and activists.
- Strong experience developing municipal plans, arts sector metrics, economic reports, policies, reports and evaluations for local government and private foundations.
- Demonstrated success developing strategic partnerships, managing external relations and communications

EXPERIENCE

2023-PRESENT

DIR. ARTS AND CULTURE, CITY OF SEATTLE, WA

Department head, member of the Mayor's Cabinet and Executive Leadership Team. Manage staff of 40, (10 direct reports and 30 indirect reports), \$18 M annual operating budget and 2 cultural facilities: the Langston Hughes Center for Performing Arts and Kings Street Station. Oversee mission, vision, strategic direction, and budget of ARTS Department. Develop policy, programming, communications, strategy and partnerships. Work with the Seattle Arts Commission, represent the City of Seattle in local and national convenings, events and gatherings.

2011-2023

DIR. ARTS, CULTURE & THE CREATIVE ECONOMY, CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Provided arts and culture strategic vision, leadership and policy direction. Created and managed arts programs and partnerships in support of community development goals. Worked with Mayor and elected officials, Minneapolis Arts Commission, City Departments and community stakeholders to achieve goals. Tracked and measured creative sector economics and represented the City of Minneapolis in local and national convenings, events and gatherings. Provided

written and oral communications, managed budget and staff, raised \$3.5 million in grant funding to operate programs.

- Founding Director of new municipal arts and culture division
- Led the city's cultural vision and planning
- Led legislative process to create a new Dept of Arts and Cultural Affairs in 2021
- Launched several major program initiatives focused on innovation, cross-sector collaboration, arts-based community development and eliminating racial disparities
- Responsible for program related strategic partnerships and collaborations
- Responsible for producing a variety of convenings, civic festivals, commemoration events, exhibits and performances
- Launched bi-annual creative sector economic research and reporting
- Managed design and launch of website, content and related communications
www.minneapoliscreates.org

2008 – 2011

ASST. DIR, ARTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, BUSH FOUNDATION, MN

Managed two multi-disciplinary arts fellowship programs for individual artists in Minnesota, South and North Dakota with budget of \$1.5 million. Managed all aspects of fellows' selection process, orientation, and communications. Developed and managed artist technical assistance and annual and quarterly convenings. Oversaw transition of legacy grants worth \$5 million to regional arts and cultural organizations through the Regional Arts Development program.

- Managed transition of legacy grants to regional arts and cultural organizations through the Regional Arts Development program
- Collaborated on the development of the new Bush Leadership Fellows program
- Researched, managed convenings and recommended foundation's strategic revisioning of arts-based investments

2005- 2015

ADJUNCT FACULTY – DEPT OF THEATRE ARTS & DANCE. UNIVERSITY OF MN

Taught core curriculum, fundamentals of acting, directing, race and culture in performance and special projects in the BA program in performance. Additional classes taught in cross departmental collaborative arts program.

1993 - 2008

FOUNDING MEMBER & CO –ARTISTIC DIR, SKEWED VISIONS, MN

One of three founders and core artists of interdisciplinary, experimental performance collective. Responsibilities included guiding overall artistic vision, strategy, mission and season. Grant writing, marketing and oversight of general administrative operations. Produced and coordinated events and international touring and residency series. Wrote, directed and produced award winning company performances.

1993-1999

COORDINATOR PUBLIC ART ON CAMPUS, WEISMAN ART MUSEUM, MN

Founding Coordinator of public art programming. Developed administrative structure, rules, procedures, and implementation criteria for \$2 million in percent for art commissions and launched \$150,000 Jerome/Lilly temporary public art commissions. Managed all aspects of selection process, project design, contracting, reporting and budget supervision.

1988-1989

ASST. COORDINATOR, SHARING THE ARTS, NJ STATE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Developed and managed visual, literary and performing arts programming to serve underserved audiences at three regional arts centers in New Jersey. Coordinated program related outreach and events at art centers, area schools and hospitals.

1987 – 1988

DRAMA PROJECT COORDINATOR, TURKISH CYPRIOT CULTURAL ASSC, LONDON

Created and implemented theatre classes and workshops for inner city Turkish youth, developed program curriculum publicity and materials, hired teachers and workshop leaders.

INDEPENDENT CURATORIAL AND CONSULTING

2018

(Im)permanence: **FAMAGUSTA WHITE NIGHTS FESTIVAL**. Co-curated temporary public art residency program in the ancient, walled City of Famagusta, Cyprus.

2012

McKnight Artist Fellowship Program, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, MN. Consultant, provided technical assistance to 2012 visual arts fellows.

2010

Art in the Union Depot, St. PAUL PUBLIC ART, MN. Consultant, part of a multidisciplinary team to design a curatorial plan for Union Depot.

2008/9

International Symposium on Site-Specific Performance, MARTIN SEGEL CENTER, CUNY NYC. Co-curated and coordinated International performance symposium for curators, artists, scholars

2003-2004

Adjunct Arts Consultant, SPRINGBOARD FOR THE ARTS, MN. Artist career consultant.

2003-2004

Adjunct Curator – Art Inside/Outside Space, INTERMEDIA ARTS, MN. Managed all aspects of Jerome Foundation funded visual artist commission program.

2004

Dir. Site-Specific Visible Fringe, MN FRINGE FESTIVAL. Conceived, curated, and managed pilot program and multi-disciplinary visual arts event in tandem with the Minnesota Fringe Festival.

2000

Community Outreach Consultant, FORECAST PUBLIC ARTWORKS, MN. Consultant, Developed and led public forums to solicit community input on aesthetic qualities of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Corridor for the Metropolitan Council.

EDUCATION

1993

MFA THEATRE DIRECTING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

1992

MA THEATRE THEORY & PRACTICE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN- MADISON

Asian experimental performance with a focus on intercultural practices

1987

BA (HONS) THEATRE & FILM, UNIVERSITY OF MIDDLESEX, LONDON UK

Magna Cum Lauda

FIELD LEADERSHIP

Memberships - Grant Makers in the Arts, Americans for the Arts, United States Urban Arts Federation. Grant Reviewer – Artplace America, NEA, Jerome Foundation, MRAC and MN State Arts Board

- 2023-present, Steering Committee, Urban Arts Coalition
- 2022 – Workgroup, Asset Mapping Handbook, Americans for the Arts
- 2021- Policy Workgroup – National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response
- 2020-2022, Steering Committee, *Put Creative Workers Back to Work*
- 2019- 2021, Executive Committee, United States Urban Arts Federation – Americans for the Arts
- 2019, Workgroup, Municipal Strategies in Creative Placemaking- Artplace America & Civic Arts
- 2019 Workgroup, Artist and Civic Partnerships, Animating Democracy
- 2018, Creative Cities Fellow – Stanford Arts Institute, Stanford University, CA
- 2018, Arts Workgroup, Government Alliance on Race and Equity
- 2014-2020 Workgroup, Creative Minnesota, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
- 2014, Rising Star Award – Women in Public Service, Hamline University Business School, MN
- 2010-2011, James Shannon Leadership Fellow, Wilder Foundation, MN
- 2004-2005 Bush Foundation Fellow, MN

References available on request

Cultural Space Agency Public Development Authority

6-18 Members: Pursuant to the *Charter of the Cultural Space Agency*, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 0 City Council-appointed
- 6-18 Mayor-appointed
- 0 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify):

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
3	F	2	1	Member	M. Angela Castañeda	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
6	F	N/A	2	Member	Lesley Bain	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
6	M	6	3	Member	Nick Ronan	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
2	M	3	4	Member	Aaron Nathaniel Carr	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
2	M	1	5	Member	Obadiah Stephens-Terry	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
8	F	4	6	Member	Gülgün Kayim	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
			7	Member	Ching-In Chen	12/1/22	12/1/25	1	Mayor
			8	Member	Christiana Obey Sumner	12/1/22	12/1/25	1	Mayor
			9	Member	Gladys Ly-Au Young	12/1/22	12/1/25	1	Mayor
			10	Member	Ixtli Whitehawk	12/1/22	12/1/25	1	Mayor
6	M	3	11	Member	Michael Seiwerath	1/1/26	12/31/28	2	Mayor
2	F	2	12	Member	Afua Kouyate	1/1/26	12/31/28	2	Mayor
9	F	2	13	Member	Nyema Clark	1/1/26	12/31/28	2	Mayor
			14	Member		1/1/24	12/31/26		Mayor
			15	Member		1/1/24	12/31/26		Mayor
			16	Member		1/1/24	12/31/26		Mayor
			17	Member		1/1/24	12/31/26		Mayor
			18	Member		1/1/24	12/31/26		Mayor

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

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.