

City of Seattle



**Superintendent
Seattle Parks & Recreation**

**Confirmation Packet
February 15, 2023**

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz



February 15, 2023

The Honorable Debora Juarez
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Juarez:

It is my pleasure to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz as Superintendent of Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR).

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

1. **AP Diaz**

This section contains Mr. Diaz's appointment, his oath of office forms, his resume, and the press release announcing his selection.

2. **Background Check**

This section contains the report on Mr. Diaz's background check.

Seattle's parks, playfields, and community centers are essential to build healthy communities – they are places of growth, learning, play, and opportunity for everyone in our city. AP Diaz understands what our parks system represents – how parks create opportunities, advance equity, provide safe spaces, and support youth through mentorship. With a track record of working collaboratively and innovatively with community and a commitment to preserving open spaces, AP Diaz will bring the values, leadership, and experience needed to ensure our world class parks system reflects our city and vision for *One Seattle*.

AP Diaz most recently served as the Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and an Assistant General Manager overseeing all day-to-day operations of the Department, including financial services, capital projects, special operations, recreation, maintenance, HR and risk reductions matters, and governance and leadership matters. He also assisted the General Manager in all governance, legal, support and policy matters related to City's Park's Commission, the City Council, the City Attorney's Office, the Mayor's Office, and the LA Park Foundation. Prior to his roles as Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager, he served as General Counsel for LA's Park's Department. He notably worked on the transformation, restoration, and management model for the historic Greek Theatre which opened in 1930 and remains of the country's most recognized outdoor entertainment venues.

Since being announced as Interim Superintendent last September, my office has consulted with stakeholders regarding their perspective on AP Diaz's potential nomination, including representatives from the Board of Parks Commissioners, the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, the Seattle Parks Foundation, Sound Generations, the YMCA, the Seattle Aquarium, the Woodland Park Zoo, the Associated Recreation Council, and several staff members at the Parks & Recreation Department. Those stakeholders report that AP is a relatable, caring visionary who brings boundless energy and enthusiasm to his work. He cares about centering equity at SPR, looking to prioritize access for those furthest from opportunity and partnering with community organizations to advance those goals. Review of AP Diaz's

past and recent performance and the solicitation of perspectives from affected stakeholders is the process that informed my decision to advance Mr. Diaz for your consideration today.

AP Diaz is an approachable, authentic leader who empowers his team to tackle our most pressing challenges. He will help us usher in a renewed focus on safety, equitable access, and climate conscious facilities across our parks system. As we collectively implement the next phase of new Metropolitan Parks District investments, we're fortunate to have AP's experience with project delivery and collaboration with community.

I trust that after reviewing AP's application materials, meeting with him, and following the diligent review of his credentials and vision through Councilmember Lewis' Public Asset & Homelessness Committee, you will find that he is the right choice to serve as permanent Superintendent of Seattle Parks & Recreation.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, Executive General Manager Adiam Emery would welcome hearing from you. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

SECTION

A



City of Seattle

Mayor Bruce Harrell

February 1, 2023

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz
Seattle, WA
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear AP,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation at an annual salary of \$252,000.

Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings. Once confirmed by the City Council, you serve for a term until March 1, 2027.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Director and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Department will thrive under your leadership.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz	
City Department Name: Seattle Parks & Recreation	Position Title: Superintendent
<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: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Term of Position: * confirmation to 3/1/2027 <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
Background: AP Diaz most recently served as the Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and an Assistant General Manager overseeing all day-to-day operations of the Department, including financial services, capital projects, special operations, recreation, maintenance, HR and risk reductions matters, and governance and leadership matters. He also assisted the General Manager in all governance, legal, support and policy matters related to City’s Park’s Commission, the City Council, the City Attorney’s Office, the Mayor’s Office, and the LA Park Foundation. Prior to his roles as Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager, he served as General Counsel for LA’s Park’s Department. He notably worked on the transformation, restoration, and management model for the historic Greek Theatre which opened in 1930 and remains of the country’s most recognized outdoor entertainment venues.	
Authorizing Signature:  Date Signed: February 15, 2023	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.



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON

OATH OF OFFICE

State of Washington

County of King

I, Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz, swear or affirm that I possess all of the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of the Superintendent of Seattle Parks & Recreation; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Charter and Ordinances of The City of Seattle; and that I will faithfully conduct myself as the Superintendent of Seattle Parks & Recreation.

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this ____ day of _____, 2023.

[Seal]

Elizabeth M. Adkisson, Interim City Clerk

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz, Esq.

Resume 2022

Objectives

To improve LA's quality of life through the advancement of parks, open space, world class facilities, recreation, preservation, legacy building, innovation and social equity – transforming historic spaces & equipping humans to foster civic pride and to grow hospitality, tourism, recreation economic development, health and wellness.

Education

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service

Washington D.C. (1989-1993)

B.S.F.S. – International Politics

Universidad de Sevilla, Seville, Spain (1991-1992)

Foreign Service Spanish Language Proficiency Certificate

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA (1994-1997)

J.D. - *International Law Review* Editor and Trial Advocacy Team Member

Professional Experience

Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles, CA

Executive Officer/Assistant General Manager (2016 to present)

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, CA

Deputy City Attorney (1998-2016)

General Counsel Division (Municipal Law Branch) – Recreation and Parks, LAPD, LAFD, General Services Division, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Los Angeles City Council (2010-2016)

Neighborhood & Community Prosecutor (Litigation/Criminal Branch)

Trial Attorney & Community Advocate

Knapp, Petersen & Clarke, Glendale, CA *Litigation Associate* (1997-1998)

Member of National Trial Team; multi-state and international HIV/AIDS litigation; corporate and general counsel matters. *Summer Associate* 1997.

2nd Appellate District Court of Appeal, Los Angeles

Judicial Extern to the Hon. Earl Johnson - Summer 1995

Professional & Personal Affiliations, Memberships & Honors

Chairman of the Board - Future Leaders of America Corporation (1997)

President & Board Member - California Young Lawyer's Association, elected to the seventh district of the California State Bar (1998)

California State Bar Board of Governors & Trustees (2003-2004)

Chair of the Los Angeles-Pasadena Georgetown Alumni Admissions Program (2004 to Present)

California State Bar Foundation (2005)

Los Angeles County Bar Association Board of Trustees (2005)

California's *Outstanding Young Californians Award* for commitment to public service & humanity (2006)

Georgetown University Admissions Board of Directors (2006)

Keynote speaker at the 2017 Australian Parks & Leisure's National Conference on Adult Development Theory, Transformational Leadership & Generational Differences.

2017 National Recreation and Parks (NRPA) LA Homeless Innovation Lab - organized, developed and hosted NRPA's first innovation lab on homeless and urban poverty.

Advocate NRPA's Innovation Labs in Boston, Portland, Austin, LA, Seattle & Oklahoma City (2016 to present)

World Urban Parks Advocacy Portfolio Committee Chair (2018 to present)

World Urban Parks Speakers Forum (2018 to present)

Executive Board Member, World Urban Parks (2020 to present)

Cedar Sinai Community Advisory Board

LA Civic Working Memory Group

LA Covid-19 Memorial Working Group

National Recreation and Parks – Chair Editorial Magazine and incoming Board of Directors Candidate

Languages

English and Spanish

**Interests, Hobbies
& Travel**

Music, Photography, Urban Planning & Design, Historical Biographies, Scuba, Running, Tennis, Swimming and International Affairs.

Europe, USSR & The Russian Federation, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Thailand, North Africa, Australia & New Zealand.

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Information

Jamie Housen

206-798-5002

jamie.housen@seattle.gov

Mayor Harrell Names AP Diaz Next Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent

by [Jamie Housen](#) on September 29, 2022



Seattle – Today, Mayor Bruce Harrell announced his appointment of Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz as interim Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation. Diaz will lead the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and advance Mayor Harrell’s agenda for clean, safe, accessible parks. Diaz currently serves as the Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

[WATCH: Mayor Harrell names AP Diaz as new Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent](#)

“Seattle’s parks, playfields, and community centers are essential to build healthy communities – they are places of growth, learning, play, and opportunity for everyone in our city,” **said Mayor Harrell**. “AP understands what our parks system represents – how parks create opportunities, advance equity, provide safe spaces, and support youth through mentorship. With a track record of working collaboratively and innovatively with community and a commitment to preserving open spaces, I believe AP Diaz will bring the values, leadership, and experience needed to ensure our world class parks system reflects our city and vision for **One Seattle**.”

“I am excited to join the team at Seattle Parks and Recreation because I share Mayor Harrell’s vision for our park system – recognizing how integral they are for healthy, thriving communities,” **said AP Diaz**. “As Superintendent, I will treat Seattle’s parks and community centers as essential infrastructure that drive opportunities for recreation, mentorship and education, equity, and climate action. I am a data-driven, performance management focused leader who will push Seattle Parks and Recreation to be transparent and accountable, while collaborating with Seattle’s diverse communities to never lose focus on our shared priorities that Parks make life better!”

Diaz currently serves as the Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and an Assistant General Manager overseeing all day to day operations of the Department, including financial services, capital projects, special operations, recreation, maintenance, HR and risk reductions matters, governance and leadership matters while assisting the General Manager in all governance, legal, support and policy matters related to City’s Park’s Commission, the City Council, the City Attorney’s Offices and the Mayor’s Offices and the LA Park Foundation.

Prior to his roles as Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager, he served as General Counsel for LA’s Park’s department. He notably worked on the transformation, restoration, and management model for the historic Greek Theatre which opened in 1930 and remains of the country’s most recognized outdoor entertainment venues.

“AP will help us usher in a renewed focus on safety, equitable access, and climate conscious facilities across our parks system,” **said Mayor Harrell**. “I want to thank Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams for his many years of leadership with the Parks Department – never hesitating to step up and support our parks and our people. I so look forward to his continued leadership stewarding our Parks and ensuring they remain open, clean, safe, and accessible to all.”

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) manages a 6,441-acre park system of over 489 parks and extensive natural areas in Seattle, providing welcoming and safe opportunities to play and learn. SPR provides athletic fields, tennis courts, play areas, specialty gardens, and more than 25 miles of boulevards and 120 miles of trails. The system comprises about 12% of the city’s land area. SPR also manages many facilities, including 25 community centers, eight indoor swimming pools, two outdoor (summer) swimming pools, three environmental education centers, two small craft centers, four golf courses, an outdoor stadium, and much more.

This week, the City Council, acting as the Parks District Board, approved a second cycle of funding advancing [a budget](#) focused on essential maintenance and restoration, reestablishing the Park Ranger program, and investments in equity, climate resilience, youth mentorship, and more.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Andrew Lewis, City Councilmember and President of the Seattle Park District Board

“With AP we have an able leader ready to implement the funded mandate for parks that are clean, safe, and open. I look forward to supporting his nomination through the Council process.”

Norma Edith García-González, Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

“I am thrilled to congratulate Mayor Bruce Harrell and the people of Seattle on AP Diaz’s nomination as Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation. AP is recognized as a leader for equity and access to parks and recreation in the City of Los Angeles and nationally. He has been integral to develop the most expansive and accessible investment in youth sports and adaptive sports in partnership with the Olympics LA2028. AP is a park champion and will lead innovative, inclusive and diverse programs, services and partnerships in benefit of the children and families of Seattle. I applaud Mayor Bruce Harrell’s vision to assemble the best of the best to serve and lead Seattle Parks.”

Tiffany Harris, Co-Founder/CEO of Inclusion Matters by Shane’s Inspiration

“AP Diaz will be an extraordinary gift to the City of Seattle and its Parks and Recreation Department. He is all at once a visionary leader and someone who will spring into action to make sure that the smallest of details are handled with excellence in support of ALL things Parks. AP’s love of parks is infectious and his support of the diverse people who utilize them is immense. We are excited to watch his collaborative vision unfold and congratulate Mayor Harrell on his wise selection of AP Diaz as Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent.”

Kristine Stratton, President and CEO of the National Recreation and Park Association

“On behalf of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), I extend enthusiastic congratulations to the City of Seattle on their appointment of Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz as the new Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation. AP has a long track record of advancing excellence in the field of parks and recreation through his volunteer leadership with NRPA and his work in the City of Los Angeles. In recent years, this has taken the form of advancing equity and inclusion into meaningful day-to-day practices. AP embodies the truth that parks and recreation is essential to the health, well-being and resiliency of our communities. Moreover, he promotes that truth every day through his leadership. We are excited to continue supporting AP and the entire Seattle Park and Recreation team’s work and to continue partnering with him and the team to strengthen the field nationwide.”

David Michaelson, Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles

“I’ve worked with AP for close to 20 years, first when he was a smart, problem solving government lawyer tackling quality of life concerns in our neighborhoods, then as the can-do General Counsel for LA’s Rec & Parks, and over the past five years as the Executive Officer of LA Rec & Parks providing exceptional leadership and visionary focus for a department that is critical to the well being and vibrancy of LA. AP is that rare public servant who works collaboratively and effectively with department personnel, local officials, and community stakeholders, while always looking to innovate and drive forward new policies and programs that make a real difference in people’s lives. He carries public service at his core and exemplifies the best of local government. I know as the Superintendent for Parks

and Recreation, the City of Seattle will greatly benefit from AP's intellect, experience, and commitment to excellence and community service."



ABOUT AP DIAZ

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz is the Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and an Assistant General Manager overseeing all day to day operations of the Department, including financial services, capital projects, special operations, recreation, maintenance, HR and risk reductions matters, governance and leadership matters while assisting the General Manager in all governance, legal, support and policy matters related to City's Park's Commission, the City Council, the City Attorney's Offices and the Mayor's Offices and the LA Park Foundation.

Prior to assuming his current role, AP served as General Counsel for Recreation and Parks, helping guide the Department on many high profile and important endeavors, most notably the transformation, restoration, and management model for the historic and iconic Greek Theatre.

AP has 24 years of professional experience and service to the City of Los Angeles.

Prior to assuming his duties at RAP, he served as a City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, litigating hundreds of matters in the Criminal Branch and as a specially assigned prosecutor in the City's Neighborhood Prosecutor Program working on non-traditional methods to reducing community crime. Thereafter, he served in the Civil Division's Municipal Law Branch as legal counsel to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, General Services and as lead contract counsel for the Los

Angeles Police and Fire Departments. He also served as one of the principal City Attorneys assigned to advise and staff the Los Angeles City Council.

Prior to his City service, AP practiced civil law at Knapp, Petersen & Clarke and served as a Judicial Extern for the California Appellate Court.

AP serves as an instructor at the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Fire Department Leadership Academies teaching Adult Development Theory and Transformational Leadership; is a faculty member for the National Recreation and Parks (NRPA) Directors School; Chair of the NRPA's Parks & Recreation Magazine Editorial Advisory Board; an Executive Board Member for World Urban Parks and serves as a Judge Pro Tem for the Los Angeles Superior Court.

AP is a native Angeleno, born in Hollywood and a graduate of Santa Monica High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington DC and a Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles and a Certificate of Spanish Language Proficiency from the Universidad de Sevilla, Spain.

In his free time AP enjoys running, swimming, tennis, historical biographies, travel, international relations, urban design, and planning. He lives in Pasadena CA with his wife, Krista, an educator and has two children Megan (16) and Max (11). He has two dogs, Lola & Bella.

###

SECTION

B



City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Kimberly Loving, Interim Director

September 26, 2022

TO: Pam Inch – Senior Executive Recruiter

FROM: Annie Nguyen - Seattle Department of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Background check for Anthony Paul Diaz

The Seattle Department of Human Resources has received a copy of **Anthony Paul Diaz's** background check provided by Global Screening Solutions. There were no findings that would impact their employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue Suite 5500, PO Box 34028, Seattle, WA 98124-4028
(206) 684-7999 • TTY:7-1-1 Fax: (206) 684-4157 • Employment Website: www.seattle.gov/jobs

An equal employment opportunity employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

