



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Leon Garnett*

Board or Commission Name: *Families Education Preschool and Promise Levy Oversight Committee*

Position Title: *Member*

☒ **Appointment** ☐ **Reappointment**

***Term of Position:** *6/1/2026 to 12/31/2027*

☐ *Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

Appointing Authority: ☒ City Council ☐ Mayor ☐ Other: *Insert Appointing Authority*

City Council Confirmation Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Residential Neighborhood: *Central District*

Appointee brief overview:

As Director of Community Partnerships and Operations at Seattle Children's Hospital's Equity Institute, I lead community engagement strategies impacting maternal, infant, and child health outcomes. I build trusted relationships with state agencies, grassroots organizations, and advocacy groups to ensure community voices shape strategic decision-making, deepening my understanding of how early childhood health intersects with educational readiness.

Over 13 years in nonprofit leadership, I directed community education and advocacy initiatives addressing poverty reduction, food security, housing stability, and healthcare access through cross-sector partnerships and culturally responsive approaches.

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed: *07/22/2026*

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

*Council member Maritza
Rivera*

LEON GARNETT

CAREER PROFILE

Director-level leader with 20+ years designing and implementing community engagement strategies across diverse stakeholder groups. Expert in building trusted partnerships with community-based organizations, public agencies, and advocacy groups to advance organizational mission and mitigate community concerns. Proven success managing cross-functional collaborations with clinical, facilities, communications, and leadership teams to align community relations with strategic priorities.

Core competencies include Community Engagement, Health Equity Advocacy, Stakeholder Relationship Management, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Strategic Program Development, Board Coordination, Community Outreach, Project Management, and Budget Oversight.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strengthened Community Trust and Engagement:** Built sustainable partnerships with advocacy groups, public health agencies, and grassroots organizations to co-create culturally responsive education and outreach strategies, fostering long-term trust within historically underserved communities.
- **Expanded Access to Health and Social Resources:** Directed 18 community education and advocacy initiatives that connected over 15,000 residents annually to critical housing, food security, and healthcare services, improving health outcomes and quality of life.
- **Advanced Health Equity Through Community-Centered Initiatives:** Designed and implemented health equity programs focused on maternal, infant, and child health equity, incorporating community feedback to ensure cultural relevance and accessibility.
- **Enhanced Organizational Capacity for Community Impact:** Led operational growth initiatives that increased organizational service reach by 120% over four years while maintaining the highest standards of compliance and community responsiveness.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA

2/2022 – Present

Director, Community Partnerships and Operations

- Lead community engagement strategy for the Equity Institute for Healthy Pregnancy, Children and Families, and support organizational outreach goals across diverse community partners and advocacy groups.
- Serve as primary liaison between the Equity Institute and regional community partners, managing stakeholder relationships and addressing community concerns to support organizational objectives.

- Design and deliver culturally responsive, community-prioritized health equity initiatives to improve maternal, infant, and child health outcomes, with an emphasis on reducing health disparities.
- Build trusted relationships with state agencies, grassroots organizations, and advocacy groups to integrate community perspectives into strategic planning and decision-making processes.
- Collaborate cross-functionally with clinical, research, legal, and communications teams to ensure project initiatives reflect community voices and support informed decision-making.
- Identify risks and opportunities in the community landscape and propose engagement approaches that support organizational goals and address community concerns.

Byrd Barr Place, Seattle, WA

11/2008 – 12/2021

Nonprofit organizations focused on poverty reduction, advocacy, and social justice.

Chief Operating Officer

- Directed strategic design and execution of 18 community education, health access, poverty reduction, and advocacy initiatives, serving more than 15,000 residents annually.
- Led the development of culturally responsive educational programs and outreach campaigns to promote awareness of critical issues such as housing stability, energy assistance, food security, and healthcare access.
- Built and managed partnerships with community-based organizations, public health organizations, and government agencies to collaboratively deliver programs and resources to underserved communities.
- Provided operational leadership for a 24-person team, embedding trauma-informed, patient-centered communication strategies into service delivery and educational engagement.
- Oversaw communications and outreach consultants to ensure the creation of clear, accessible educational materials tailored to diverse populations.
- Advocated for policy changes and funding priorities by elevating patient and community voices through storytelling, research initiatives, and direct engagement with policymakers.

Byrd Barr Place, Seattle, WA

03/2006 – 11/2008

Nonprofit organizations focused on poverty reduction, advocacy, and social justice.

Senior Program Manager

- Led a team of 11 in delivering food and housing services to 6,500 underserved families annually, focusing on patient dignity and community trust.
- Developed actionable business strategies integrating client feedback and cultural sensitivity into program delivery.
- Designed and implemented platforms to effectively communicate service policies, client rights, and program changes.
- Established and nurtured partnerships with local and state agencies to broaden the reach of community health and wellness programs.

Byrd Barr Place, Seattle, WA

03/2004 – 11/2006

Nonprofit organizations focused on poverty reduction, advocacy, and social justice.

Program Manager

- Managed three government-funded poverty reduction programs serving approximately 3,500 residents annually.
- Defined project scopes in collaboration with community stakeholders, ensuring initiatives reflected lived experiences and promoted sustainable impact.
- Led team coordination, deliverable tracking, and cross-departmental communication to maximize service efficiency and community satisfaction.

EDUCATION

Seattle University , Seattle, WA	Expected December 2026
Master of Business Administration	
Morehouse College , Atlanta, GA	1997
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics	

Volunteer Experience

Central Area Collaborative, Board Member	2016 – Present
Squire Park Community Council, Board Member	2011 - Present
Seattle City Light Review Panel, Low-Income Customer Advocate	2016 - 2021
Capitol Hill EcoDistrict, Steering Committee Member	2014 - 2021

Families Education and Promise Levy Oversight Committee

17 Members: Pursuant to [Ordinance 127238], 12 members subject to City Council confirmation, with initial term provision for positions 1, 3, 6, 9, and 11 being 18-months to establish staggered terms. 2-year terms for all positions thereafter.

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 5 By Ordinance

Roster as of [insert date]

Position Number	Position Title	Appointee Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	*Term Number	Appointed By
1	Member	Amruta Mane	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
2	Member	Fathima Garcia	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
3	Member	Leon Garnett	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
4	Member	Erica K. Johnson	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
5	Member	Gabriel de los Angeles	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
6	Member	Sofia Michelakis	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
7	Member	James Williams	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
8	Member	Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
9	Member	Girard Montejo-Thompson	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
10	Member	Lizbet Huizar	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
11	Member	Lakeya Afolalu	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
12	Member	Zamzam Mohamed	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
13	Mayor of Seattle	Katie Wilson	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
14	Libraries, Education and Neighborhoods Committee	Maritza Rivera	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
15	School District Superintendent	Benjamin Shuldiner	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
16	School District Board Member	Joe Mizrahi	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
17	Chancellor of Seattle Colleges	Rosie Rimando-Chare unsap	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238

Self-identified diversity chart

Appointing Authority	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/A	Asian	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	White/ non-Hispanic	Hispanic/ Latinx	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multi-racial	N/A
Mayor														
Council														
Other														
Total														

City Council districts represented

*P is for partial initial term. Appointee is eligible for full terms thereafter.