




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Yazmin Fatima Mehdi		
Board/Commission Name: The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees		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: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Term of Position: * 4/2/2022 to 4/1/2027 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
Residential Neighborhood: Queen Anne	Zip Code: 98109	Contact Phone No.: Business phone # - NOT personal phone #
Background: <p>Yazmin Mehdi has a rich and varied career history spanning the public sector and not-for-profit organizations including positions in the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, the Seattle City Budget Office, the Seattle Mayor's Office under Mayor Paul Schell, The Seattle Public Library, The Seattle Public Library Foundation, Crosscut.com, and most recently as Interim District Director for Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.</p> <p>Ms. Mehdi has direct experience supporting The Seattle Public Library having been employed as a Special Assistant to the City Librarian for Strategic Planning and Projects, having been employed by The Seattle Public Library Foundation as Director of Community Programming and Events, and having served as a member of the Library Board's Search Advisory Committee during their 2021-2022 national search for a new Chief Librarian.</p> <p>Ms. Mehdi has a strong background in volunteerism and board service including membership on the boards of Town Hall, University Preparatory Academy, Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, and Hilltop Children's Center. She holds an undergraduate degree in Social Studies from Harvard and a Master in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.</p>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 6/23/22	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.

YAZMIN FATIMA MEHDI

WORK EXPERIENCE

Office of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-07). Seattle, Washington, January 2017-February 2021
Interim District Director (July-December 2020)/Deputy District Director (August 2019-June 2020, January 2021). Led staff of six and interns to fulfill the needs of constituents, represent Congresswoman Jayapal, and provide DC colleagues with issues and ideas for federal support to the district. Cultivated strengths of staff and mentored them in areas of growth. Managed the district office appropriations process, developed the Congresswoman's annual infrastructure report, and led proactive outreach efforts like "Java with Jayapal" while managing a portfolio of outreach areas.

Outreach Coordinator. Built new connections and networks for Congresswoman with businesses and chambers of commerce, arts organizations and arts networks, housing agencies and non-profits, and transit and transportation agencies. Identified federal funding and support for constituents in Edmonds, Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. Through thoughtful cultivation of connections, strong communication with constituents, and an understanding of the political environment, informed legislative priorities and strategies, contents of bills and letters, and advocacy for the district.

Crosscut.com. Seattle, Washington, February 2007-April 2009
Director, Business Development & Marketing. Served on founding team for online news site. Experimented with for-profit model for two years, and helped determine the need to switch to a not-for-profit. Ran business-side operations including evaluating possible partnerships, developing marketing strategies, selling advertising, and managing human resource and finance functions. Cultivated angel investors.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation. Seattle, Washington, January 2005-February 2007
Director, Community Programs & Events. Integrated disparate program staff and elevated public programs to better serve Library users. Drove effort to expand cultural and life skills programming directed at City's growing immigrant and refugee population based on research and analysis of public libraries at the forefront of this work. Oversaw creation of revenue-generating space rentals program at new Central Library. Raised funds for programs. Led redefinition of the role of the Friends of the Seattle Public Library from grassroots supporters of the Library Bond Levy to long-term financial supporters and advocates.

The Seattle Public Library. Seattle, Washington, March 2000-December 2004
Special Assistant to the City Librarian for Strategic Planning & Projects. Successfully led the move of old Central Library to temporary quarters and back to Koolhaas-designed structure. Led budget development. Created and implemented policies for the library's expanding art collection. Negotiated divergent desires and expectations for design and final location of FriendShop among the Friends group, Koolhaas architects and library staff.

Mayor's Office. Seattle, Washington, June 1998-February 2000
Special Assistant to the Mayor for Arts & Culture. Successfully re-set Mayor Paul Schell's relationship with arts community. Negotiated with Aquarium and Zoo Societies to manage these public resources. Advised Mayor on issues pertaining to arts policy, immigrants and refugees, and related city departments and programs: Seattle Center, Library, Seattle Arts Commission, Aquarium, Zoo, and Sand Point. Handled related public and media communications. Represented Mayor at public events.

City Budget Office. Seattle, Washington, Summer 1993, June 1994-May 1998
Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst. Implemented Mayor's policy goals through development of the City's budget. Made recommendations for new or innovative programs that addressed Mayoral priorities. Organized and led interdepartmental teams to elevate policy ideas, address gaps in service, or implement new efforts. Identified reductions in costs when expected revenues were less than hoped.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

The Seattle Public Library Search Advisory Committee. January 2021-present. Present strong candidates to Board of Trustees for the Chief Librarian following a nationwide, year-long selection process.

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Public Health Reserve Corps. February 2021-present. Assist Public Health staff at vaccine clinics.

Town Hall Seattle Board of Directors. March 2007-present

Board President (2012-15), Board Chair (2015-16), Treasurer (2016-17). Led board during period when programming and budget doubled, and organization began first-ever \$25M capital project and fundraising effort. Planned and led retreats for staff and board. Led 2012 retreat that yielded unanimous vote for capital project.

University Preparatory Academy. September 2014-June 2020

Board Member (2017-2020); Capital Campaign Co-Chair (2018-2020) Next General Learning Committee (2014-2018). Evaluated strategic changes in the curriculum in five areas: new models of time, social and emotional learning, interdisciplinary learning, social justice and educational equity, and self-directed learning.

Lakeside School Parent and Guardian Association. May 2015-June 2017

Class Representative. Recruited volunteers and managed sales department as part of two annual Lakeside Rummage Sales that yielded \$100K and \$66K, respectively, for the school.

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners. May 2012-May 2015

Vice Chair (May 2014-May 2015). Instrumental in evaluating options for new funding source for parks system, resulting in voter approval of the Seattle Parks District, which gave the city access to additional taxing authority and yields multiple millions of additional dollars for the system annually.

Queen Anne Elementary PTSA. August 2010-June 2012

Treasurer. Helped charter the PTSA of brand-new public school, including filing incorporation documents, government licenses, and 501c3 status. Produced financial reports, managed funds, paid bills and taxes, and advised principal and board on financial matters.

Hilltop Children's Center Board of Directors. October 2006-December 2008

Treasurer. Served as treasurer during campaign to support the center's first move in 30 years. Successfully led effort to find new executive director.

Washington Community Alliance for Self-Help (now Ventures). June 2004-October 2005

Chair, Program Committee. Oversaw evaluation of microfinance non-profit's loan programs and pushed for stricter rules on loan issuance and repayment to reduce the default rate on loans to childcare centers, thus making more funding available for the lower risk loans to other kinds of businesses.

Library Council of Washington. January 2002-December 2004

Participated in advisory council which allocates federal funding to state libraries and sets priorities for state's role. Worked to ensure that libraries receiving funding were located in underserved areas, needed additional resources, or were implementing innovations in the provision of services.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

City of Seattle Facilitator Training. Certificate.

Nine-month training program for City staff on group dynamics and eliciting deep-thinking from groups, which included a year-long volunteer role as a facilitator for City-sponsored internal meetings and retreats as well as public meetings.

University of Michigan. Master of Public Policy, April 1994.

Interdisciplinary program emphasizing economic, quantitative, and political analysis of public policy issues. Rackham Merit Fellow. Admissions Committee, Student Association Committee Chair.

Harvard University. A.B. cum laude Social Studies, Latin American Studies Certificate, June 1990.

Interdisciplinary program in political science, economics, and history. Senior honors thesis on Mexican politics earned magna cum laude. Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Certificate of Merit, Harvard College Scholarship, and Alexander and Victoria

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Wiley Scholarship for academic excellence. Carroll F. Getchell Manager of the Year Award. Harvard Football Manager (1986-1989 seasons), culminating in Head Undergraduate Manager role that oversaw staff of six and served as liaison to Athletic department and coaching staff. Lowell House intramural crew.

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City. Certificate in Mexican Culture, August 1988.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Fluent in Spanish, some knowledge of Hindi, Urdu and German. Enjoy books, movies, running, and playing the drums.

Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees

5 Members: Pursuant to RCW 27.12, City Charter Article XII, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 5-year terms:

- # City Council-appointed
- 5 Mayor-appointed
- # 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	6	1.	Trustee	Carmen Bendixen	4/2/2020	4/1/2025	1	Mayor
6	M	7	2.	Trustee	Jay Reich	4/2/2019	4/1/2024	2	Mayor
2	M	2	3.	Trustee	W. Tali Hairston	4/2/2018	4/1/2023	1	Mayor
9	F	7	4.	Trustee	Yazmin Fatima Mehdi	4/2/2022	4/1/2027	1	Mayor
1	M	2	5.	Trustee	Ron Chew	4/2/2016	4/1/2021	2	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	3	2			1	1	1			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.