



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Stephanie Ellis-Smith</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Museum Development Authority Governing Council</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <i>OR</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other MDA Governing Council		Term of Position: * 7/12/2024 to 7/11/2027 <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Council District #7</i>	Zip Code: <i>98119</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Stephanie Ellis-Smith is the owner of the philanthropy advisory firm Phila Engaged Giving. She is the founder and former Executive Director of the Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas (CD Forum), an organization that presents and produces lectures, readings, and performing arts events rooted in African-American culture. Prior to the CD Forum, she worked with the Jacob Lawrence Catalogue Raisonné Project that located, catalogued, re-photographed, and published the 1,100 work oeuvre of the artist. Before the arts, she was in the biological sciences where she studied at UCLA and the University of Washington. Stephanie has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Washington State Arts Commission, appointed by Governor Gary Locke; the Seattle Arts Commission, appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels; and the Central Waterfront Committee, appointed by Mayor Ed Murray. She is a trustee of the Washington Women's Foundation and the National Center for Family Philanthropy in Washington D.C.. She has received numerous awards including PSBJ's "40 Under 40" and the Seattle Weekly's "Best Expander of Cultural Boundaries". She is married to the Russian historian, Douglas Smith, and has two college-aged children and a Doberman.		
The appointment represents Ms. Ellis-Smith's third term.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): DocuSigned by: 1AC9C5F8A704108 Date Signed (appointed): 12/6/2024		Appointing Signatory: Robert Strong Chair, MDA Governing Council

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

STEPHANIE ELLIS-SMITH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I have been a seasoned philanthropic influencer and civic participant for over 25 years in Seattle. I am widely known as a highly analytical, organized, and efficient leader with the proven ability to identify and maximize opportunities for philanthropic individuals, non-profits, foundations, government agencies, and corporations alike. I have served the public and private sectors as a CEO, COO, Commissioner, and Trustee. These roles have taught me how to be a collaborative participant, civic evangelist, and strategic thinker who easily builds productive relationships in a variety of sectors. Leadership to me is inspiring people with imagination, empirically-based reasoning, and authentic human connections.

EMPLOYMENT

Founder/Principal, Phila Engaged Giving (May 2017-Present)

- Phila Engaged Giving is a philanthropic advisory that works with individuals/families, estates, family foundations and small businesses that are interested in leaving a philanthropic legacy. Our goal is to help clients understand the issues that move them, gain confidence in their giving, and make meaningful investments in organizations and enterprises that best align with their interests.

Senior Advisor, The Giving Practice at Philanthropy Northwest (Aug. 2018-Present)

- The Giving Practice (TGP) is the consulting arm of Philanthropy Northwest, a network of philanthropists, philanthropies and philanthropy-serving organizations working in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.
- TGP develops customized solutions for national foundations using a deep knowledge of the field to help institutional clients navigate the changing landscape of today's philanthropy.

Chief Operating Officer, Earthbongo, Inc. (Nov. 2010-December 2012)

- A start-up, enterprise social media platform that increased employee engagement around environmental sustainability, philanthropy, and corporate citizenship. I worked directly with the CEO to build this company from conception. Role encompassed P & L responsibility, business development, product development, sales strategy, and branding.
- Worked with the CEO to build processes, grow our user base, and develop strategy to successfully present the company for venture capital funding. One round of \$2,500,000 in VC funding was pending before the company closed in 2012.
- Facilitated deal between Major League Baseball, Seattle Mariners and BASF a large, multi-billion dollar German conglomerate to use Earthbongo's software platform to track use of BASF made compost bins given away at stadiums to encourage composting. Earthbongo's platform was to be used to gain data, metrics and engagement not just with the product and users, but also how gamification can transform challenging goals into reality and positively influence behavior.
- Led the company's filing to become a Benefit Corporation (B-Corp).
- Earthbongo was among the first social media companies to use gamification to drive social action and promote sustainable employee behavior.

Founder/Executive Director, Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas (Feb. 1999-June 2009)

- Founder of a multidisciplinary arts organization in Seattle that presents and produces community-based discussions, literary readings, and performing arts rooted in African-American culture. Oversaw all areas of management of a small to mid-size organization.
- My experience included resource development, governance, event management, public relations, financial management and strategic planning. Creating and leading this dynamic and nationally unique organization, I managed multiple projects and people quickly, accurately, and compassionately.
- My role was the primary spokesperson of the organization to the media, institutional funders, governmental agencies, and individual stakeholders. Leading the fundraising for CD Forum, we raised over \$2M in start-up funding during my tenure. For my work there and other regional agencies, I was named one of the Puget Sound Business Journal's *Top 40 Under 40* business leaders.

NON-PROFIT BOARDS AND LEADERSHIP

Board Member, National Center for Family Philanthropy (2021-Present)

Board Member, Washington Women's Foundation (2020-Present)

Board Member and Co-Founder, Giving Gap fka Give Blck (2020-Present)

Board Member, Friends of the Waterfront (2014-Present)

- Appointed by Mayor Ed Murray.
- Friends oversees the Office of the Waterfront's delivery of the Waterfront Seattle Program, which includes construction of a new Elliott Bay seawall, reconnecting the city to its waterfront, creating an active public space for residents and visitors alike, and providing an adequate thoroughfare for people and commerce through the center of the city.
- The organization is responsible for \$210M in private investments to invest in new waterfront.

Board Member, Museum Development Authority (March 2019-Current)

- The Museum Development Authority is a public authority chartered by the City of Seattle in 1985. The purpose of the Authority is to assist and facilitate the development and operation of public art museum facilities in conjunction with the Seattle Art Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, and the Waterfront Sculpture Park.

Board Member, past Secretary, YWCA of Seattle, King and Snohomish County (Secretary: 2014-2016, Tenure: 2013-March 2019)

- Executive Committee member to oversee programs and financial performance of \$41M organization, the largest YWCA affiliate in the nation.
- Co-Chair of Fund Development Committee to engage board and inspire area philanthropists to prioritize YWCA in their giving to reach a \$5M goal annually.

- Co-Chair of 2017 Inspire Luncheons which raise over \$2M annually for YWCA programs.
- Served on the Executive Search Committee which conducted a national search to hire the first new CEO in 20 years.

Immediate Past President, Board of Directors, Artist Trust (Presidency: 2014-2016, Tenure: 2012-Dec. 2018)

- Served as Vice-President from 2012-2014, Chair Governance Committee and Current Co-Chair of Campaign for a Creative Future, a \$3.5 million campaign for working capital to support individual artists.
- Facilitated leadership change and led search for new CEO hired in 2014.
- Oversaw the internal reorganization of staff and program divisions.
- Reorganized and standardized board governance policies and procedures to be more in line with the organization's mission and values.
- Led the organization in the development of strategic and equity plans which guide the 30-year-old organization toward more fully meeting its statewide mission.
- Represented Artist Trust as the beneficiary organization of the inaugural Seattle Art Fair in 2015.

Vice-President, Board of Directors, KUOW/Puget Sound Public Radio (2005-2011)

- Oversaw program delivery, P & L, and succession planning for \$12M public radio station, the second largest in the nation.
- Served two years as Secretary and member of the Executive, Finance, Fund Development, Governance, and Strategic Planning Committees.
- Led the finance and executive committees in the acquisition and development of KXOT in Olympia, WA. Oversaw FCC regulation and compliance issues.
- Helped develop a plan for community partnerships with peer organizations and small businesses.

Commissioner, Mayor's Office for Arts and Cultural Affairs (2008-2010)

- Appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels
- Served on Education and Communications Committees as well as on adjudication panels for the Mayor's Arts Award and other annual awards.

Commissioner, Washington State Arts Commission (2000-2007)

- Appointed for two consecutive terms by Governor Gary Locke
- Chaired Visual Arts and Executive Search Committees.

Current Organizational Affiliations

- BlackPast.org, International Advisory Board
- Council on Foundations, member
- Family Firm Institute, member
- International Women's Forum, member
- Key to Change, Advisory Board
- Purposeful Planning Institute, member
- Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network, member

- Seattle Art Fair, Host Committee member
- The Philanthropic Initiative, member
- UCLA Parent Philanthropy Committee, member
- University of Washington Press, Advisory Board
- Washington Women's Foundation, member

HONORS AND AWARDS

City of Seattle Proclamation "Stephanie Ellis-Smith Day" October 21, 2009
 Cultural Catalyst Award, Artist Trust
 Best Expander of Cultural Boundaries, *Seattle Weekly*
 The Pride Foundation's Ted Lord Allied Award
 Puget Sound Business Journal *Top 40 Under 40* Honoree
 Talented Tenth Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
 Microsoft Community Hero Award
 Community Service Award, Loren Miller Bar Association
 The Evergreen Award for Non-Profit Leadership
 The Bent Writer's Institute Organizational Leadership Award

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®), 2018
 American College of Financial Services

Certified Advisor and Facilitator in Family Philanthropy, 2017
 21/64

Certificate, Women Board Directors Program, October 2016
 University of Washington Foster School of Business

B.A., English Literature and Biochemistry, June 1992
 University of California at Los Angeles

Museum Development Authority Governing Council

9 Members: Pursuant to RCW 35.21.730 and Seattle Municipal Code 3.110, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 3 Mayor- appointed
- 6 Other Appointing Authority:
 - 3 – Seattle Art Museum (SAM)
 - 3 – MDA Governing Council

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
3	F		1.	Member	Rosita I. Romero	8/1/25	7/31/28	7	Mayor
			2.	Member	Robert D. Kaplan	8/1/25	7/31/28	3	SAM
2	M		3.	Member	Raymond Tymas-Jones	8/1/25	7/31/28	1	MDA Governing Council
			4.	Member	Vacant				Mayor
6	M	3	5.	Chair	Robert Strong	7/12/24	7/11/27	7	SAM
			6.	Member	Carol M. Binder	7/12/24	7/11/27	1	MDA Governing Council
2	M		7.	Treasurer	Robert J. Flowers	7/14/20	7/13/23	5	Mayor
6	M		8.	Vice Chair	Douglas E. Norberg	7/14/23	7/13/26	11	SAM
2	F	7	9.	Member	Stephanie Ellis-Smith	7/12/24	7/11/27	2	MDA Governing Council

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													
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.