



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Elisabeth Benham</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Renters' Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<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: * <i>3/1/2026</i> to <i>2/28/2028</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Capitol Hill</i>	Zip Code: <i>98122</i>	Contact Phone No.:
Background: Elisabeth Benham is a renter living in Capitol Hill. With a background in sociology and city planning, her current work promotes affordable housing opportunities across Seattle and helps give a voice to the concerns of renters across the city. Having rented in cities where tenants have more bargaining power, she hopes to advocate for policies that create a more equitable playing field between landlords and renters. Specifically, she believes renters should feel empowered to speak up against unfair practices and should play a role in shaping directives such as banning ratio utility billing practices. She is also eager to see the new social housing developer succeed and bring structural change to the current housing paradigm. Her experience in community development and affordable housing have prepared her to contribute meaningfully to the Renters' Commission, and she looks forward to supporting its work as the city enters a new chapter in advancing affordable housing.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): <i>Kate B Wilson</i> Date Signed (appointed): 03/25/2026		Appointing Signatory: <i>Katie B. Wilson</i> <i>Mayor of Seattle</i>

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

ELISABETH BENHAM

Education

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- Cornell University—Ithaca, NY** Class of 2020
Master of Regional Planning, College of Art, Architecture, and Planning GPA 3.8/4.0
Graduate Research Paper: Opportunity Zones in Detroit, 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, MI** Class of 2018
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Relevant Experience

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- Asset Manager: City of Seattle, Office of Housing** Mar 2023-
- Administer Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) program providing thousands of rent-restricted units in market-rate buildings
 - Write affordable housing policies and procedures for property developers and participating low-income households
 - Assist with research and data collection to expedite application intake and grow MFTE portfolio
 - Provide customer service to property managers and tenants to ensure compliance with City of Seattle regulations
- Research Analyst: JLL Indianapolis** Feb 2022-Mar 2023
- Tracked tenants in the market to help office agency and tenant representative brokerage teams win business
 - Consistently maintained internal database with office occupancy and vacancy data to ensure data integrity
 - Compiled quarterly office and industrial outlook reports to convey Indianapolis market trends to JLL's stakeholders
 - Assisted office and industrial brokers with research requests including demand studies and market comps
- HOME Program Coordinator: Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis** Jul 2021-Feb 2022
- Administered Community Development Block Grant funds to nonprofit partners to advance affordable housing
 - Processed expense claims, reviewed income qualifications, coordinated contracts between City and nonprofit partners
 - Monitored, evaluated, and confirmed programs receiving federal grant funds from the City met all contractual obligations
- Community and Economic Development Planner: North Central Illinois Council of Governments** Aug 2020- Jul 2021
- Coordinated with state and local officials to write CDBG Public Infrastructure grant applications
 - Worked with Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to secure COVID-19 funds for rural communities
 - Presented funding opportunities to Chambers of Commerce and helped small businesses apply for grants
- Planning and Community Development Intern, Keithley Fellow: University Circle Incorporated** Summer 2019
Cleveland, OH
- Assisted Director of Transportation to promote transit equity and perform day-to-day operations
 - Assisted Director of Community Development with planning of public art initiatives and citywide events
 - Used ArcGIS to map utilities and regional transit lines for grant and permit applications
- Sociology Undergraduate Research Program, University of Michigan**
- Research Assistant, "Integrating Demographic and Cultural Approaches in the Examination of Neighborhood Change"** Sep 2017-
Apr 2018
- Examined photos from Atlanta, Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles for signs of gentrification
 - Used GIS to create layers of census tract data showing demographic change in neighborhoods of Detroit
 - Compiled information on new businesses and new residential developments in Detroit to map the city's growth
- Research Assistant, "The Role of Financial Knowledge Production in the City of Detroit Bankruptcy"** Jan-Apr 2016
- Collected archival data from audit reports of Detroit to explain accounting practices used by the city
 - Drafted memos describing various accounting techniques and how they are used for different purposes

Additional Experience

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- Treasurer: LGBT+ Graduate Student Association, Cornell University** 2019
- Submitted budget statements and handled reimbursements to ensure organization met spending goals
 - Helped plan LGBT+ events on campus and kept organization up to date on University funding policies
- Team Member: Hoosier Heights Indianapolis** 2022-2023
- Assisted rock climbers with check-in, waivers, and gear rentals while maintaining a welcoming front desk environment
 - Provided skill and safety demonstrations to new climbers as well as basic guidance on harness fittings and belay checks

Additional Information

Skills: Microsoft Office (advanced), ArcGIS (intermediate), Adobe Creative Cloud (working knowledge)

Interests: Rubik's Cubes, juggling, rock climbing, Swedish language and culture

Misc: LEED Green Associate (2019-present)

Seattle Renters' Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to *Ordinance 125280*, all members subject to City Council confirmation, **2**-year terms

Appointing Authority for SRC Member Positions

- **6** City Council-appointed (Positions 1 through 6)
- **7** Mayor-appointed (Positions 7 through 12 and Position 15)
- **2** Commission-appointed (Positions 13 and 14)

Roster: (last updated 3/25/26)

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	F	4	1.	Member	Liz Fite	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Council
3	F	3	2.	Member	Julissa Sanchez	3/1/25	2/28/27	1	Council
5, 6	FT	3	3.	Member	Adora Blue	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Council
6	F	2	4.	Member	Kate Rubin	3/1/25	2/28/27	2	Council
		7	5.	Member	Alanna Diggs	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Council
6	M	4	6.	Member	Allan Francis	3/1/25	2/28/27	1	Council
6	M	3	7.	Member	Sam Wolfson	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Mayor
6	F	3	8.	Member	Lydia Felty	3/1/25	2/28/27	1	Mayor
1	F	3	9.	Member	Elisabeth Benham	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Mayor
		2	10.	Member	Kasey Burton	3/1/25	2/28/27	1	Mayor
		1	11.	Member	Sasha Wasserstrom	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Mayor
3	M	3	12.	Member	Daniel E. Lugo	3/1/25	2/28/27	1	Mayor
2	M	3	13.	Member	Andrew Ashiofu	3/1/26	2/28/28	1	Commission
6	F	2	14.	Member	Karen Taylor	3/1/25	2/28/27	1	Commission
		6	15.	Get Engaged Member	Agni Bhattacharya	9/1/25	8/31/26	1	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)

	Male	Female	Transgender/ Non-Binary	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multi- racial
Mayor	2	2			1		1			2			
Council	1	4	1				1		1	4			
Other	1	1				1				1			
Total	4	7	1		1	1	2		1	7			

Please Note: Information in this table may not accurately reflect the number of commissioners and/or demographics on the commission due to missing information and multiple selections.

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.