



Thursday, December 9, 2021

## City of Olympia Social Justice and Equity Commission Application

Advisory committees are a structured way for community members to share their opinions and points of view, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused small group to the Olympia City Council.

Commissioners will be tasked with aligning the Commission work plan to elevate the voices, perspectives, and needs of marginalized community members; mediation and investigation of discrimination and harassment complaints; studying issues; hearing public testimony; independent research; and reviewing staff reports and recommendations. The Commission will also prepare, discuss, put together and forward well-developed recommendations to the City Council.

Appointment to the Commission requires living or working within Olympia City limits.

The City of Olympia values participation from all perspectives and life experiences and looks for equity and inclusion in advisory commission appointments. The Olympia City Council's General Government Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and interviews of qualified candidates.

To reduce barriers to community member participation the City offers stipends of \$25 per meeting attended to advisory commission members. Members who certify as low income are eligible to receive stipends of \$50 per meeting attended. Advisory commission members may waive the stipend upon request.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. The City can provide reasonable accommodation for anyone who needs it to participate fully in the commission.

For questions, please contact Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager, 360.753.8244, [sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us)

**Name**

Wesley Nguyen

**Appointment to the Commission requires living or working within Olympia City limits. Do you:**

Live in Olympia

**Email Address**

[REDACTED]

**Home Address**

[REDACTED]

**Select the neighborhood where you live or work (whichever is applicable):**

Other

**If you choose other please write in the neighborhood here:** Woodbury Crossing HOA



View a larger, zoomable map here:

[https://www.olympiawa.gov/community/neighborhood\\_associations/index.php](https://www.olympiawa.gov/community/neighborhood_associations/index.php)

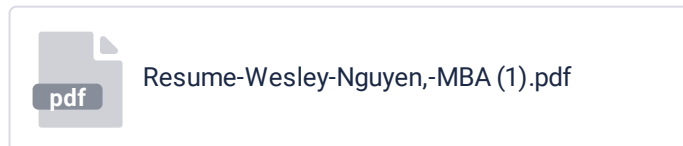
**Primary Phone Number**



## Interests & Experiences

Please keep answers concise and informative. You are introducing yourself to the Olympia City Council and sharing with them why you are interested in being considered for appointment. You may attach a resume.

**Attach a Resume**



### **Why are you interested in serving on the Social Justice and Equity Commission?**

I want to support the city effort in social justice and equity. with 40+ years of live experience, I believe these learned conditions will inform me on supporting this effort. I have lived in Olympia for 5 years and would like to contribute to building a welcoming community for all people. As someone that is working in local government, I am ready to understand the complaints on racial, social justice, human rights violations, and other forms of discrimination. I intended to provide transparent investigation and resolution of these complaints.

### **What is your understanding of, or experience in, issues related to social justice, human rights, racial and/or other forms of discrimination?**

I understand it exists and can be uncomfortable for some folks to hear and talk about it. I believe issues related to social justice, human rights, racial and/or other forms of discrimination are sometimes institutional, systematic, and cultural.

### **What lived experiences or skill sets would you bring to the Commission?**

I am a first-generation immigrant with a master's degree and civic servant. I enjoyed building a fair and just community that thrives in diversity and inclusion.

### **Describe a time when you experienced a personal bias and how you worked through that bias; or describe a time when you worked with someone with different viewpoints than yours and how you worked through those differences?**

I was a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in Mongolia from 2002 to 2004. As I was shopping at the local market with another PCV. One of the shopkeepers asked my friend where is he from and my friend replied "America" and the shopkeeper gave him a thump up. The same shopkeeper asked me where I am from, and I too replied "America". The shopkeeper laugh and told us it was a nice joke. He did not believe an Asian-American existed.

**Describe what a "just and equitable Olympia for all people" looks or feels like to you and how would you include all marginalized people into this vision.**

BELONG. Just like White/Caucasians, non-White/Caucasians should also belong in Olympian. Non-White/Caucasians should be able to go to the banks, the mall, car dealerships, bars, and any place without being stare at or be suspicious of.

**Appointment to the Commission will require your attendance at evening meetings, and other types of work (reading, meeting preparation etc.). How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?**

10 hours per month

**Thank you for your interest in serving on a the City of Olympia Social Justice and Equity Commission!**

# Wesley Nguyen, MBA



[Redacted]



[Redacted]



[Redacted]

## Summary

I am a son, a brother, a dad, an immigrant, a college student, a multi-lingual speaker, lived in the east coast, west coast, midwest and internationally. Bringing your whole self to work means being authentic.

## Experience



### Economic Development Coordinator

City of Lacey

Dec 2020 - Present (1 year 1 month +)

Serves as the primary point of contact and liaison to the community for the City of Lacey's economic development activities and is responsible for the retention, expansion, and recruitment functions for corporate and small business. Plans, organizes, and performs activities to enhance economic development in Lacey. Actively develops business contacts and effectively markets the City of Lacey. Makes and implements recommendations for economic development, small business assistance, incentive programs, and permitting policies. Serves in a project manager role for major development initiatives.



### Contract and Program Auditor

City of Tacoma

Oct 2019 - Dec 2020 (1 year 3 months)

Coordinated processes for the allocation of contract funds, particularly supporting minority and woman-owned businesses. Monitor programs and contracts for compliance with departmental standards and city laws, regulations and policies. Provided technical assistance and recommendations to improve project and program operations.



### Program Specialist

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

May 2017 - Oct 2019 (2 years 6 months)

Managed a 3 million USD innovative Upskill-Backfill Initiative; oversees all critical aspects of the grant cycle from pre-award to post-award; developed cost proposal packages for negotiations with contractors; responsible for management of contracting activities, specifically the technical assistance of activities associated with successful performance of designated contracts; collaborated with contracted program staff in development of comprehensive scope of work incorporating business engagement that improved policies and systems for workforce development.



### Senior Project Manager

Seattle Jobs Initiative

Dec 2014 - Dec 2016 (2 years 1 month)

Responsible for project planning and execution, including monitoring and facilitating adherence to timelines and expected outcomes for each separate program cycle. Strengthened program design with clear milestones, implementation plans, and evaluate plans for expected outcomes. Assisted poor and

low-income population with skill training and job placement coordination of program implementation; specialization in college relations and employer relations.



## **Social Enterprise Director**

Hagar

Jun 2013 - Jun 2014 (1 year 1 month)

Accountable to the Hagar Social Enterprise Group (HSEG) Board of Directors on all matters relating to investments in businesses and commercial risks; worked closely with the Hagar International (HI) CEO in order to carry out the overall mission of HI in collaboration with national offices. Assisted partners and investments with social impact metrics, monitoring and reporting. Identified new private sector partnerships to provide additional employment and training opportunities to Hagar clients. Monitored HSEG's current portfolio of investments and represented HSEG on the Board of Directors to assist with social mission/vision formulation.



## **Private Enterprise Officer**

USAID

Apr 2012 - May 2013 (1 year 2 months)

Engaged and coordinated with other USG civilian and military agencies by providing technical resources on socio-economic development issues; supported USAID program implementation activities by integrating and executing monitoring and evaluation actions; built credibility, established rapport, and maintained relationship with local/sub government officials to develop priorities programming; coordinated and drafted an economic development strategy with clear road map for implementation and supported provincial economic growth; defined and initiated small grant projects, managed cost, schedule, and performance of projects; ensured project activities were run smoothly with effective and efficient operating support such as better management reporting, information flow, business process and organizational planning.

## **Education**



### **Georgetown University**

BSBA, Marketing



### **La Trobe University**

MBA, Finance

Blended learning

## **Skills**

Financial Management • Microfinance • Market Analysis • Housing Finance • Banking • Financial Analysis • Due Diligence • Credit • Business Planning • Microcredit

# Wesley Nguyen, MBA



[Redacted]



[Redacted]



[Redacted]

## Summary

I am a son, a brother, a dad, an immigrant, a college student, a multi-lingual speaker, lived in the east coast, west coast, midwest and internationally. Bringing your whole self to work means being authentic.

## Experience



### Economic Development Coordinator

City of Lacey

Dec 2020 - Present (1 year 1 month +)

Serves as the primary point of contact and liaison to the community for the City of Lacey's economic development activities and is responsible for the retention, expansion, and recruitment functions for corporate and small business. Plans, organizes, and performs activities to enhance economic development in Lacey. Actively develops business contacts and effectively markets the City of Lacey. Makes and implements recommendations for economic development, small business assistance, incentive programs, and permitting policies. Serves in a project manager role for major development initiatives.



### Contract and Program Auditor

City of Tacoma

Oct 2019 - Dec 2020 (1 year 3 months)

Coordinated processes for the allocation of contract funds, particularly supporting minority and woman-owned businesses. Monitor programs and contracts for compliance with departmental standards and city laws, regulations and policies. Provided technical assistance and recommendations to improve project and program operations.



### Program Specialist

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

May 2017 - Oct 2019 (2 years 6 months)

Managed a 3 million USD innovative Upskill-Backfill Initiative; oversees all critical aspects of the grant cycle from pre-award to post-award; developed cost proposal packages for negotiations with contractors; responsible for management of contracting activities, specifically the technical assistance of activities associated with successful performance of designated contracts; collaborated with contracted program staff in development of comprehensive scope of work incorporating business engagement that improved policies and systems for workforce development.



### Senior Project Manager

Seattle Jobs Initiative

Dec 2014 - Dec 2016 (2 years 1 month)

Responsible for project planning and execution, including monitoring and facilitating adherence to timelines and expected outcomes for each separate program cycle. Strengthened program design with clear milestones, implementation plans, and evaluate plans for expected outcomes. Assisted poor and

low-income population with skill training and job placement coordination of program implementation; specialization in college relations and employer relations.



## **Social Enterprise Director**

Hagar

Jun 2013 - Jun 2014 (1 year 1 month)

Accountable to the Hagar Social Enterprise Group (HSEG) Board of Directors on all matters relating to investments in businesses and commercial risks; worked closely with the Hagar International (HI) CEO in order to carry out the overall mission of HI in collaboration with national offices. Assisted partners and investments with social impact metrics, monitoring and reporting. Identified new private sector partnerships to provide additional employment and training opportunities to Hagar clients. Monitored HSEG's current portfolio of investments and represented HSEG on the Board of Directors to assist with social mission/vision formulation.



## **Private Enterprise Officer**

USAID

Apr 2012 - May 2013 (1 year 2 months)

Engaged and coordinated with other USG civilian and military agencies by providing technical resources on socio-economic development issues; supported USAID program implementation activities by integrating and executing monitoring and evaluation actions; built credibility, established rapport, and maintained relationship with local/sub government officials to develop priorities programming; coordinated and drafted an economic development strategy with clear road map for implementation and supported provincial economic growth; defined and initiated small grant projects, managed cost, schedule, and performance of projects; ensured project activities were run smoothly with effective and efficient operating support such as better management reporting, information flow, business process and organizational planning.

## **Education**



### **Georgetown University**

BSBA, Marketing



### **La Trobe University**

MBA, Finance

Blended learning

## **Skills**

Financial Management • Microfinance • Market Analysis • Housing Finance • Banking • Financial Analysis • Due Diligence • Credit • Business Planning • Microcredit