



## 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 \***

First Name

Last Name

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

Live in Olympia

Work in Olympia

**Do**

**Email Address \***

example@example.com

**Home Address**

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

**Work Address**

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

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

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

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 \***

Please enter a valid phone number.

### Alternate Phone Number

Please enter a valid 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.

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

To make a difference within city policy affecting individuals who need voices for equity based on life experience as a person from the disability community. Having served statewide working on ADA issues and as a past board member of the Washington State School for the Blind in Vancouver, WA. As well my active role in Olympia as an advocate and community volunteer, I have a perspective of my own experience and those that seldom come forward on their own to let their voice known.

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

As a advocate, a disabled citizen, having been homeless in my youth and serving our community I have developed a clear understanding of those of us who have not had a voice of inclusion at the table to influence policy. My lifes experience has afforded me the skills to bring the voice for equity and inclusion.

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

As a blind person, having been low income, serving the public through paid and volunteer work, supporting the voices of persons who are living the life as a disabled person. I have gained the trust and respect for hearing from different perspectives, and have not just pushed my agenda but the agenda of others like me.

**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? \***

When working with difference, I have chosen to ask questions and not only listen to them, I truly heard them to gain the perspective that the person had. As a Blind person living in a world where most depend on vision, I spend a great deal of time educating and convincing persons that I have the capabilities to do the same tasks that they are capable of completing.

**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. \***

If this Commission looks like the community through the appointment process the conversation can begin. My idea is to have a city that respects, encourages, and puts into policy and actions that will bring us together as one community addressing the cost of housing, the ability to walk through the community as the same as those who drive, making sure our neighborhoods are not divided by class or the cost of living. Wherever a person chooses to live in Olympia housing, transportation, the ability to access sidewalks are rights, not luxuries.

**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? \***

Around eight to ten hours per month.

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

Submit