



Friday, January 14, 2022

## 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**

Eyota Wak'ishwit

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

Live in Olympia

Work in Olympia

**Email Address**

[REDACTED]

**Home Address**

[REDACTED]

**Work Address**

[REDACTED]

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

South Capitol



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** [REDACTED]

## 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?**

I'm interested in serving on the Social Justice and Equity Commission because I've lived alongside and worked with many vulnerable people within the Olympia community. I've seen areas wherein the city has failed miserably, and I feel I could bring valuable insight to the table.

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

My understanding of social justice is rooted in my experiences living in and around Olympia. I worked with Heartspark Press while the org was still active, advocating for the rights and well-being of trans women and trans feminine people. I have also worked for Pizza Klatch and have seen leadership change due to unjust discrimination and behavior on behalf of the old administration. I saw racism take place in my evergreen classes when I attended, and I've seen it play out in the streets of Olympia as well.

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

In addition to my skillset as a facilitator and advocate that I've developed while working with Pizza Klatch, I'd be bringing my lived experiences as a neurodivergent trans woman of mixed race who grew up in poverty.

### **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?**

There was a time when anti-Blackness was being discussed, and I agreed with someone that something was anti-Black. My friend at the time, who is Black, told me that I had overstepped by asserting an opinion on a conversation/topic that ultimately did not affect me. I acknowledged this, and I apologized directly to my friend in person.

### **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.**

A just and equitable Olympia for all people would look like the dismantling of state power, and communities would come together to support one another through growing food, mutual aid, and skill sharing. Disabled people would be given as much assistance as needed through a rotating roster of

community members. Indigenous Peoples would have food sovereignty, and no development would occur without first consulting with them. All marginalized people would be free to live in peace, and would be valued in the communities they belong to not because of their ability to be productive, but because they are alive and have their own experiences to bring to the table.

**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?**

I'm willing to commit at least 6 hours a month as a volunteer.

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