

Application Form

Status: submitted

Profile

Suzanna

First Name

M

Middle Initial

Pratt

Last Name

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City

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State

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Primary Phone

Home:

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Research Analyst

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Heritage Commission

Other

Select Your Neighborhood

If you choose "other" please write in your neighborhood here:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards.

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. Olympia residency is not required; however, it is a primary consideration. You may attach a resume. An Olympia map with your residence clearly marked **MUST BE SUBMITTED** with your completed application. Yahoo, Google, or other similar maps are acceptable.

Question applies to multiple boards.

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on this advisory committee.

I am looking for opportunities to get involved with the community and develop my knowledge of local heritage preservation. I've lived in Olympia for just over a year and it's starting to feel like home and I want to contribute to the future development of the city, particularly in relation to the designation, preservation, and continued use of historically significant places. Since I haven't lived in Olympia for very long, I am interested in not only learning more about the city's history and the history of Thurston County in general, but contributing to the continued preservation and interpretation of that history for current and future Olympia residents. The Heritage Commission position aligns directly with my research interests. While I am not pursuing archaeology as a career, I am still interested in applying my academic training and continuing to explore issues of historic preservation and heritage promotion and make them relevant to Olympia's residents and the general public. I have reviewed the 2008 "Mid-Twentieth Century Olympia: A Context Statement on Local History and Modern Architecture, 1945-1975" report and the 2015 "City of Olympia Mid-Century Residential Survey" and I would especially like to be involved with future reports that review and study local historic resources. I am excited about the opportunity to apply my expertise in a practical setting that will have an impact upon Olympia's future.

Question applies to multiple boards.

2. Describe your qualifications and/or skills which would benefit this advisory committee.

I hold a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology (archaeology track with a heritage studies concentration) from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame. My educational background and research experience has imparted me with an understanding of issues in historic preservation, particularly the challenges of relating historic preservation to economic development and tourism. I chose not to pursue a PhD in archaeology and my career has taken me on a different path, but I am still interested in local history and in opportunities to use my technical expertise and to continue to expand my knowledge and experience of historic preservation and local heritage. I received my MA through an applied program that focused on the practical aspects of anthropology. As a result, my academic training imparted me with skills and knowledge that will be a useful foundation for a position that involves advising the city government about the historic preservation and the recognition, enhancement, and use of places with historical significance. Three courses in particular imparted me with practical knowledge and introduced me to resources relevant to the heritage commissioner position: • Public Archaeology: this course covered the principles, practices, and historical development of public archaeology, the legal underpinnings and ethical standards of public archaeology, and the best practices of interpretation for non-specialist audiences. • Heritage Tourism: this course covered theoretical and practical issues related to heritage tourism and the business of heritage resource management, including global social justice, nationalism, local identities, environmental sustainability, economic development, and structural inequalities. • Historical Archaeology: this course covered methods of historical archaeology and resources for conducting background research of historical sites and landscapes for historic preservation purposes to understand how human cultural behavior of the recent past is expressed and understood through the material record. My academic training in archaeology and my current position as a research analyst for the Legislature have given me the skills in research, project management, and communication that will benefit the Heritage Committee in nomination of local places to the historic register and in drafting recommendations to preserve Olympia's historic built environment.

Question applies to multiple boards.

3. Describe your involvement in the Olympia community.

I grew up in Washington State but am relatively new to the Olympia area and trying to find ways to get involved with the local community. I work for the Legislature, which keeps me up to speed with local and state politics. I am also a member of the Olympia branch of the Mountaineers and regularly participate in local hiking activities.

Question applies to multiple boards.

4. List your educational and professional background and area of study.

I hold a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology (archaeology track with a heritage studies concentration) from the University of South Florida (degree received in 2015) and a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame (degree received in 2013). I am currently employed as a research analyst for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC). I conduct independent performance audits, program evaluations, sunset reviews, and other special studies of interest to state legislators as part of a non-partisan research team. This work requires me to draw upon quantitative and qualitative analyses to develop audit recommendations that improve performance, provide cost savings, and increase accountability of state legislation and programs.

Question applies to multiple boards.

5. Appointment to this committee will require your attendance at evening meetings. How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?

10

Question applies to multiple boards.

6. If you are not appointed to this committee at this time:

Question applies to multiple boards.

6a. Do you wish to be considered for appointment to another advisory committee?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards.

If you answered yes to 6a, please identify what other Advisory Committees you would be interested in being considered for.

Question applies to multiple boards.

6b. Do you wish to be considered for future appointment to this committee?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards.

6c. Would you be willing to volunteer for other City activities?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards.

7. Some appointments require that applicants reside within Olympia city limits. Even though your mailing address may be Olympia, you may reside in the County or another jurisdiction. Are you a resident of the City of Olympia?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards.

8. Citizens appointed to advisory committees are assigned and required to use a City email address for all advisory committee business.

Do you agree to comply with this expectation?

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards.

9. How did you learn about this advisory committee recruitment?

City of Olympia webpage

[resume_HeritageCommission_SPratt.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Question applies to multiple boards.

Applications are accepted for the calendar year only. The Olympia City Council's General Government Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and an interview of qualified candidates.

For further information, contact Susan Grisham, Executive Assistant, 360.753.8244, sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us

When filed with the City, your application and attachment documents are public records and may be subject to public release.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

10. Why do you think Olympia's historic places are important?

Historic places and objects are physical reminders of the past and of a shared history. I've lived in Olympia for just over a year and already several features of the city and neighboring cities stand out as features that contribute to Olympia's culture: the Evergreen State College, the Olympia Brewing Company buildings in Tumwater, the culture that promotes artists and musicians, artesian springs, the historic government buildings, and the distinctive architecture of Olympia's historic neighborhoods. The material record, particularly the imposing nature of the built environment, serves as a physical reminder of the historic forces, people, and ideas that shaped the city we live in today. Understanding the historic development of a place helps inform the present. For example, the 101-I-5 intersection may be taken for granted as a horrible traffic jam during everyone's morning commute, but the construction of the interstate shaped the development of Tumwater. The artesian well in downtown Olympia is currently known for being a transient hangout, but Olympia's early settlers depended upon artesian springs for their water supply and the springs were vital to the city's famous brewing company. I was impressed to learn that the city has five historic districts and hundreds of locally designated buildings. This illustrates the importance of historic places to the people who live here and the need to continue to identify and manage historic sites to maintain the integrity of these places and ensure they endure into the future. I recognize that simply designating a building or a place as historic is only a small part of the Heritage Commission's purpose. The active management of the city's historic resources is necessary to ensure that development does not impede the historical quality of the built environment. The review of municipal ordinances, building permits, and local planning efforts and the pursuit of collaboration and public engagement are integral to maintaining Olympia's historic built environment and enhancing its relevance for residents.

11. What is your experience working with the history or preservation of built/cultural heritage?

I hold a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology (archaeology track with a heritage studies concentration) from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, both of which have provided me with project management and public outreach experience. I have been a researcher and team member for a number of relevant projects related to heritage and public history. • In 2015, I spearheaded efforts to update the cultural heritage exhibits at Dry Falls Visitors Center (operated by Washington State Parks). • In 2014 and 2015, I worked as an excavator and artifact analyst for an investigation of a cemetery at a historic reform school in Florida. • In 2011 and 2013, I worked as the artifacts manager and an excavator for an archaeological project investigating the Roman forum at the ancient city of Butrint in southern Albania. • In 2012, I created an inventory of field data and images for Australian rock art research projects. My background has allowed me to develop skills directly related to the duties of the heritage commissioners. As a graduate student at the University of South Florida, I contributed archaeological expertise to a project investigating a historic cemetery at the former Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, Florida. I served as the primary artifact analyst for the project: I catalogued and analyzed historical mortuary and clothing artifacts through artifact description and documentation, photography, background research, and GIS mapping. The analysis of historical artifacts associated with this project contributed to a broader effort to reinterpret the burial ground and address the "absent present" of recent histories that have been ignored or left out. The school was a central part of Marianna's recent history and the project brought up controversial issues such as the town's segregated past and contemporary race issues. Recognition and research of historically significant places and objects is not always viewed in a positive light but is still important for understanding contemporary social, political, and economic issues. As an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame, I conducted an heritage management impact assessment in five towns located near Butrint National Park in southern Albania. I secured grant funding to conduct personal interviews, participant observation, and surveys with 115 individuals and 10 key stakeholders to determine the effect of foreign investment, development initiatives, and international tourism on local communities. While this project focused on the effects of a single, monumental heritage site, it contributed to my understanding of the ways in which historically significant sites are an integral part of culture and intertwined with personal identities and local economies. My educational background also exposed me to the interpretation of cultural heritage and heritage tourism issues. In 2014, I worked with a team to conduct a review of visitor use and interpretation at the De Soto National Memorial, located in Bradenton, Florida. This project involved visiting the site in order to observe how visitors interacted with the park and to identify areas of interpretation gaps. My team designed two interpretive panels in accordance with NPS standards to serve as suggestions of ways in which the National Memorial could bolster its on-site passive interpretation to engage the public at historic sites. I worked in a similar capacity on a project for Crystal River State Park, in Crystal River, Florida, where I developed an on-site interpretive panel to convey information about a particular archaeological feature. In both of these projects, I assessed the current state of interpretation and observed the way visitors used park space. I then conducted background research and synthesized the information to contribute to public outreach and education about the history and significance of cultural features at both parks.

