

Danielle Ruse, Personal Statement

My name is Danielle Ruse. I'm 35 years old and, but for a few brief intermissions, I've lived and worked in the downtown Olympia community for 12+ years. I currently own one business downtown, Olympia Workspace (or OlyWorks), a co-working office space that operates out of the Security Building on the corner of 4th and Washington. We have ten members—a few are non-profit directors, others are web developers—and a furnished public meeting space. In addition to owning OlyWorks, I manage Tiller Enterprises, a web design and consulting agency that operates out of the same building.

Professionally, I provide communications consulting, branding and social media direction for dozens of non-profits, small businesses, and city, state, and legislative agencies in Thurston County. In addition to this work, I serve as communications director and grant writer for NAMI Thurston-Mason, our local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Personally, I have a passion for literature and the arts, and have planned for numerous causes, spaces, and events in our community. I was a long-time bookseller and event planner at Orca Books (where I still lend a guiding hand from time to time), was the in-house publicist at K Records for many years, and am an avid participant at the Olympia Timberland Regional Library. I also served on the Board of the Olympia Film Society during the purchase of their now permanent home, The Capitol Theater.

I have managed a number of night-life establishments in our downtown as well, including Obsidian Olympia, the Brotherhood Lounge, the QB Lounge, and others. In short, I have definitely worn many hats in our community, and will continue to do so in the years to come.

As a resident and business owner, I am deeply invested in the health and future of Olympia's downtown, and believe I have a unique skill set and knowledge of our history that would prove most valuable to the PBIA board of directors.