

Nakita Venus

Dear Members of the Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Council Member for District 2. With a deep commitment to serving my community and a passion for fostering positive change, I believe my skills, experiences, and dedication make me a strong candidate for this role.

As a resident of Hillman City for the past 5 years, I have witnessed firsthand the power and love its residence have for their community. It has been a blessing to watch my community to come together and revive the Black and Tan hall, or fight to keep the historical Arc Lodge. I have always been passionate about advocating for policies that promote self-determination, public health, social justice, and sustainability.

Throughout my career, I have developed a keen understanding of the challenges our community faces and the importance of collaboration in finding effective solutions. As the Executive Director of Seattle's LGBTQ+ Center, I oversee a growing annual budget of \$2 million and a staff of 20. In collaboration with the Department of Health, King County Office of Civil Rights and other State and Federal agencies, The Center has been able to serve over 3,000 community members at our onsite clinic in 2024 alone. We also have 12 other programs with the purpose of promoting joy, liberation and self-determination. I currently sit as a member of the LGBTQ Commission Community Advisory Committee, where we discuss and advocate for the needs of housing, adequate healthcare and more. In the past year I have been able to solidify our Federal 340B program that has already brought in an 400K to our organization.

I am particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute to the regional workforce housing initiative. This is a great step in addressing the housing issue in our community, but more work needs to be done to ensure accessible housing for all of our community members, including those who are unable to work. I am excited to dive into conversations on how we can protect and center the needs of our most marginalized as it comes to issues of transportation and environmental sustainability.

I would be honored to serve as a Council Member and to work collaboratively with fellow leaders and community members to continue improving our city. My lived and worked experience equips me with the knowledge and perspective needed to make informed decisions that will benefit all residents. Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,
Nakita Venus

Nakita Venus



Professional Profile

- A life-long dedication to the liberation of Black and brown communities through community lead organizing
- Strong public speaker, experienced at presenting to groups of 500+.
- Excellent networker and relationship builder, negotiator of various stakeholders' competing priorities

Experience:

August 2023- Current

Executive Director

Seattle's LGBTQ+ Center
Seattle, WA

- Led and managed all aspects of organizational operations, including strategic planning, program development, financial oversight of a \$2 million budget, and staff management.
- Cultivated relationships with key stakeholders, including board members, donors, and community partners, elected officials resulting in effective multifaceted advocacy for marginalized community members.
- Oversaw the development and execution of organizational policies, ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, while maintaining a strong commitment to transparency and accountability.
- Managed a team of 20+ staff and volunteers, fostering a collaborative and high-performance culture and oversaw 12 community programs and growing health clinic services.

Jan 2022- August 2023

Funeral Director Intern

Recompose
Seattle, WA

- Providing compassionate trauma-informed care to families of the deceased while supporting them in navigating the arrangements of their loved one, the nature of the funeral service, the disposition of the remains, funeral costs, and prepared obituaries.
- Answered death calls and arranged for the transfer of the deceased from the place of death to the funeral home.
- Prepared legal documents and death certificates, ensuring the security of confidential information.
- Collaborate with Human Resources to create and maintain trauma stewardship resources and policies.

August 2020- July 2021

Interim Co-Executive Director

The NW Network
Seattle, WA

- Rendered oversight to aspects of daily facility operations, including human resources tasks;

budget management of \$1.5M; and maintenance of individualized professional development needs of staff based on performance and contractual obligations.

- Provide support and additional oversight of payroll, benefits, hiring, and onboarding.
- Conducting oversight of narratives and invoicing for over 13 federal and state grants and managing relationships with several national and local community partners, grant managers, and the Board of Directors.
- Collaborate with the Board of Directors, Consultants, and Co-ED to identify, create, and implement strategic plans and policies to meet our financial goals.
- Oversee development and efficacy of community-based programming and advocacy led by staff.

August 2019- August 2020

Youth Programing Manager

*The NW Network
Seattle, WA*

- *Constant direct communication with grant managers on progress toward meeting deliverables*
- *Coordinating and leading trainings, panels, and 1:1 development meetings with facilitators and youth in the program.*
- *Managed volunteer coordination for over 75 participants*
- *Organize and track program participation and coordinate monthly payroll for program leaders.*
- *Coordinate the ongoing program evaluation and continued development of all youth programs.*
- *Manage external and internal communications for the program.*
- *Facilitate the NWN's Youth Leadership Board meetings and provide scaffolding as they plan workshops, trainings, and socials.*

Additional Experience

August- December 2015

*Needs Based Assessment Analyst,
Hate Crime Prevention Consultant,
& Community Organizer*

*Colorado State University
Fort Morgan, CO*

June 2018- August 2018

Youth Environmental Justice Instructor

*YMCA &
After School Matters
Chicago, IL*

June 2016 - April 2017

*Social-Emotional Health
Coordinator & Math Tutor*

*City Year
Johnson School of Excellence
Chicago, IL*

March 2015 - June 2016

Congressional Intern

*Office of State Representative Joann Ginal
Colorado House District 52*

August- December 2015

*Needs-Based Assessment Analyst,
Hate Crime Prevention Consultant,
& Community Organizer*

*Colorado State University
Fort Morgan, CO*

Education and Training

Aug 2021- Oct 2021

Going with Grace End Of Life Training

Seattle, WA

April/2-19 - June 2019

Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture

Viva Farms
Seattle, WA

August /2012 - May 2016

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
Concentration in Environmental
Sociology, Minor in Women's Studies

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO

October 2015

**Water Conflict Management
Certificate**

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO



City of Seattle

FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

All City of Seattle officials and employees are subject to the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), Chapter 4.16, (the "Ethics Code"). The purpose of the Ethics Code is to ensure that no public office is used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. An individual with certain financial interests may be prohibited from participating in City business, as specified in the Ethics Code. Please click [HERE](#) to see SMC 4.16.070, a list of prohibited conduct.

The City Council is interested in knowing whether you have any financial interests that could be an issue with your service on the Council. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Answering "Yes" does not necessarily disqualify you from consideration:

- 1. Do you, or any member of your family, **receive compensation** from any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? No Yes, please complete item 1 on page 2.
- 2. Do you, or any member of your family, have a **direct financial interest** in any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? No Yes, please complete item 2 on page 2.
- 3. Have you, or any member of your family, served in the past five years as an officer, director, trustee, or employee of an entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government? No Yes, please complete item 3 on page 2.
- 4. After referencing SMC 4.16.070, do you have any other relationships, employment history or financial interests that you feel could be an issue with your service on the Council under the Ethics Code? No Yes, please complete item 4 on page 3.

In order to be eligible for appointment to Council Position 2, you must be a resident of District 2 for at least 120 days (City Charter Article IV, Sec. 2; Article XIX). Please confirm your eligibility by clearly printing your current residential address and affirming the length of your residency at that address:

Street Address: _____
Zip Code: _____
Resident at this address since: 2019

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided on this page and on page 2 and on all attached sheets is true and correct and that I have made reasonable inquiry to determine the truth, accuracy, and completeness of my responses.

Signature: _____

Signed at Seattle, Washington
(City or other location must be filled in.)

Date: 1/9/23

Note: If you are appointed to the City Council, you will be required to complete a "Personal Financial Affairs Statement" on a form provided by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC). You can see SEEC Form F1 by clicking [HERE](#).

EXPLANATIONS FOR RESPONSES ON PAGE 1: (Use additional sheets if necessary. For assistance, please call the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission at 206-684-8500.)

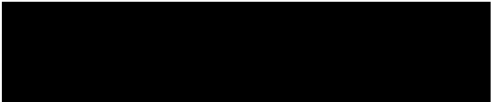
1. Please provide the name and address of each person or entity for which you answered Yes on page 1

Name: Seattle's LGBTQ+ Center _____
Address:  _____

2. Please provide the name and address of each entity for which you answered Yes on page 1.

Name: Seattle's LGBTQ+ Center _____
Address:  _____

3. Please indicate (i) the name of the person holding the position (you or an immediate family member); (ii) the title of the office, directorship, trusteeship or employment held; and (iii) the name and address of the entity.

Person holding the position: Nahita Venus _____
Position held with entity: Executive Director _____
Entity name: Seattle's LGBTQ+ Center _____
Entity address:  _____

4. Please describe the relationships, employment history or financial interests for which you answered YES on page 1.