



Seattle

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2025

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Seattle Mayor-Elect Announces Senior Staff Team

"A track record of getting things done."

Today, Mayor-elect Katie Wilson announced a diverse team of experienced senior staff to help guide her administration and implement her vision. This senior staff includes seasoned coalition builders, talented community organizers, and committed public servants with the skills and experience we need to take on the challenges facing our city.

"This is a team that's ready to get to work and make Seattle a great place to live, work, and raise a family," said Mayor-elect Wilson. "They bring deep community ties, exceptional issue expertise, and most important of all: a track record of getting things done."

Mayor-elect Wilson's senior staff team:

- **Kate Brunette Kreuzer**, Chief of Staff
- **Jen Chan**, Director of Departments
- **Seferiana Day Hasegawa**, Director of Communications
- **Alex Gallo-Brown**, Director of Community Relations
- **Aly Pennucci**, Director of City Budget Office
- **Brian Surratt**, Deputy Mayor
- **Nicole Vallesterio Soper**, Director of Policy and Innovation

Additional staffing decisions will be announced at a later date.



Kate Brunette Kruezer, Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff works closely with the Mayor to implement her vision and priorities.

Kate Brunette Kreuzer is an organizer, facilitator and political strategist with over a decade of advocacy experience in campaigns for housing affordability, climate justice and labor rights. She joins the City of Seattle after seven years at Futurewise, a statewide land use advocacy nonprofit. As Futurewise Director of External Affairs, Kate led state legislative strategy for successful efforts to legalize middle housing, increase transit-oriented development, improve resiliency planning for

climate change, and require cities and counties to plan for housing affordable at all income levels. Kate is a proud Transit Riders Union member and served as TRU's Treasurer from 2018-2022.



Jen Chan, Director of Departments

The Director of Departments supervises all Department Directors, and has ultimate responsibility for implementing policy decisions through City staff.

Jen joined Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) as a Deputy Executive Director in November 2024, where she oversees housing operations. Prior to joining SHA, Jen served in multiple leadership roles at the City of Seattle, including Chief of Staff at Seattle City Light, Assistant Department Director and Assistant Finance Director at the Department of Finance & Administrative Services, Interim Deputy Superintendent

at the Parks & Recreation Department, Senior Operations Manager in the Mayor's Office, and Policy & Fiscal Advisor in the Mayor's Executive Office where she worked on public safety, human services, public health, education, workforce development and capital budgeting.

With 25 years of City government experience, Jen is thrilled to support the successful launch of Mayor-Elect Wilson's new administration for the next six months. Jen has a BA degree from Tufts University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Washington.



Seferiana Day Hasegawa, Director of Communications

The Director of Communications manages all external communications for the Mayor's Office, and all communication with City staff.

Seferiana Day Hasegawa is an award-winning political communications strategist dedicated to public service, amplifying community voices, and advancing racial equity in local government. She has led communications for the City of Seattle's Office of Planning and Community Development and teaches policy advocacy at the University of Washington School of Social Work. As co-founder of Upper Left Strategies, she supported dozens of first-time candidates to

run for office.

Seferiana serves on the Washington State Leadership Board and is an alum of Harvard Business School's Young American Leaders Program and LT Impact. Over the past decade, she has served on the boards of the Washington Bus, Powerful Voices, and the South Seattle Emerald.

Named one of Seattle Met's "100 Most Influential Seattleites" (2021) and an AAPC "40 Under 40" honoree (2022), Seferiana holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Washington and undergraduate degrees from Seattle University. Her career spans grassroots organizing, legislative service, and campaign leadership—including roles with former Mayor and Councilmember Tim

Burgess, Senator Elizabeth Warren's Presidential campaign, Representative Pramila Jayapal's 2014 State Senate campaign, and early organizing work with Working Washington and the Fight for \$15.



Alex Gallo-Brown, Director of Community Relations

The Director of Community Relations reaches out to community groups and grassroots leaders to make sure everyone has a voice in their City government.

Born and raised in Seattle, Alex Gallo-Brown is a graduate of Garfield High School and holds an MA in English from Georgia State University. The author of two published collections of poetry, he is also a labor organizer who has worked for local unions and non-profit organizations since 2016. Before managing Mayor-elect Katie Wilson's campaign, he was the founding Director of the Essential Workers

Organizing Academy at UFCW 3000, an institute for union organizers.



Aly Pennucci, Director of City Budget Office

The Director of the City Budget Office provides clear and actionable budget data, and runs the city budget office.

Aly Pennucci is a seasoned local government leader who brings over 17 years of proven leadership in public policy, budgeting, and fiscal management to her role as City Budget Director for the City of Seattle. She currently serves as the Deputy Executive for Whatcom County and previously served as Deputy Director for the City of Seattle's Council Central Staff. In Whatcom County, Aly streamlined the County's budget process and fiscal oversight systems, providing greater transparency

for the public, while helping leverage untapped revenue sources in the face of budgetary shortfalls.

In her almost 10 years on the Seattle City Council Central Staff, Aly led the Council's annual budget review, amendment and adoption process, helping balance the city's multi-billion dollar budget while navigating contending interests and competing priorities. She is ready to help Mayor-Elect Wilson build and steward a City budget that delivers on the goal of making Seattle livable for all.



Brian Surratt, Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor is responsible for building public will for the Mayor's key policy priorities.

Brian is a multi-sector executive with 25 years of experience driving economic development and cultivating partnerships across private and public sectors and diverse communities. Currently, Brian is the CEO of Greater Seattle Partners, a private/public partnership focused on attracting new business, promoting international trade, and growing our major industries for the region. Previously, Brian was the Director of the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development,

where he oversaw small business, workforce, key industry, foreign-direct investment, and anti-displacement programs and strategies, and negotiated the city's \$1.2 billion development agreement to build Climate Pledge Arena. During his time in the Mayor's Office of Policy and Innovation, Brian served as the policy lead in Seattle's effort to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.



Nicole Vallesterio Soper, Director of Policy and Innovation

The Director of Policy and Innovation is responsible for developing and advancing specific policies that fulfil the Mayor's vision.

Nicole is a policy analyst, facilitator, and researcher with nearly 15 years translating grassroots power into lasting policy change. As Policy Director at Puget Sound Sage, Nicole helped secure the nation's first \$15 minimum wage in SeaTac and served on the Income Inequality Advisory Committee that shaped Seattle's minimum wage law. Nicole built infrastructure to support workers' rights and environmental

justice as founding director of the Fair Work Center, founding board member of Front and Centered, and co-facilitator of founding of the Washington BIPOC Census Coalition (now Washington Community Alliance), and has extensive experience translating grassroots power into lasting policy change. Nicole was recognized by the City of Seattle for advancing civil rights and named one of the 15 people who should run Seattle by Seattle Met and is committed to bring both analytical rigor and collaborative spirit to complex policy challenges.

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