

Affordable Housing Committee Members 2019-2020

Patricia Akiyama

Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties
External Relations Manager



Patricia's career spans both the public and private sectors, focused on government affairs, legislative and public policy issues. She began working in the State Legislature in Olympia: first supporting legislators, and later as a legislative liaison for what was then called the Department of Trade & Economic Development. She also worked for a public affairs consulting firm, and for Washington Natural Gas (now part of Puget Sound Energy). Patricia was selected by U.S. Senator Murray to serve first as press secretary, and later as chief of staff in Washington, DC (1995-1999). She returned to the state and worked as senior staff coordinator for Rep. Frank Chopp when he was Co-speaker of the State House of Representatives. She later worked in public affairs management roles for Weyerhaeuser Company, Quadrant Homes, Russell Investments and the Port of Seattle. Currently,

she is External Relations Manager for the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties.

Patricia is an alumna of the Senior Managers in Government Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She served several years on the Board of Leadership Tomorrow (class of 2002). She serves as a non-voting member of the Puget Sound Regional Council's Growth Management Policy Board; was appointed as a Standing Advisory Panel member for King County's Regional Affordable Housing Task Force; is a commissioner on Seattle's Community Involvement Commission. She is an active member of the Montiana Condominium Association since 2006; is a former board member and long-time supporter of the Wing Luke Museum; is a former board member of the Seattle Public Library Foundation and current member of the emeritus board; a member of the Seattle Chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society; and supporter of Densho, the Japanese American Legacy Project.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Patricia has called Seattle home for three decades. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications & Film.

Emily Alvarado *(on behalf of Mayor Jenny Durkan)*

City of Seattle, Office of Housing

Deputy Director



Emily Alvarado is the Deputy Director at the City of Seattle Office of Housing, where she directs the work of senior managers in the areas of Rental Production and Preservation, Asset Management, Home Ownership and Weatherization, Policy and Planning, and Finance. Previously Emily was the Manager of Policy and Equitable Development where she led policy and program development, place-based equitable development work, and affordable housing incentive programs. Emily spent six years in the nonprofit sector engaged in housing and community benefits policy and advocacy efforts, including at the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County, the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County, and Pittsburgh UNITED. Emily has a JD from

the University of Washington and bachelor's degree from Scripps College.

Don Billen

Sound Transit

Executive Director, Planning, Environmental Review, and Project Development

Don Billen is Executive Director for Planning, Environmental Review, and Project Development at Sound Transit where he leads project planning, environmental review, sustainability, transit oriented development, system access and innovation.

Don's previous roles at Sound Transit include Director of the Office of Capital Project Development, Program Manager for the East Link Light Rail Extension, and Project Manager for the Capitol Hill and Beacon Hill light rail stations.

Don started at Sound Transit in September of 1996 as a graduate school intern shortly before the Sound Move vote. Thanks to elected official leadership and the commitment of countless volunteers, Sound Move, ST2 and ST3 all passed. Don has since had the opportunity to be a part of the dedicated and talented team planning, building and operating our growing regional system.



Don holds master's degrees in public administration and transportation systems from the University of Washington. He also holds a bachelor's degree in peace and global studies from Earlham College.

Susan Boyd

Bellwether Housing
Chief Executive Officer



Susan Boyd is the Chief Executive Officer of Bellwether Housing, Seattle's largest nonprofit provider of housing affordable to lower income people. Susan has been committed to building equitable, diverse and vibrant communities through affordable housing throughout her career, which has spanned direct social service, policy analysis, advocacy and law. She is a respected voice on regional housing issues. Prior to serving as CEO, Boyd served as Bellwether's Director of Real Estate Development, leading housing development strategy and tripling the number of units the organization has in production. Prior to coming to Bellwether, Boyd was a partner at the law firm Kantor Taylor Nelson Boyd & Evatt PC where she represented nonprofit, for-profit and public organization in all aspects of the development and financing of affordable housing and community facilities.

Jane Broom

Microsoft Philanthropies
Senior Director

As a senior director in Microsoft Philanthropies, Jane is responsible for the company's philanthropic strategy in its home state of Washington. She also contributes to the company's national and global STEM and computer science education policy initiatives. She oversees investments in affordable housing, human services, P-20 education, workforce development and arts & culture in the headquarters region. She represents Microsoft in community initiatives aimed at improving the overall quality of life in our region, such as Microsoft's Affordable Housing Initiative. Her longtime focus is to build equitable educational opportunities at both the preK-12 and higher education levels particularly in the areas of math, science and computer science. She represented Microsoft in the start-up of STEM education initiatives such as TEALS, Code.org, Washington STEM and the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship. She currently serves on several



boards including Alliance for Education, Philanthropy Northwest, Workforce Development Council of Seattle/King County and the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession.

Prior to this role, Jane led Microsoft Partners in Learning in the United States, a company-wide initiative to address digital inclusion through education by facilitating technology access and capacity building in schools. Her work on Microsoft's education-related strategies has spanned over two decades.

She started at Microsoft in 1992 after graduating from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in communications and sociology.

Kelly Coughlin

SnoValley Chamber of Commerce

Director

Chelsea Hicks

Northwest Justice Project

Staff Attorney



Chelsea Hicks is a staff attorney with the housing, consumer, education, and employment rights team at Northwest Justice Project (NJP). Chelsea also serves as a board member and a member of the governance committee at Seattle Education Access, a nonprofit organization that provides higher education advocacy and assistance to low-income young people throughout King County. Chelsea graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2008. While pursuing her law degree, Chelsea interned with nonprofit organizations serving low-income clients at Seattle Community Law Center and Alaska's Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Additionally, Chelsea volunteered weekly as a drop-in center volunteer at Lambert House, King County's GLBTQ teen center. Prior to joining NJP, Chelsea worked at Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), a nonprofit legal aid organization, where she represented low-income clients in a variety of areas including home foreclosure defense, public benefits,

landlord/tenant, consumer protection, real property, and family law. In addition to her work with ALSC, Chelsea worked as a domestic violence advocate at the Alaska Family Services domestic violence shelter where she conducted intakes with domestic violence victims, answered crisis calls, and oversaw the daily operations of the domestic violence shelter.

Stephen Norman

King County Housing Authority
Executive Director

Stephen Norman is the Executive Director of the King County Housing Authority (KCHA), serving the Seattle suburban metropolitan area. The Authority owns over 10,000 units of housing and subsidizes an additional 10,000 households renting from private landlords. The Housing Authority is an active housing developer, with a pipeline that includes the redevelopment of 120 acres in the White Center community.

KCHA works closely with local governments, public and behavioral health care systems, school districts and community stakeholders to house the region's homeless population; provide safe and affordable housing for low-income elderly and disabled households; promote family self-sufficiency and support educational and life success for the 20,000 children assisted through its programs.

Mr. Norman has an extensive background in community organizing, urban planning and affordable housing design, development and management. He served as an Assistant Housing Commissioner in New York City during the Koch and Dinkins administrations and subsequently helped create the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) as its original vice-president. He holds a master's degree in public administration and was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He is currently president of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) and Chair of the Board of CSH.

Nicole Vallesterro Keenan-Lai

Puget Sound Sage
Executive Director



Nicole is the Executive Director at Puget Sound Sage. She has more than a decade of experience in research, advocacy, civic engagement, racial justice organizing, social services, and community and business outreach.

Previously, Nicole was the executive director of the Fair Work Center, a hub for workers to better understand and exercise their legal rights, improve their working conditions and connect with community resources. Before launching the Fair Work Center, Nicole served as the Policy Director at Puget Sound Sage, where she led policy and analysis work on labor standards and environmental justice. Nicole began her career through community engagement and youth engagement roles at the Washington Environmental Council, El Centro de la Raza and the Washington Bus.

Nicole has co-authored several publications on topics including financial capacity, income taxes, childcare, environmental justice and the economic impact of living wages. Her work has been featured in local, national and international media including the New York Times, BBC, The Guardian and

Huffington Post. Nicole holds a bachelor's degree in public policy from The College of William and Mary, and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. In 2014, Nicole received a 50th Anniversary Civil Rights Leadership Award from the Seattle Office of Civil Rights and Women's Commission and in 2015 she was named one of 15 People Who Should Really Run Seattle by the Seattle Metropolitan Magazine.

Brett Waller

Washington Multi-Family Housing Association

Director of Government Affairs



Brett joined Washington Multi-Family Housing Association (WMFHA) in 2016 as the Director of Government Affairs. Brett works closely with WMFHA's lobbyists Kathryn Hedrick and Krystelle Purkey to represent WMFHA member's interests in local municipalities and throughout the state. Brett understands the importance of multifamily housing to this region and works to find opportunities to create more rental housing across the state to accommodate the increasing demand to live here.

Prior to joining WMFHA, Brett was a litigation attorney representing individual clients in contested family law issues in the Seattle area. Brett graduated from Santa Clara University, receiving a bachelor's degree in political science and later graduated from St. Mary's University of San Antonio Law School.

Bryce Yadon

Futurewise

State Policy Director

Bryce joined Futurewise in December of 2015 as the State Policy Director. He has a bachelor's degree from Seattle University in political science and a master's degree from Middlesex University in environmental sustainable management. He served as staff to both the Senate Transportation Chair and the Housing Chair. He works on issues related to the Growth Management Act, transportation and housing at the state level, and focuses on housing and transportation at the regional and local level.



Mike O'Brien

City of Seattle
Councilmember

Claudia Balducci

King County
Councilmember



King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci is a mom, transportation leader and former public safety official. Since 2016, she has represented Council District 6, which encompasses all or part of Bellevue, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Kirkland, Medina, Mercer Island, Redmond, Woodinville and Yarrow Point, Beaux Arts Village and the Sammamish Valley.

Claudia started her elected career on the Bellevue City Council where she served for 12 years, including two years as Deputy Mayor and two years as Mayor. A lawyer by training, Balducci worked for King County for over 16 years prior to being elected to the Council, including three years as the director of the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

As an elected official, Claudia has championed transportation solutions, including the extension of light rail to the eastside. She currently serves on the Sound Transit Board of Directors and the Executive Board for the four-county Puget Sound Regional Council.

Larry Gossett

King County
Councilmember

King County Councilmember Larry Gossett serves on the Metropolitan King County Council representing many Seattle neighborhoods, including the Central Area, Capitol Hill, Beacon Hill, the Rainier Valley, Seward Park, UW, Fremont, Ravenna, Laurelhurst and the Skyway neighborhood in unincorporated King County.

Born and raised in Seattle, Councilmember Larry Gossett has been a dedicated servant of the people for over 45 years. Gossett's Council district represents an area where he has lived and worked on issues his entire life.



Councilmember Gossett is a graduate of Franklin High School, and after two years at the University of Washington, he became a VISTA volunteer in Harlem (1966-1967) and worked with poor youth and families. Following his service obligation to VISTA, he returned to University of Washington where he was one of the original founders of the Black Student Union (BSU). As a respected student activist, he fought to eliminate racial discrimination and increase the enrollment of African Americans and other students of color at the University. After graduation, he became the first supervisor of the Black Student Division, in the Office of Minority Affairs.

Jeanne Kohl-Welles

King County
Councilmember



Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles represents District 4 on the King County Council, which encompasses a large part of the City of Seattle.

Councilmember Kohl-Welles joined the Council in January 2016 after serving in the Washington State Senate for 21 years. Her professional career has been as a sociologist, performing research and teaching courses at the University of Washington after earning her Ph.D. in Sociology of Education from the UCLA.

Councilmember Kohl-Welles was the lead sponsor for the Best Starts for Kids Levy, approved by voters in 2015, which included a Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative. She also co-sponsored the Veterans and Human Services Levy renewal and supports using levy proceeds for

housing stability and capital projects across King County. In addition, Councilmember Kohl-Welles served on King County's Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, the budget leadership team for renewing King County's 2019-2020 biennial budget and is leading the King County Council's process to review and discuss regional coordination on homelessness, including a new regional governance structure.

As chair of both the King County Council's Health, Housing and Human Services Committee and the King County Board of Health, Councilmember Kohl-Welles champions creating, increasing and preserving equitable access to affordable housing and safe neighborhoods.

David Baker

Sound Cities Association
Mayor, Kenmore

Debbie Bertlin

Sound Cities Association
Mayor, Mercer Island

Claude DaCorsi

Sound Cities Association
Councilmember, Auburn



Claude DaCorsi began his second term on the Auburn City Council in January 2018. In 2015, he retired as the Director of Capital Construction for the King County Housing Authority. He was the former Director of Construction and Development for the Grant County Housing Authority.

DaCorsi has a master's degree in public administration with a specialization in government from Seattle University and a bachelor's degree in business management magna cum laude from Northwest University.

DaCorsi is the Past President of the Sons of Italy Nuova Piccola Italia Lodge #1967, a member of the Auburn Sons of Italy Lodge #1955, and a member of the Auburn Noon Lions. He also served as a voluntary chaplain at the state penitentiary in Walla Walla for six years.

He is married to his wife Mary. They have three grown children, thirteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

DaCorsi is on the Board of Directors of the Association of Washington Cities, a member of the AWC Federal Legislative Committee, the King County Regional Transit Committee. He is also a member of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board, and the Valley Regional Fire Authority Board of Governance.

Nancy Tosta:

Sound Cities Association
Councilmember, Burien

Nancy Tosta is serving her second term as a Burien City Councilmember. She has served as Deputy Mayor for two years. Prior to her election in 2013, she served on the Burien Planning Commission. She's lived in the Pacific Northwest since 1996. Her work career included stints in state, federal, and regional government in California, Washington, DC, and the Puget Sound, holding executive level positions in natural resources, growth management, and GIS technology. She also provided consulting services for 20 years to government agencies and foundations on environmental protection, environmental justice and health, climate mitigation and adaptation, rural economic development,



and food systems. She has represented Burien on the Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee and represents SCA on the Growth Management Policy Board. She also serves on the Highline Schools Foundation Board of Trustees and as Chair of the Board of Tilth Alliance. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in natural resources/soils from the University of California, Berkeley.