

KING COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPLICATION FORM



King County

PLEASE NOTE: Information provided on this form will be a public record subject to free and open examination by any person under the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56.250). However, while we will disclose the applicant's name, the applicant's address, phone number and email address will be redacted.

Thank you for your interest in serving on a King County board or commission. Individuals selected to serve on a King County board or commission will also be required to complete a King County Ethics Program Financial Disclosure Form within two weeks of being nominated to serve on a King County board or commission. Individuals appointed to serve on a board or commission that is overseen by an agency independent of King County government are exempt from the financial disclosure filing requirement.

I'm Interested in serving on the (Board or Commission Name):

Children & Youth Advisory Board

Your name:

Thien-Di Do

Preferred Contact Information:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Address | 10700 NE 4th Street, Unit 2402 |
| City, State, Zip Code | Bellevue, WA 98004 |
| Home Phone | |
| Work Phone | |
| Cell Phone | 425.213.0194 |
| Email Address | thiendi.do@gmail.com |

Physical Home Address (REQUIRED if different from preferred mailing address:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Home Address | |
| City, State, Zip Code | |

Current Employer:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Job Title | Self-Employed |
| Date of Employment | |
| Company Name | |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Street Address | |
| City, State, Zip Code | |

King County Council District (Please type an "X" in the box to the right of your district)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Don't Know

Have you served on any other Board, Commission, or committees? Please list them below:

| Board, Commission or Committee Names | Year Appointed | Term Expired |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| Board of Trustees, St. Thomas School | 2010 | 2017 |
| Leadership Committee, St. Thomas School (Chair) | 2015 | 2016 |
| Marketing Committee, St. Thomas School (Chair) | 2014 | 2016 |
| Strategic Development Committee, St. Thomas School | 2014 | 2016 |
| Development Committee, St. Thomas School (Chair) | 2010 | 2011 |
| Board of Directors, Rwanda Girls Initiative | 2013 | Present |
| Executive Committee, Rwanda Girls Initiative | 2015 | Present |
| Grants Committee, Bellevue High School | 2019 | 2020 |

Please explain why you feel you are the most qualified candidate for this appointment.

I have served as an officer on the board of an independent school and currently serve on the Board of an all-girls boarding school in Rwanda. On both of these boards, we seek to provide equity and diversity in our students' educational experiences while providing them (and their families) a sense of belonging in a nurturing community. I'm also a committed volunteer of the Search & Rescue program at Seattle's Union Gospel Mission where we provide basic needs (water, blankets and food) to our homeless neighbors each night. We find them in the deepest and darkest places throughout Downtown Seattle and meet them where they are at. We hope to provide them with consistent love so that they may find the courage to seek help. That work is what is leading me back to finding opportunities to support children as early as possible in their education and their communities so that we can invest in them becoming the best versions of themselves. In 2019, I was named by 425 Magazine's "Citizen of the Year" because of my commitment to service in our community, particularly in doing what is fair and just for those who are unable to do it themselves.

How did you learn of this opportunity?

I am on the Best Starts For Kids mailing list and received the newsletter announcing the opening.

In King County, equity is fundamental to the society we wish to build. Our end goal is for full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so that all people may achieve their full potential. The Children and Youth Advisory Board incorporates these values and has adopted its own equity statement. The CYAB works to build an inclusive board that includes the voices of underrepresented populations, people of color, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ individuals, low-income households, youth, the elderly, rural residents, people living with disabilities and more.

Please describe your experience with and/or commitment to promoting equity. What opportunities do you see for the CYAB to incorporate the voice of all communities in King County?

As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees who is now half of a biracial couple raising two biracial children, I am passionate about promoting racial, socioeconomic and gender equity. I would like to serve in our community and help bring sustainable and fair solutions to the many voices of King County. I believe we have an opportunity to listen to those who are underserved and not only be advocates but to also amplify their voices so that they have the opportunity to be heard on their own. I think if we are truly doing our job, they will have the opportunity to show their own strengths and abilities that are gifts to our community once recognized. Learning from community partners who work with minority groups - specifically seeing them in action and/or having the chance to volunteer with them - would allow us to really learn the needs of those we wish to represent.

As I mentioned in a previous statement, my experience with the homeless community has further sparked my passion for equity and justice starting with our very youngest community. I think it's important to ensure that children ages 0 - 5 have an opportunity to the best start in life - wrapping services around their parents, their childcare, their education and their overall health & well-being - so that they at least are on the playing field even if it's not level. We need to get them there so that future problems that I see when serving the homeless may potentially be avoided.

In my work with Rwanda Girls Initiative, I see first hand the results of what happens when you provide a chance to those who are underrepresented, in this case high school girls. We intentionally seek representation of the best and brightest from all around the country including the deepest rural areas. Some of the students come to our boarding school having never spoken or studied English. They leave as some of our top performers. Our graduates are at 162 schools across 25 different countries, including every Ivy League in the United States. Just 25 years ago, Rwanda suffered a horrendous genocide. These girls are the direct descendants of those who committed these crimes and those to whom the crimes were committed against. As a country, Rwandans have found a way to become one nation, and it is evidenced in our small community of girls at our school. Their love for what is best for the future of their country is more important than what is best for them as individuals. While they seek excellence for themselves, it is done so that they can improve their communities, their country and the world. I often look at what them and think, "how can I replicate this compassion and forgiveness here in my own community?" Rwanda is certainly not perfect and is far different than the United States, but I do think that learning from these girls' strengths has been a tremendous benefit for me in how I perceive and treat others and simply believe that everyone deserves a chance.

Do you hold any professional licenses, registrations or certificates in any field (Please type an "X" in the box)?

Yes No

If you hold any professional licenses, please list them here:

N/A

PERSONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

The King County Council and the King County Executive are committed to inclusiveness and outreach to all King County residents to ensure that King County boards and commissions are reflective of the community we serve. Providing information in the section below is voluntary but will assist in achieving this goal.

How do you identify?

| | |
|---|----------|
| Race/Ethnicity: | Asian |
| Gender: | Female |
| Sexual Orientation: | Straight |
| Preferred Pronoun: <i>(he/him; she/her; they/them, etc.)</i> | She/her |

Do you have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act? (Please type an "X" in the boxes that apply to you)

Yes No

Generation Range (Please mark an X to the right of the age range that applies to you)

30 or younger 31-41 42-52 53-63 64-74 75 or older

Person to notify, in case of an emergency (OPTIONAL):

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Name: | James Thomas |
| Home Phone: | |
| Work Phone: | |
| Cell Phone: | 425.208.6485 |

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name <i>(typed or signature)</i> | Thien-Di Do |
| Date | November 14, 2019 |

Please return completed form to: Kerry Wade, Best Starts for Kids Community Partnerships
kwade@kingcounty.gov

(You can either mail your completed form to us; scan your completed form then email it to us as a PDF attachment; or after filling out the form and typing your name on the signature line, save the completed form to your hard drive and then attach the completed form to an email.)

Rick Ybarra, Liaison for Boards and Commissions
King County Executive Office
401 Fifth Ave, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Direct Line: 206-263-9651
Email: Rick.Ybarra@kingcounty.gov

**This material is available in alternate formats for persons with disabilities.
Please contact 206-263-9651, TTY Relay: 711, or
e-mail Rick.Ybarra@kingcounty.gov**