

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 and Youth Advisory Board

Your name:

Rita Alcantara

Preferred Contact Information:

Address	5318 46 th Ave S
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle WA 98118
Home Phone	
Work Phone	425-362-6439
Cell Phone	206-679-1047
Email Address	Rita.alcantara@kinding.org

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

Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	

Current Employer:

Job Title	Equity & Inclusion Officer
Date of Employment	September 23, 2019
Company Name	Kinding

Street Address	16120 NE 8 th St
City, State, Zip Code	Bellevue, WA 98008

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

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

My entire life has revolved around children and youth. I am often afforded valuable insight into a wide range of perspectives from the many individuals I have worked alongside professionally and in my personal life. I hope to bring all of my life and career experiences to work on the CYA Board.

My mother had an in-home daycare on Beacon Hill for 30 years, which was my orientation to the world and Seattle community. She served many families that mirrored her background as an immigrant working in a then working-class neighborhood. She also served families who had either more or less class privilege from varying cultural backgrounds. I saw her passion for serving others as she simultaneously cared for our family and other families and therefore the community. Growing up, I learned how this caring work is foundational to society running smoothly, though it is often under-valued. And, ultimately, I learned how important relationships are to making change.

My own professional journey includes working for various non-profits social service agencies doing racial-justice-centered work in King County. I began as a teaching artist working with youth, some from the very community I grew up in. This work, afforded me experiences that led to position as the program director for a prevention and intervention organization working with King County youth at-risk of, or already involved in juvenile court.

When I became a parent, I became interested in birth work and was naturally reoriented to my family support upbringing. I trained to become a doula and began working in communications and development at a perinatal organization that provides support to families from immigrant and refugee families with limited-incomes. There, I deepened my understanding of how systemic oppression can mean life or death face in the pivotal time around a child's birth as well as effectiveness of culturally-congruent services in these early learning years.

Currently, my role as the Equity and Inclusion Officer at Kinderling is allowing me to push equity forward in the realm of early intervention both at Kinderling and within the EI community.

How did you learn of this opportunity?

I learned about this opportunity through in my role as Equity & Inclusion Officer at Kinderling.

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?

My career has been focused around equity including:

- developing employment programs for femme-identified youth of color from low-income backgrounds, many of whom are trauma-survivors
- elevating the visibility of black infant and maternal health crisis here in our own county through my work in communications and development.
- My educational privilege has allowed me to work in social service agencies in varying capacities, but the intersections of my own identity mirror many of the children and youth I have worked on behalf of.

I am proudly a femme of color from an immigrant, working-class background. These identities have given me the ability to look at systems from a non-dominant perspective and innovate to opportunities to push the conversation around equity. The privileged parts of my identity include being an able-bodied, educated, English-speaking, American national and have afforded me the ability to work toward change.

My work has shown that I am capable of developing trust with a range of stakeholders with diverse identities and perspectives. I constantly work to listen and learn from individuals who know what they need for themselves and their families given the unique intersections of their identities. I am a parent of two young children and the daughter of an elderly, disabled father whom we provide caregiving/access-support to. I can relate to and represent the many issues families face in a county experiencing extreme economic growth that is benefitting few and pushing many more to the margins.

I posit that this community agrees that a truly diverse board represents the perspectives of constituents, especially perspective of children and youth. I do see at least one self-identified young person on the board (via the website) but would encourage the CYAB to incorporate a cohort of additional youth members to support comfort in fully sharing. If a training program for youth to become involved does not exist, this could be a youth development program opportunity.

I would also recommend that parents of children in levy-funded programs be invited to participate. If this is not already being done, accommodations like childcare make participation more accessible. I know that families from low-income backgrounds often cannot participate because of time and other accessibility issues, for which I would recommend stipends for compensation.

That said, I recognize that policies to CYAB participation might prevent this. Given this limitation, focus groups or interviews with members of communities that have traditionally been marginalized would work as an alternative for which I would recommend stipends as compensation for people's time. Strong partnerships with organizations rooted in various communities would be essential to this.

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:

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:	API
Gender:	Female
Sexual Orientation:	Straight
Preferred Pronoun: <i>(he/him; she/her; they/them, etc.)</i>	S/he/they

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:	David Truong
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	425-503-1676

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 (typed or signature)	Rita Alcantara
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Date	11/13/19
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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**