

# 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):**

The King County Children and Youth Advisory Board

**Your name:**

Corbin Muck

**Preferred Contact Information:**

Address	1808 24 <sup>th</sup> Ave
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle, WA, 98122
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	(360) 953 – 1631
Email Address	<a href="mailto:corbin@tinytrees.org">corbin@tinytrees.org</a>

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

Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	

**Current Employer:**

Job Title	Special Projects Manager
Date of Employment	September 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 – Present

Company Name	Tiny Trees Preschool
Street Address	220 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. South #229
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle, WA, 98104

**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
N/A	N/A	N/A

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

I believe I am the most qualified candidate for the King County Children and Youth Advisory Board because I have worked with youth from a wide array of ages and backgrounds; from preschoolers on their first school hours away from their parents, to high school graduates who are working to build their skills and start careers. Within these roles I have performed a variety of functions: program manager and implementer, case manager, direct service provider, instructor, or technical assistant, and some roles have required that I be multiple of these at different times, dependent on circumstance. This diverse array of experiences has helped me form a holistic view on what kinds of challenges and opportunities emerge for young people as they grow and learn.

My first professional experience working with young people came when I was just barely out of my teenage years myself. I worked as a youth instructor at an outdoor recreation camp, a not uncommon role for young people who enjoy the outdoors. The difference in my experience was that the camp I worked at was located in Newcastle, Northern Ireland and routinely hosted youth who were grappling with the region's legacy of sectarian division. We hosted cross-community dialogues and activities, as well as worked with youth from some of the most under-resourced areas of Belfast, Derry, and other parts of Northern Ireland. I mention this experience, long-ago as it was now, not because I remember how to tie a bow-line knot, but because it was in this context that I learned how before presuming to work towards "solutions" one has to listen, learn, and understand the inter-generational causes of today's issues. Big events effect peoples' lives, and those challenges can persist or evolve long past the point when policy makers have decided they've ended.

After college I joined AmeriCorps VISTA and served here in Seattle. I worked in case management at a vocational school for 18 – 26 year olds called Year Up. In this role I actively supported dozens of students at a time in navigating systems from housing services, to mental health resources, to financial support, and beyond. This role highlighted the sometimes intense difficulty youth experience when encountering systems, even those meant to act as support. Many young people in King County cannot afford to come up against broken processes, or mono-cultural institutions, or programs that don't meet their *actual* needs. That experience gave me a wide lens on what it's like to navigate systems from the point of entry to delivery of the resource or support in question. What's more, it made me habitually alert for times when programmatic construction can leave folks behind. It is not enough to

imagine youth and children as monolithic. Different kids have different struggles and those diverse experiences require dynamic solutions. A kid born and raised in different areas of Seattle, or Burien, or Enumclaw will have very different experiences in the world, let alone King County youth who are refugees, or English language learners, or have different levels of physical ability. There is no modular youth who we can build programs around, we must be ever vigilant and adaptive to meet all types of needs with appropriate support.

In 2018 I graduated with my Master's in Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. My studies concentrated strongly in the realm of education and program evaluation. My studies dwelt primarily in how both government and non-profit systems can reverse the disproportionality of educational outcomes for youth of color. The culmination of this range of studies was in a more than six month long programmatic evaluation for Treehouse, a national thought leader on how to support youth in the foster system. Over the course of this main project, and many smaller projects, I built systems for feedback that reflected the needs and desires of not only education professionals but also the youth themselves. Our recommendations were adopted with enthusiasm and continue to inform the operation of Treehouse. These projects allowed me to implement the hard skills of program evaluation, an increasing staple of both government and non-profit management, while remaining adaptive and open to creative solutions that worked for diverse groups of stakeholders. What's more, it informed my understanding of how technical skills themselves are not a neutral tool and when used without listening, empathy, and cultural understanding, can miss the point entirely.

Most recently I have been working with preschool aged kids in North America's largest outdoor preschool: Tiny Trees. At Tiny Trees I manage our AmeriCorps program, our volunteer programs, and, within the last year, our BSK Innovation Fund grant with King County. I have worked with our project team to provide no-cost event programming for preschool aged children and their families to more fully experience the outdoors, King County's public spaces and parks in particular. Through BSK, we and our communities have been empowered to fundamentally rethink some of the power structures that undergird the one-way, linear path of provider, to intermediary, to community. We have partnered with communities to co-create programs, we have sought ongoing and formative feedback, and we have built models to help other organizations develop their own independent program. This has been very successful. It has led to not only an increase in our programmatic engagement, but vastly expanded our capacity to work with other community groups towards a common goal of supporting youth. Putting money, time, and staff power behind *getting people together* opens the door for solutions that would seem impossible via the usual scarcity-minded calculations that every organization must make.

This experience has made me a strong advocate for the BSK initiative and made me passionate about potentially serving on the CYAB. I believe that this initiative makes great strides in reducing the systematic frictions that exist when trying to make sure communities get the resources they need. It puts significant, formative power in the hands of knowledgeable providers and families; in community members and community advocates. That empowerment is important. It has deeply positive knock-on effects in making government more responsive *and* *also* builds trust in communities.

I believe the diversity of my experience – having worked with youth of many life stages, backgrounds, and contexts – positions me to be an effective board member. I believe I can contribute to a variety of conversations and reflect the experiences of many people throughout our communities. I believe, very strongly, in the good that is being done by programs like BSK, and I believe I can further that good work that supports the empowerment of community providers, families, and youth.

### **How did you learn of this opportunity?**

I learned about this opportunity through our BSK partners.

**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?**

The promotion of equity is foundational to how and why I work with youth. Some of my perspective on this has been informed by direct service work, in so far as the role of the direct service professional, in advocating for their clients and community members is to bridge the gap between programmatic offerings and the needs of the community. More directly, that means making sure that organizations take the needs of their community into account at *every level* of processes. This is crucial to me because it counteracts the disconnect that comes with professionalizing community support. If we become unmoored from the idea that communities are experts in their own needs and opportunities, we sabotage the very idea of community empowerment.

My experience in essentializing equity has been consistent between roles. In each of role I have held I have tried to structure policies, or programs, or one-on-one decisions as to best serve the members of our community that have the least access. In service of that, I have reached out explicitly to different students or families, I have worked with community partners to best structure feedback opportunities or program materials to be useable by folks with different cultural backgrounds, and I have taken specific experiences and challenges of families and found organizational solutions.

Specifically, in my role managing a BSK Innovation Fund grant, I have worked with a team to build equitable hiring systems. This required a number of shifts in practice so that applicants could fully reflect their experiences and skills. We broadened our language around skillsets and qualifications, we scheduled weekend and non-traditional interview timeslot opportunities, we provided questions ahead of time to applicants, and we redesigned our conversational questions around different ways equity challenges might arise in their prospective roles. More than those specific steps, however, we changed the conceptual starting point for our applications. As a committee we consistently subjected each operational change to a litany of questions around how this change might affect those who feel able and confident to apply. This process took time, but it was critical in attracting the highly qualified and committed staff that we recruited at the end of the process. It greatly expanded and diversified our candidate pool so that our organization can be further reflective of the communities it seeks to serve. Since hiring for these positions, we have also conducted feedback on the application experience and on ways we could improve its accessibility and transparency.

I believe one area where the CYAB could expand its equity lens is its participation in specific BSK meetings of organizations. I am struck by the hourly commitment being 5 – 10 hours, when the meetings themselves are about two hours per month. I understand that there is substantial reading and studying beforehand, but I wonder how often board members meet organizational providers, or community members specifically. Oversight demands a certain level of objectivity, and we also have to find ways to institutionalize the pipeline of on-the-ground knowledge from our community members who are *doing the work*. This transfer of knowledge has significant positive effects for structures like the CYAB in making it more responsive and knowledgeable; but it also builds trust in the community. Boards and committees can feel very far away for families. I admire the recent adoption of governing principles as well, because enabling board members to engage with decisions based on an explicit shared understanding of priorities helps clarify things.

Right now, youth in King County face systemic inequity when engaging with the world. That inequity, pervasive and multi-faceted, suppresses their happiness, health, self-actualization, careers, and opportunities. It is unfair, and it must stop. The status quo leaves countless young people behind. If selected for a board position on the

CYAB I would use my position to build upon the equitable work of the board so that we can collectively keep moving in a positive direction.

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:

Master's in Public Administration

**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:	Caucasian
Gender:	Male
Sexual Orientation:	
Preferred Pronoun: <i>(he/him; she/her; they/them, etc.)</i>	Him/His

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:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	

Cell Phone:	
-------------	--

**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> )	Corbin Muck
Date	11/22/2019

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