

Shkelqim Kelmendi
801 Dexter Ave N Apt 644
Seattle, WA 98109

[LinkedIn Profile](#)



Dear Kyle,

I am writing to express my interest in a board appointed or community elected position with the South Lake Union Community Council. As a resident of South Lake Union I am invested in the long term vibrancy and success of our community, and am eager to be an active driver in shaping the path forward.

Currently I am a Project Manager in the Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives at the Seattle Housing Authority, an organization that fosters stability and increases self-sufficiency for low income individuals. Prior to joining the Seattle community, I worked with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the U.S. Department of Labor.

I believe that in order to create a healthy community you must have diverse and active engagement from residents. My efforts in both the professional and civic realm have focused heavily on this area. While living in Dallas I served on the Board of the Dallas Regional Chamber Young Professionals, where I chaired the Service and Policy Committees. My focus at the Chamber was to increase the civic and community engagement of the over 400 young professional members. To do so I created the Get On Board program, a partnership that created a marketplace to match driven young professionals with non-profit board opportunities, the YP Impact Mentoring Program so members can invest in the next generation of youth in our community, and also oversaw initiatives that connected young professionals with city leaders and elected officials. In addition to my work with the Chamber I also served on the Board of Dallas CASA YP, was a Commissioner on the City of Dallas Community Development Commission, where I chaired the Economic Development and the Housing and HOME Programs Committee, and participated on the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty.

What my experience has taught me is that individuals want to be involved in their community and to have pride in their neighborhood, but often times there are barriers that keep them from taking the first step. I am interested in working with the SLU Community Council to engage this population and remove those barriers. In my current role as board member of the Seattle Chamber Young Professionals I see the opportunities that exist in our community, and I want to help position South Lake Union as a model for civic and community engagement.

I am often asked if I am happy with my decision to move to Seattle; my only regret is that I waited so long to get here. South Lake Union is home for me and it is the place I want to raise my family. I believe that the SLU Community Council is perfectly positioned to ensure that this community continues to prosper and that is why I am interested in serving.

Best,
Shkelqim Kelmendi