

**City of Seattle
Notice of Appointment**

Name: Mergitu Argo		<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Council <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Constituency
Residential Neighborhood: Seattle, WA		Contact Phone No.: N/A
Appointed to: Seattle Women's Commission		Date of Appointment:
Authority (Ord., Res.): 118392		Term of Office: From: Confirmation To: 07/01/16
Background: For the past five years Mergitu has worked for Neighborhood House as an employment specialist. She also has worked in various positions at the Refuge Women's Alliance for the past 8 years. She does classroom interpreting, parent education workshops and case management for the ESL/DD participants and family advocating for East African's who speak Amharic and Oromiffa . She has been a job coach for Rainier Vista which opened up the door for other opportunities working with employers and other service providers around King County. Her formal training is in case management and working in the community by teaching parenting education. And finally, her training as an administrative assistant, years of working experience at the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA), Neighborhood House, serving on the African Community Network board in Washington, and the East African Police Advisory Council has positioned her to be a good candidate for the Seattle Women's Commission as she continues to advocate for refugee and immigrant women in Seattle.		
Authorizing Signature: 		Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment: Councilmember Bruce Harrell

Mergitu Argo

Objective:

To utilize my experience and extensive community outreach skills in the social service field where I can make a difference on behalf of people who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Relevant Experience:

- 4/2006 - Current Neighborhood House Seattle WA
Employment Specialist and Case Manager
- Conduct community outreach to low-income, English language learners, and vulnerable population.
 - Assist with employment orientation and search.
 - Assist White Center resident with job search and placement with positions at Seattle International Airport.
 - Assist applicants with job preparation, mock-up interviews, conduct resume workshops and development.
 - Conduct retention surveys with clients.
 - Assist clients with housing, child care and transportation issues to obtain and retain job and ensure successful transition.
- 2/1997 - 4/2006 Refugee Women's Alliance Seattle WA
Family Advocate and Employment Specialist
- Provide ESL education, parenting class and cross-cultural tips to the East African refugee women and families.
 - Provide case management, assist women with personal and family related crises, assessed their needs and referred them to appropriate services.
 - Assist women through the process of job search, obtaining and keeping jobs.
 - Provided translations and interpretations to Oromo and Amharic speaking women who use services at the agency.

- Facilitate resume development job preparation and interviews.
- Conduct workshops on bicultural parenting, American school system and women's support topics.

- 2/1996 – 2/2006 Yohana International Interpreter Services Seattle WA
Interpreter
- Interpreted for Oromiffa and Amharic speaking clients in social services, health care and legal services.
 - Translated written documents from English to Oromo and Amharic, and Vice versa.
- 5/1993 – 2/1997 Horizon House Retirement Home Seattle WA
Nursing Assistant
- Assisted physically and mentally disabled and other seniors with regular daily needs such as eating and hygienic needs.
 - Monitored and assisted residents to take medications proper and in timely manner.
- 8/1992 – 7/1995 Restorative Care Center Seattle WA
Nursing Assistant
- Assisted physically and mentally disabled and other seniors with regular daily needs such as eating and personal hygienic needs.
 - Assisted residents with proper and timely medication and do a range of motion with them.

Education:

- 2007 Leadership and supervision certificate Seattle WA
- 2000 Case management certificate Renton WA
- 1999 Child and Family study SCCC Seattle WA
- 1999 Family resources coordinator certificate Seattle WA
- 1997 Administrative Assistant certificate Renton WA
- 1995 Medical Assistant Certificate Seattle WA
- 1992 Nursing Assistant Certificate Kent WA

Community Activities:

- 1998 – Present African community network (ACN) Board of directors Seattle WA
- 2001 - Present Trusted Advocate White Center Seattle WA
- 1998 – 2004 Refugee and Immigrant Parent Advocacy Network - advisory board Seattle WA
- 1999 – 2005 Oromo community in Seattle Board of directors Seattle WA

Summary of Qualifications:

Demonstrated desire and skills to work with multi-cultural women and family. Experience assisting low-income families with job placement and emergency needs. Substantial experience in translating, transcribing and fluency in two East African languages.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Seattle Women's Commission

July 2014

21 Commission members: Per S.M.C. 3.14.920, confirmed by City Council, 2-year terms*

- 9 Appointed by Mayor
- 9 Appointed by City Council
- 2 Appointed by the Commission, confirmed by City Council
- 1 member *Get Engaged: City Boards and Commissions* program: Appointed by Mayor, confirmed by City Council –1-year term-appointed in September

D*	G	Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Term #	Position	Appointed By
3	F	Mercedes Elizalde		07/01/16	1 st	CO-Chair	City Council
2	F	Phyllis Lewis	09/30/13	07/01/15	1 st		City Council
2	F	Mergitu Argo		07/01/16	3 rd		City Council
6	F	Liz Kellogg	09/30/13	07/01/15	1 st	Co-Chair	City Council
6	F	W.M. Gillihan		07/01/15	2 nd		City Council
3	F	Elsa Batres-Boni	09/30/13	07/01/15	1 st		City Council
1	F	Maha Jahshan		07/01/15	2 nd		City Council
		VACANT		07/01/14	1 st		City Council
6	F	Alison Mondt	08/31/09	07/01/15	2 nd		City Council
6	F	Michele Frix	03/6/12	07/01/16	2 nd	Co-Chair	Commission
		VACANT		07/01/15	1 st		Commission
		VACANT	09/30/13	07/01/15	1 st		Mayor
2	F	VACANT		07/01/15	1 st		Mayor
6	F	VACANT		07/01/15	1 st		Mayor
6	F	Jaron Reed	09/30/13	07/01/15	1 st		Mayor
2	F	VACANT		07/01/15	1 st		Mayor
6	F	VACANT	03/6/12	07/01/14	1 st		Mayor
6	F	VACANT		07/01/14	1 st		Mayor
1	F	VACANT		07/01/14	1 st		Mayor
4	F	Roslyn Kagy		07/01/14	1 st		Mayor
6	F	Nicki Oliver	09/30/13	09/01/14	1 st	Get Engaged	Mayor

		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)			
	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	Asian/American	African/American	Latino	Native/American	Other	Caucasian
Mayor	0	2	7	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Council	0	8	1	5	1	2	2	0	0	3
Commission	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Get Engaged	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	12	9	6	2	3	2	1	0	6

*The Get Engaged youth program Commissioner serves a single term of one year.

**Commissioners whose first appointments are for a term of less than twelve months are eligible to serve for two additional two/year terms.