

City of Seattle
Notice of Appointment

Name: Lara Catherine Diaconu		<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: Mill Creek, WA	98012	Contact Phone No.: N/A
Appointed to: Seattle Human Rights Commission		Date of Appointment:
Authority (Ord., Res.): 118392		Term of Office: From: Confirmation To: 7/22/15
Background: Lara Diaconu is a mid-career professional who moved to Seattle from Baltimore, MD in 2011 via Nicaragua, having joined the team of Seattle-based impact investor Global Partnerships in 2009. Lara has 18 years of experience supporting local organizations, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean and southeastern Europe, to design, deliver and resource community development programs in sectors including: public health, agricultural enterprise, microfinance, and citizen participation. She worked for Catholic Relief Services for 13 years, 8 of which were spent living overseas (Nicaragua, Bulgaria, FYRoMacedonia, and Albania). She is most proud of: 1) launching a micro finance program in Bulgaria from zero in 1999, which is now a registered financial institution, and 2) supporting 600 Nicaraguan smallholder coffee farmer families move from subsistence to fair trade-certified and selling high quality product through their own cooperative in 2003; and 3) supporting multiple organizations design sustainable health services programs that now collectively serve over 200,000 people. From 2001-2006, Lara served on the Board of NicaSalud, a Nicaraguan network of local and international organizations implementing community-based health programs, while serving as CRS' Country Director in Nicaragua. Lara is now an independent consultant, seeking to get more involved in local development concerns in the greater Seattle area. She earned an MBA with a concentration in Non-profit Management and an MA in International Relations from Yale University, and a BA in International Relations from Grinnell College. Lara is a native English speaker, has achieved past proficiency in Russian, and Kiswahili, a basic knowledge of French and German, but is currently fluent in Spanish. Between work and pleasure, Lara has traveled to 70 countries! Lara currently resides in Mill Creek, WA with her husband and step-daughter.		
Authorizing Signature: 		Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment: Bruce Harrell, Seattle City Council



LARA CATHERINE DIACONU

WORK EXPERIENCE

Salaga Partners LLC

Seattle, WA

May 2014 – present

Founding Member, Self-employed

- Independent consulting services focused on innovative and sustainable program development and organization capacity-building.
- Particular interest in sustainable models that deliver quality health services, financial services, participation in agricultural value chains and in civil society.
- Facilitation of strategic planning processes and participatory project/program design workshops.
- Proficient grant writer and manager.
- Specialized in Latin America, with work experience in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Southeastern Europe.

Global Partnerships

Managua, Nicaragua and Seattle, Washington

September 2009 – May 2014

Vice President, Health Services Fund

- Contributed to strategic identification of impact areas and social investment criteria for Latin American impact investor (included Health Services, Rural Livelihoods, Micro-entrepreneurship and Green Technology);
- Provided technical assistance and managed performance-based grant funding across a portfolio of 5 MFI and cooperative partners in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Cultivated and maintained relationships with key development finance institution and private funders, including writing successful grant applications resulting in over USD\$2 million in committed funding to support Health Services Fund expansion efforts;
- Developed due diligence, project management, and business model development tools and processes for health services business models.
- Co-wrote, with PATH, a resource guide for institutions interested in developing integrated microfinance and health services programs.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland

June - August 2009

Senior Technical Advisor, Global Fund Support Unit

Baltimore, Maryland

- As part of the first three-person team dedicated to Global Fund resources, led the central strategy development process for Global Fund resource acquisition and management;
- Oversaw centralized knowledge management and learning systems around Global Fund requirements and best practices for winning, designing, and implementing successful AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria programs;
- Provided direct technical and managerial support to improve field-based resource acquisition and management capacity, specifically for Global Fund resources to combat AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

April 2006 - June 2009

Director, Staff Safety and Security

Baltimore, Maryland

- Responsible for supporting and strengthening agency-wide security management systems in compliance with PVO Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS), including the development of online onboarding and orientation tools related to safety and security for all countries of operation;
- Provided analysis and guidance to support operations and executive decision-making around contexts of instability in which staff and asset security and program continuity were at risk;
- Systematically built staff capacity agency-wide in support of security management standards;
- Performed communications liaison role in crisis management situations;
- Participated in the community of practice of security professionals within peer INGOs as well as counterparts within the private, governmental and international organization sectors;
- Monitored and advised senior management on staff safety and security risk, with focus on designated high risk countries including: Afghanistan, Haiti, Chad, Sudan, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Gaza, others.

Nov 2005 - March 2006 Deputy Regional Director, Program Quality and Growth Latin America and Caribbean Region

- Oversight of technical program quality assurance systems in the sectors of Agriculture, Health, HIV/AIDS, Micro-finance, and Emergency Response/Mitigation, including supervision of three Regional Technical Advisors (FY06 value of Latin America programs totaled \$55 million in 11 country programs).
- Oversight of new resource development processes, including liaison with headquarters Fundraising, Program Quality, Public Resources and Business Development units to ensure timely and competitive proposal submission.
- Strategic leadership provided for the region's strategic plan as well as support to strategic and annual operating plan development at the country program level.

May 2001 - Oct 2005

Country Representative

Managua, Nicaragua

- Overall strategic leadership and management oversight for \$4 million annual program budget, \$2 million micro-finance loan portfolio and 36 staff, implementing economic development programming in the sectors of: Agriculture, Health, Rural Finance, Civil Society/Human Rights and Emergency Response.
- Represented CRS in winning consortium to develop a four-year, six-country Education to Combat Child Labor program awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor for Central America and the Dominican Republic.
- Achieved pilot programming with conservative Nicaraguan Catholic church partners in HIV/AIDS and STD Education with adolescents in both public and Catholic schools, which is currently implemented in four out of eight dioceses and in process of national strategy development, led by the Church.
- Facilitated the introduction of the Balanced Scorecard approach to strategic plan development and evaluation processes, as well as new performance management system.
- Led shift in micro-finance investment and partnership strategy, involving sensitive negotiations with three church partners, and the closure of micro-finance operations in one of these.
- Representation of CRS and US Catholic Bishops Conference with local allies and partners.
- Successful fundraising with USG and non-USG donors; oversight of programming subject to USG regulations.
- Led external strategic assessment team to evaluate the Dominican Republic country program, 2001.
- Led task force to review Latin America regional investment methodology, 2002.
- Co-led task force to facilitate the Latin American regional strategy development with broad participation, 2002.
- Special Recognition Award Recipient, 2003. Recognition for the design and development of CRS' Coffee Project, working both with Nicaraguan coffee producers on agricultural diversification and coffee marketing while serving U.S. Catholics through an education campaign focused on coffee and trade.

May 2001-Jan 2006

Member (last position held Vice President) Board of Directors, NicaSalud

Re-elected three times since its founding in 2001, involved in the strategic development and growth of this federation from 7 to 29 member organizations working in the health sector in Nicaragua, as Treasurer responsible for Board-level oversight of financial/accounting staff and systems.

Sept 2000 - Feb 2001

Acting Country Representative

Tirana, Albania

- Overall management of \$8 million budget and 100 staff (including 12 expatriate) in five offices, working in program sectors of: education/civil society, Title II food distribution, water/sanitation, and peace-building during volatile transition period following the Kosovo war;
- Representation with CRS partners, local Church officials and donors;
- Designed and initiated process for development of a country-level Peace-building Program Strategy.

Feb 2000 - Mar 2001

CRS/Europe Education Resource Team Manager

Skopje, Macedonia

- Assistant to Director of a regional resource hub office supporting heightened investment following the Kosovo crisis in nine country-level education/civil society programs throughout the Balkans and Armenia;
- Recruited, hired, and coordinated team of technical advisors in the areas of: institutional development, training, education, MIS, and Media/Communications;
- Supported the evolution from nine CRS education programs to a network of localized NGOs with internal and local sources of technical assistance in addition to international linkages with like-minded mentors and organizations in the United States and Europe;
- Organized and co-facilitated quarterly network meetings and workshops aimed at developing a network infrastructure and building capacity in areas including: Education and Justice, Monitoring and Evaluation, Participatory Learning and Action, Project/Budget Management.
- Led facilitation of process to define Europe region's Education Vision and Programming Principles statement.
- Led external strategic assessment team to evaluate the Croatia country program, 2001.
- Provided technical assistance to Armenia country team to launch new school feeding and parental participation program, 2001.

Seattle Human Rights Commission

November, 2014

- 15 members, confirmed by City Council, who serve a term of 2-years:
 - 7 appointed by Mayor, confirmed by City Council
 - 7 appointed by City Council
 - 1 appointed by the Commission, confirmed by City Council
- 1 Get Engaged Member, confirmed by City Council who serves a single term of 1-year

D	G	Position #	Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Term #	Position	Appointed By
1		1	Amy Huang		07-22-16			Mayor
6	F	7	Sarah Bishop	8/4/14	07-22-16	1 st	Vice-Chair	Mayor
1	M	3	Rich Stolz	5/6/13	07-22-16	2 nd		Mayor
3	F	2	Andrea Negrete	12/10/12	07-22-16	2 nd		Mayor
	F	5	Vacant		07-22-15	1 st		Mayor
2		6	Ken Nsimbi		07-22-15			Mayor
1	F	4	Anita Khandelwal	12/9/13	07-22-15	1 st		Mayor
2		8	Jamila Farole		07-22-16			City Council
6	M	9	Alex Becker	2/10/14	07-22-16	1 st		City Council
6		10	Danielle Wallace		07-22-16			City Council
4	F	14	Ethel Branch	09-30-13	07-22-15	1 st	Chair	City Council
6		11	Sarah Lippek		07-22-15			City Council
3	F	12	Alejandra Gonza	2/10/14	07-22-15	2 nd	Secretary	City Council
6		13	Lara Diaconu		07-22-15			City Council
2	M	15	Jason Poydras		07-22-16	1 st		Commission
2	F	16	Juliana Tesfu		09-30-15		Get Engaged	Mayor

Diversity

	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	(1) Asian-American	(2) African-American	(3) Hispanic Latin@	(4) Native-American	(5) Other	(6) Caucasian
Council	1	6	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	4
Commission	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mayor	3	3	1	4	2	0	1	0		1
Get Engaged	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	4	11	1	9	2	3	2	1	0	5