



# Council Business Meeting

September 19, 2023

<b>Agenda Item</b>	Council Advisory Committee Appointment – SERJAC – Tara Houston	
<b>From</b>	Dana Smith	Clerk of the Council Pro Tem
<b>Contact</b>	recorder@ashland.or.us	
<b>Item Type</b>	Requested by Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/>	

**SUMMARY**

Confirm the Mayor Graham’s appointment of Tara Houston to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee.

**POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) Chapter 2.20.

**FISCAL IMPACTS**

N/A

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

N/A

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS**

I move to approve the appointment of Tara Houston to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee with a term expiring April 30, 2026.

**REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Application



**From:** [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)  
**To:** [Dorinda Cottle](#); [City Recorder](#)  
**Subject:** Application for Committee or Commission Submitted  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 5:32:30 AM

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[EXTERNAL SENDER]

\*\*\* FORM FIELD DATA \*\*\*

Name: **Tara A Houston**

Committee or Commission interested in: **Social Equity and Racial Justice**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Occupation : **Community Outreach at Oregon Shakespeare Festival**

Educational background: **BFA in Scenic Technology and Design (Scenic Design and Scenic Art) University of Arizona, 2006 MFA in Design, Technology, and Management (Scene Design) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2009 I have also taken many racial equity/social justice workshops and trainings**

Related Experience: **Prior to my current role at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Department, I was an assistant professor of Scenic Design as well as the Associate Dean of Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the College of Music and Dramatic Arts at Louisiana State University. I continue to educate myself on issues around racial justice and social equity, knowing that it's life-long and ongoing work. Our culture is constantly changing, so remaining in a learning space is vital. Should the Committee be in a position to support continuing professional development, I would appreciate support and funding to continue to grow my practice.**

Interests: **I believe that I have the skills and temperament needed to provide benefit to the Committee. Though I've not been in Ashland for long, having just moved here in October of last year, I recognize the importance of being invested in the growth of my community and this is an area of passion and interest to me. My family is mixed race, my dad's family is from mixed Northern European heritage and my mom's family is a mix of Mexican Indigenous folks and European ancestry. I feel as though my cultural heritage has opened my eyes to the experiences People of the Global Majority face, though I have carried White Privilege through the world with me. In many ways, the work I do in racial equity and social justice is work that heals the disparities I see in the outcomes my relatives expected based on their socio-economic backgrounds and racial identities. In working to heal my community, I hope to help build a more equitable space for folks like me and my family.**

Availability: **I have a flexible work schedule and can usually accommodate meetings as needed. I prefer day meetings, but again, can be flexible.**

Additional Information : **I moved to Ashland in October of 2022 and plan to live here for some time.**

Signature: **Tara A Houston**

\*\*\* USER INFORMATION \*\*\*

SubscriberID: **-1**

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