

Saint Paul Planning Commission – Recommended for Appointment October 2016

Taqee Khaled

Employer: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota

Job Title: Principal Strategy Consultant

Why are you interested in serving on a board or committee?

I believe planning is ultimately the most seismic way in which our lived experience is impacted, long term. As an active member of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood with children who attend public school in the district, I am constantly thinking about my role in stewarding the resources I benefit from in order to improve the experience of future generations. The planning commission is an incredibly unique opportunity to shape the literal and figurative landscape of my community for years to come and, I hope, for much public good.

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

Among other duties, my current role at Blue Cross involves long term planning for the commitment of billions of dollars in resources, ultimately deployed according to the not-for-profit mission of the company, to improve the health of all Minnesotans. I am, therefore, well acquainted both from a strategic and executional point-of-view with the deliberate and strategic aims of organizational planning and governance in guiding the long term future of organizations and entities. I am currently on the board of the HealthEast Foundation, a St. Paul-centered health system with specific interests in improving the community landscape, toward health and social prosperity. I am additionally a member of the Urban Land Institute's Advisory Committee through my role at Blue Cross MN, giving me strong insight into land usage and planning practices around the state and country. I have advised the Towerside/Prospect Park North Partnership in my role at Blue Cross MN and provided the strategic funding to close the design phase of the Green4th Project there.

Kathy Mouacheupao

Employer: Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (TC LISC)

Job Title: Program Officer for Creative Placemaking

Why are you interested in serving on a board or committee?

I was raised in Saint Paul, am a product of the Saint Paul Public School system, attended Concordia University in Saint Paul, work in Saint Paul and bought a house in Saint Paul. As a Saint Paulite that has spent the majority of my professional career building community and organizing through the arts and now working in community development, I value this opportunity as: 1) a way to serve the community by bringing a grassroots perspective to planning, and 2) learning more about city planning..

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

As the Executive Director for the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT) between 2005-2011, I was able to develop adaptable leadership skills that allowed me to be responsive to the community's needs. Furthermore, because of CHAT's size, I did not only make executive and strategic decisions, I also worked directly with our constituents on the ground. I was recently a Roy Wilkins Community Fellow at the Humphrey School where we did a one-week intensive course on policy analysis and race. This introductory course gave me a better understanding of how to research policy issues, gather data to create cases and how to write a policy brief. My current position as a Program Officer for Creative Placemaking at TC LISC has broadened and sharpened my understanding of economic development along transit lines and the development of cultural corridors. Even more importantly, it has allowed me the opportunity to deepen relationships with geographic and cultural communities throughout the Twin Cities. I believe my skills and experience have positioned me well to be a benefit to and derive benefit from the Planning Commission.

John Reich

Employer: Winthrop and Weinstine

Job Title: Director of Government Relations

Why are you interested in serving on a board or committee?

I am interested in serving because I have a deep interest in issues affecting my neighborhood and St. Paul as a whole. I believe that it's important to give back to the community through volunteer service. Through my service on the Planning Commission, I am interested in

continuing to grow St. Paul in a way that brings vitality to the city while also keeping the character that makes it such a great place to live.

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

I have a strong understanding of state government policy and funding which would be a benefit to the Commission, insofar as a project involved state funding or was a matter of state policy. Additionally, I've lived in St. Paul for 11 years and in Ward 3 for 8 years. As such, I have a good sense of the neighborhood and would represent Ward 3 well. Lastly, I previously served on the Neighborhood STAR Board which provided me an understanding of the roles that board and commissions play within city government.