



Community Engagement Specialist, Stormwater

Job Description

Coordinate **community engagement activities, partnership contracts, and collaboration** with culturally diverse audiences, to improve water quality and enhance the well-being of King County communities. Ensure ongoing community involvement and meaningful participation.

Salary

Entry — \$60,000
Middle — \$70,000
Top — \$80,000

Core Tasks

- Cultivate and sustain relationships and partnerships with coalitions and key leaders, as well as organizations within unincorporated King County communities.
- Collaborate across programs impacting permit compliance and water quality to develop coordinated community engagement strategies.
- Provide support for collecting and analyzing data to conduct program needs assessments, evaluate outcomes, and recommend quality improvement

Workplace / Environment

- **Work hours**
Approx. 40 hours/week
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- **Environment**
Work remotely from home, with onsite reporting requirements typically once per month.
- **Travel**
Within jurisdiction for in-person community events.

Education / Prerequisites

Education Level

A combination of life experience, work experience, and/or education (degree in law, social work, systems engineering, humanities)

Licensing

Valid WA state driver's license

Pre-Job Preparation

A well-developed understanding of equity and social justice principles, experience integrating equity and social justice into program design.

Experience

Soft Skills

- Excellent Communication
- Partnership-Building
- Working collaboratively

Technical Skills

- Exceptional Writing
- Oral presentation skills
- Project Management



Career Path: Ellany Kayce

About Me

Community Engagement Specialist at King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks

Bachelors in Business Administration from City University

Early Passions

"I've been **very involved with drama and performance** since I was five. I always looked forward to having a stage presence. In high school, I was **really focused**. I actually started working before I finished high school. My first job was with the federal government, at the Division on Aging office. When I was 16, I walked into the Registrar's office and told the Director that 'I want to learn everything there is to know about the registrar's office,' and she went, 'when would you like to start?' I was planning community events, coming up with agendas, and facilitating meetings. I really loved doing that. That's actually the kind of **work that I'm doing now, just in a different field.**"

Growing Up

"Equity work has **always been front and center** for me. I grew up at a time when youth, especially girls, were supposed to be seen and not heard. We were not invited to the table for decision making. And I kept wondering why, when I discovered this whole systematic **cycle of oppression**, I became very involved with that. When I was in high school, in the 70's, my friend and I organized the 'Indians, Blacks, Asians, Chicanos, and Others' (IBACO) to address and deal with the issues we faced in our community. We were in a red line Seattle neighborhood which excluded people of color very intentionally, so we were often oppressed or targeted. I really enjoyed **learning, doing, being involved, and making positive changes** in my community."

Education Journey

"I graduated from Seattle Central Community College. While working the City of Seattle I attended South Seattle Community College earning a Management Certification through this really cool management program. Then I went to City University and I earned my bachelor's degree in business administration, while **working full-time at the same time**. They taught me all about communication skills, presentation skills, data analytics, and leadership. I also went through an extensive facilitation program called 'NOVA' through the City of Seattle, and I've been doing that ever since. I mean **all that education really changed my life.**"

A Career Highlight

"One of my favorite jobs was being an Administrative Manager with the Alesek Institute housed at United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. I got to work with the little kids and teach them about regalia, protocol, songs, and dances. **I love all of that.** I also got to administer the programs and plan a Summer Camp and cultural events. It was really incredible, culturally relevant, very rewarding, and enriching work. Later, I had the opportunity to work with a local K-8 school as a Cultural Consultant regarding Indigenous culture. I loved it. It was **very rewarding because we need to teach that**, these things that I'm teaching are **not in the history books**. I want to let people know that **we're still here. We're the original stewards of the land.**"

About My Job

"I love this kind of work. That's my favorite thing to do."

Pros

- "I'm **very fortunate** because I get to work with a lot of passionate people. We have a **variety of different teams** of people from stormwater infrastructure, climate change, clean water, removing pollution, etc. So, I **really enjoy doing that kind of work!**"

Cons

- "There's **not enough time nor resources** for us to do all the work that needs to be done."

Fieldwork

- "I do **work out in the community**. For example, one of the things that I'm hoping to participate in this year is Earth Week. **It's really cool.** I'm the moderator and interviewer for 1-hour radio spot in the Rainier Avenue Radio station. So I'm really looking forward to that event."

Office Work

- "Because I am new to King County, we are in the process of **designing and developing** what community engagement is going to look like starting this summer. **We all work from home, which I love.**"

Skills

- "You have to **be willing to engage with the community**, work together with a team, do some data analysis. Be willing to plan, organize, and have good communication and writing skills, those kinds of things."
- "**You have to be a good listener**. You have to be an active listener, which means you check back in, it's a very powerful skill to have. So willing to have empathy with their story and learn how to ask good questions."

Education/Experience

- "**Ask questions**. Learn as much as you can about the field that you're interested in. It takes 10,000 hours to become a subject matter expert. And so I am a subject matter expert in that field. I actually have 50 years experience, and I'm **a lifelong learner**."

The Future of **Community Engagement**

"People are finally realizing there's a climate crisis."

"This is a **really big field** that has multiple ways to engage with it. The focus will be more green jobs regarding infrastructure and sustainable management of runoff. It's wonderful to learn and understand the **intersectionality of storm water, salmon recovery, urban growth, and how that intersects equity and social justice**. Those are really critical. We want to have clean water, we want to have fresh air, because we want to have healthy bodies and vibrant minds, right? In my community, the Native community, salmon is an indicator species, and it's very important. Salmon feeds everybody and everything. **It's so critical for Indigenous People and people of color to really be involved**, because it's directly impacting our communities first, we're often overburdened and under-resourced. We need to be knowledgeable about this so that **we can be at the table**, helping make the decisions."

About Sustainability Ambassadors

We are here to **RAPIDLY ADVANCE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**. Empowering **YOUTH** to catalyze community sustainability, **TEACHERS** to integrate rigor with relevance for real-world impact, **COMMUNITY** to drive collective impact.

We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

Your Green Jobs Future

Ready to explore your future in green jobs? Use [Map your Career](#) to map your trajectory!

Find career opportunities near you now! Use [Career Connect - Washington's](#) tool to find programs to build your career skills.

Interested in a future in solar? Take a look at the [Solar Jobs Census](#) to track solar job growth nationwide.

Explore [RVC's opportunities](#) to work with organizations led by communities of color.

Dive into the [Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's](#) robust career tools in the sustainable energy sector.

Grow your professional sustainability skillset with the [Seattle Youth Good Program](#).

See Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

Check out the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) to explore the sector's current opportunities. :

Funder Acknowledgement



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

