



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 21, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Ryan Smith to the Affordable Housing Commission for the term ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Smith will fill the vacancy created by Janet Burt, whom I removed effective May 5, 2023 or at the time Ms. Burt's successor is confirmed by the City Council.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Smith is qualified for the work that will devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Ryan Smith
Commission: Affordable Housing Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2025

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 14 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Doctorate in Education Leadership, University of California, Los Angeles
7. **Occupation/profession:** Chief Strategy Officer, Community Coalition
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Dr. Ryan J. Smith

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

BA Political Science, Concentration –International Relations

Doctorate in Education Leadership (EdD)

Annie E. Casey Children and Family Fellow

2013 – 2015

Twenty-month executive leadership fellowship designed to help leaders sustain major system reforms and policy initiatives that benefit children and families nationally

Coro Fellow in Public Affairs

2003-2004

Year-long community engagement fellowship. Consulted with nine different public & private sector organizations in Southern California including the Los Angeles Times, The LA City Human Relations Commission and the American Federation of School, County and Municipal Employees

EXPERIENCE

Community Coalition

2022- Present

Chief Strategy Officer

Los Angeles, CA

- Responsible for external affairs, campaign development, policy and youth organizing teams and initiatives.
- Support the policy and organizing strategy related to housing justice, equitable funding, education, economic justice, and greenspace expansion
- Built relationship strategy to engage key California Legislative Caucus members about the launch of the Center for Community Organizing
- Engaged 100+ philanthropy leaders on effective methods to support organizing, power-building, and coalition-building strategies

Partnership for LA Schools

2018 - 2022

Chief External Officer

Los Angeles, CA

- Responsible for strategic and operational oversight of the Partnership's development, communications, policy and advocacy, family engagement, and community engagement teams. The Partnership is one of the largest school turnaround project in the country, supporting 19 historically under-resourced schools (15,000 students) in Watts, Boyle Heights, and South Los Angeles.

- Recently published "Bridging the Digital Divide: Increasing Access to WiFi and Technology for Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color" which was referenced by the California Digital Divide Task Force
- Launched the Community Engagement and Partnerships team which has successfully scaled 20 community-based collaborations across the Partnership's network of schools
- Created a series of racial justice learning sessions for the Partnership's 1,000 educators
- Have helped raise \$10MM in the last two years for the organization

The Education Trust

2014- 2018

Vice President of Strategic Advocacy, Education Trust
Executive Director, Education Trust-West
Oakland, CA

- Managed the Education Trust-West, California-based education research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing educational equity and racial justice. Also, supervise growth and strategy for Ed Trust, one of the country's largest child advocacy organizations.
- Oversaw a \$6MM budget and 22-person team. Raised \$7MM new dollars for the organization and added \$1MM to the budget annually. Grew staff from 15 to 25 positions. Diversified number of funders supporting the organization.
- Expanded Ed Trust- West's reach by establishing a regional research and data hub in San Bernardino, California. Nationwide, spearheaded the project to support grassroots coalition building efforts in North Carolina, Washington and Texas.
- Launched the *Black Minds Matter: Supporting the Educational Success of Black Students in California* and *The Majority Report: Supporting the Educational Success of Latino Students in California* reports and campaigns. The California Black Legislative Caucus and the California Latino Legislative Caucus endorsed the reports. California Department of Education started an Office of Equity based on the study's findings and allocated a multi-million dollar grant to close opportunity gaps for these groups. Reports have been downloaded/reprinted 100,000 times.
- Helped create the California Equity Leadership Alliance (CELA), a California-based coalition of the California State PTA, the Association of California School Administrators and the School Boards Association to help scale evidence-based equity practices across the state.
- Led successful effort to secure an English Learner expert to serve on the State Board of Education.
- Penned over a dozen op-eds for the San Francisco Chronicle, Sacramento Bee, EdSource, EdWeek, US News and World Report and quoted in LA Times, NY Times, Washington Post and other national periodicals.

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

2012 - 2014

Director, Education Programs and Policy
Los Angeles, CA

- Launched the Communities for Los Angeles Student Success (CLASS) Coalition, a broad-based education and civil rights network of over 50 organizations working to improve equity and access to public education for students living in poverty and students of color.
- Led successful campaign to get a student board member position on LAUSD Board of Education
- Managed \$3MM UWGLA education grant portfolio which invested in organizations afterschool programs, parent engagement and linked learning.
- Doubled the budget of department through fundraising and tripled the size of the staff in less than two years.
- Organized Education Summit with over 1,000 participants and key education thought- leaders throughout the country.
- Started United Way Student Policy Fellows Program. LAUSD student participants were successful in crafting a resolution to create a high school student to serve on the LAUSD school board.

Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

2008 – 2012

Senior Director, Family and Community Engagement, Partnership for LA Schools Los Angeles, CA

- Responsible for all parent, student and community engagement programs within a network of twenty-two LAUSD traditional public schools (17,000+ students).
- Managed \$1MM budget and staff of eight dedicated to increasing family engagement involvement as a strategy to improve student achievement in low performing schools.
- Founded the Parent College, an award winning program that has educated over 8,000 parents to support their children's academic success in Watts, South Los Angeles and East Los Angeles.
- Led all advocacy, campaign and community partnerships initiatives for the organization
- Increased parent engagement 40% during current tenure. Achieved over 180,000 instances of family members participating at their child's education.
- Designed Partnership's current family and community engagement strategy from the inception. Scaled programs across all Partnership schools

Los Angeles Parents Union

2005 – 2008

Senior Manager, Public Affairs
Los Angeles, CA

- Managed all aspects of the parent union project to a full- fledged non-profit.
- Responsibilities included all strategic planning, operations, fundraising, staffing, human resources and board development.
- Managed communications and media strategy for the organization.
- Implemented outreach campaign that resulted in 4,000 new members.

Los Angeles Times

2004 -2005

Social Policy Researcher & Occasional Contributor

Los Angeles, CA

- Lead researcher for education and social policy for editorial board.
- Wrote over a dozen editorials and opinion articles.
- Helped establish Opinion LA blog and community posts, brought diverse voices to the editorial pages from various people within the community.
- Liaison between LA Times Editorial Pages and Zocalo program, an effort to bring the LA Times opinion section to various communities in Los Angeles.
- Supported the production of the "My So Cal Life" life section to the LA Times
- Guest edited the entire Sunday Opinion Section dedicated to exploring the intersection between hip hop and public policy.

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

- Named Co-Chair of the California State Closing the Achievement Gap Committee by State Superintendent Tony Thurmond (2019)
- Black Women for Wellness, Amistad Community Award (2019)
- Educators for Excellence, Los Angeles Rebel with a Cause Award (2018)
- The African American Regional Educational Alliances Educator of Excellence Award (2018)
- California Latino School Boards Association Leadership Award (2018)
- California State PTA State Advocate Award (2017)
- Policy Innovators in Education, Game Changer of the Year - Black Minds Matter Project (2016)
- Education Week 10 Education Leaders to Watch (2015)

ARTICLES

- "Improving outcomes by democratizing education data" LA Daily News, 2018
- "Invest in a community college degree, not just access" San Francisco Chronicle, 2018
- "Where California universities fail black male athletes" San Francisco Chronicle, 2016
- "A call to action to advance educational equity in classrooms" Opinion Editorial, Sacramento Bee, 2017
- "Black Minds Matter" Opinion Editorial, Huffington Post, 2017
- "Schools of Bias" Opinion Editorial, San Francisco Chronicle, 2015
- "Do Black Minds Matter Too" Opinion Editorial, Education Week, 2015
- "California Public Schools are Failing English Language Learners", Sacramento Bee, 2015
- "Time to Change the Equation in STEM Fields" US News and World Report, 2015
- "Schools Must Embrace Power of Parents", EdSource, 2015
- "Can't Stop This Power" Op-Ed, Los Angeles Times, 2007
- "Just Going Through a Phrase" Editorial, Los Angeles Times,
- "From B'wood to the Hood" Op-Ed, Los Angeles Times February 2007

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Co-Chair, California Closing the Gap Committee, California Department of Education
Advisory Board Member, Campaign for College Opportunity



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 21, 2023

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Affordable Housing Commission for the term ending June 30, 2025. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org, to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and Undated Separation Letters **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open, and accountable City government possible. Further, Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions Team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your Commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission at 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

Mr. Ryan Smith
March 21, 2023
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As part of the City Council confirmation process, meetings will be offered to Kevin de León, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Nithya Raman, the Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, to answer any questions they may have. You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Housing and Homelessness Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall.

Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Mr. Ryan Smith
March 21, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

_____ Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

_____ Email the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to: Commissions Team, Office of the Mayor, City Hall – Room 303, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters

II. Within 21 days:

_____ File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. *If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office.*

- **Statement of Economic Interest (“Form 700”)**
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
- **CEC Form 60**

III. The Mayor’s Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

_____ Your City Councilmember Kevin de León

_____ Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination