

Order No. 2023-09
AN ORDER OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

... appointing a Public Member to the Port of Seattle
Portwide Arts and Culture Board.

ADOPTED
JULY 11, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Portwide Arts and Culture Board recommended to the Commission, during its May 3, 2023, meeting, the appointment of Tamar Benzikry to the Portwide Arts and Culture Board, as a public member for a term of three (3) years. Ms. Benzikry is filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Asia Tail who stepped down on February 13, 2023.

TEXT OF THE ORDER

The Port Commission, in accordance with the Portwide Arts and Cultural Program Policy Directive, hereby appoints Tamar Benzikry to serve a three-year term as a Public Member on the Portwide Arts and Culture Board, effective July 11, 2023, and ending July 31, 2026.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE ORDER

On November 19, 2019, the Commission adopted Resolution No. 3766 establishing the Portwide Arts and Culture Board to provide guidance, leadership, and support to the Commission in its policy to procure, commission, and incorporate high-quality art that engages the public. The Board is comprised of nine (9) members: two (2) Port Commissioners, three (3) Executive Leadership Team, and four (4) public members appointed by the Port Commission.

The professional public members are integral to the work done by the Portwide Arts and Culture Board and represent expertise and experience in fine arts, museum management, architecture and/or design.

Ms. Tamar Benzikry was born and raised in Seattle, where she feels deeply rooted. But as the trilingual daughter of immigrants, she is also engaged with multiple global communities. Her grandfathers were artists - a cantor in Morocco and a painter in Germany. Although she did not know either of them, the melodies and paintings that suffused her childhood home enabled her to hear their voices and understand the power that art has to connect generations across time and geography.

Ms. Benzikry is a mission-driven curator, cultural strategist, and coalition builder with expertise in public art and community engagement backed by 15 years of arts program management experience.

She is currently a Principal at Art and Purpose, providing purpose driven consulting services to museums, nonprofits, public/private partnerships and creators. Previously, she served as Curator and Producer for Meta Open Arts (formerly Facebook, Inc) where she commissioned over 70 artists to create site-specific artworks in North and South America with a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and experimentation; as Senior Public Art Project Manager for 4Culture where she led diverse project teams to develop and deliver high-profile and complex art projects; and as Public Art Coordinator for the City of Bellevue where she developed neighborhood public art programs.

Ms. Benzikry received her bachelor's degree in art history and Jewish Studies from the University of Washington and received her master's degree in Jewish Art and Visual Culture from Columbia University and Jewish Theological Seminary.