

Washington Sea Grant Hershman Fellowship: Host Application

To: Deborah Purce, Washington Sea Grant

From: Deirdre Wilson, Senior Planning Manager
Northwest Seaport Alliance

Date: June 2, 2022

Host Organization Location & Contact Information

[Northwest Seaport Alliance](#)

Tacoma Office: 1 Sitcum Way (on Commencement Bay)

[Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Name, Title, & Contact Information for Fellowship Mentor/Supervisor

Alisha Peña, Senior Planner / Deirdre Wilson, Senior Planning Manager

Northwest Seaport Alliance - Environmental and Planning Services Department - Planning & Logistics

Position Description

The Planning and Logistics team is part of the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Environmental & Planning Services Department. Other programs within that department focus on water quality, habitat restoration and permitting, remediation, air quality, and sustainability. The Planning and Logistics Team is responsible for land use, transportation, and facility planning as well as managing the NWSA and Port of Tacoma grant program. We work very closely with most of the other major business units at the NWSA (commercial, operations, maintenance, engineering, public affairs, communications, etc.) – and with a wide range of external government (cities, counties, WSDOT, PSRC, etc.). We also work closely with staff from both NWSA homeports, the Port of Seattle, and the Port of Tacoma. The WSG Fellow will quickly become an integral member of the NWSA's four-person Planning Team, which consists of:

- Deirdre Wilson, Senior Planning Manager (Land Use focus) dwilson@nwseaportalliance.com
- Christine Wolf, Senior Planner (Transportation focus) [cwife@nwseaportalliance.com](mailto:cwolf@nwseaportalliance.com)
- Alisha Peña, Senior Planner (Facilities focus) apena@nwseaportalliance.com
- Cassandra de Kanter, Grant Specialist cdekanter@nwseaportalliance.com

Mission As a trusted partner, our team delivers expert support for our customers in planning for the future and achieving their short-, mid- and long-term goals. We provide our customers with the knowledge and information needed to make informed decisions.

Vision Planning stewards timely, accurate and complete information, analysis, planning and interpretation services. We actively partner with our customers, supporting dynamic decision making, guiding strategic resource allocation and fostering new initiatives to achieve our vision for growing our cargo and other maritime related businesses. Our services span the tactical, strategic, operational and policy realms.

Primary Functions Land Use and Strategic Planning | Transportation Planning | Facility Planning and Design Support | Resiliency and Hazard Planning | Use Permit and Agreement Monitoring | Economic Impact Analysis Coordination | Technology/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Planning | Grant Support and Coordination

Current Major Projects

- Tacoma Tidelands Subarea Plan
- Earley Business Center Master Plan
- Coordinated Course strategic planning
- Vulnerability Assessment and Response Framework
- Sound Transit ST3 engagement
- Puget Sound Gateway - SR 167 / SR 509 technical support
- Grant Administration

The Work: The Vulnerability Assessment and Response Framework (VARF) is a project to identify likely hazards, including the impacts from a changing climate, and potential responses that protect seaport facilities and operations. We are currently working on the assessment, to be completed in 2022. Following the assessment, we will develop a response framework with staff and port commissioner involvement. The Fellow will support the completion of that assessment and the development of a response framework through research; data collection and analysis; and GIS mapping.

Mentoring & Networking: We will make this a priority. Alisha will serve as the primary mentor and supervisor and will meet with the Fellow on a regular basis. There will be numerous opportunities for the Fellow to network both internally (with staff from a wide range of business units at the Port and NWSA) and externally. The Planning Team regularly collaborates with numerous governments and associations – such as the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), City of Tacoma, City of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Port of Seattle – which will afford additional opportunities for networking across the maritime industry and with other public agencies.

Location/Work Environment: The NWSA is co-located in Tacoma and Seattle, with offices on the waterfronts of both Elliott Bay and Commencement Bay. The Tacoma office serves as NWSA headquarters and will be the office location for this work. By the time this Fellowship begins, we anticipate that we will be expected to work at the headquarters building on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with telework on the other weekdays. Meetings on other days may necessitate in-person attendance.

NWSA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement/Policy/Program

“The Port of Tacoma and the NW Seaport Alliance respect and value the rich diversity of their employees, customers, vendors, contractors, and stakeholders. Regarding our employees, we are committed to building and maintaining a work environment that: is inclusive and welcoming to all; values diverse thought and expression in pursuit of the organizations’ missions; and reflects the demographics of the community we serve.”

The Port of Tacoma (which houses the NWSA) has a robust Diversity & Inclusion policy, plan, and program. The Port reports annually on its Diversity & Inclusion Plan, key elements of which include recruitment and hiring practices, employee training, and community outreach. This focus is strengthened in the Port's new Strategic Plan. DEI is cited as one of the seven core values of the port, and one of the six key strategies under the “organizational success” goal of the Plan.