



## ADVISORY GROUP APPLICATION

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement **THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT:** As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title	<i>Field not completed.</i>
First Name	Susan
Last Name	Hutton
Today's Date	4/19/2026
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
1 Name of Advisory Group	Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee
Position	I live or own property on Lummi Island
2 Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
Position	District 5
3 Which Council district do you live in?	No
4 Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	Yes
5 Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	I am the executive director of the Whatcom Million Trees Project (WMTP). We are a nonprofit organization that plants and protects trees on public-purposed lands. Some of the areas where we plant trees and remove ivy are owned by Whatcom County. WMTP does not receive any funding from Whatcom County
6 Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No

--	You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
7	Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	I currently am the executive director of the Whatcom Million Trees Project, which is a nonprofit organization that plants and protects trees in Whatcom County. Previously I served as executive director of the Lummi Island Heritage Trust, a private land trust on Lummi Island, which gave me access and occasion to know many island residents. I spent ten years as the chair of a citizen commission in Ann Arbor and have extensive experience working with governments at the city, county, and state level. I have a strong track record of public service, of effectively collaborating to achieve good outcomes, and of taking care to understand the concerns and perspectives of different constituencies and using these to guide my actions. My mother-in-law bought a house on Lummi Island in 1994, and I spent a good chunk of time on the island every year until I moved here full time in 2020.
8	Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.	I am the executive director of the Whatcom Million Trees Project, a nonprofit tree-planting and tree-protecting organization. I work with city governments throughout Whatcom County and with the County itself. Previously, I served as executive director of the Lummi Island Heritage Trust, which gave me access and occasion to know many islanders. I have had family on Lummi Island since 1994. I moved here full time in 2020.  I have extensive communications experience, which is a critical part of this role. I spent ten years as the chair of a citizen commission. I understand the way city, county, and state governments work. I have a strong track record of public service, of effectively collaborating to achieve good outcomes, and of taking care to understand the concerns and perspectives of other, and I use that understanding to guide my actions.
	References (please include daytime telephone number):	Anne Treat [REDACTED], Scott Coughlin [REDACTED], Sandi Fukumoto [REDACTED]
	Appointment Requirements* Do you agree?:	I understand and agree
	Signature of Applicant:	Susan Hutton
	Place Signed/Submitted:	[REDACTED]

\*My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205

# SUSAN HUTTON

## CONTACT



## EDUCATION

**Wallace Stegner Fellow**  
Stanford University

**Master of Fine Arts**  
University of Michigan

**Bachelor of Arts, English**  
Kalamazoo College

## PUBLICATIONS

### ARTICLES

[INDIGENOUS FUTURES](#)  
[NOT HER FIRST RODEO](#)

### ORGANIZATIONAL

[LUMMI ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST](#)  
[ANNUAL REPORT \(2023\)](#)  
[LUMMI ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST](#)  
[ANNUAL REPORT \(2022\)](#)

### BOOK

[ON THE VANISHING](#)  
[OF LARGE CREATURES](#)

## REFERENCES

### LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

Lummi Island Heritage Trust

### JOHN LOFY

*Executive Director*  
Marketing and Communications  
College of Literature, Science, & Arts

### Christopher Taylor

*Mayor, City of Ann Arbor*

Experienced leader who directs creative, science-based, and advocacy-focused teams, and who engages and inspires groups and individuals to work for the greater good.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Executive Director February 2025-present

Whatcom Million Trees Project

- Led city-wide tree-planting project by partnering with the City of Bellingham and Whatcom Conservation District.
- Oversaw bi-weekly work parties in which volunteers planted native trees and understory on protected land and removed invasive species.
- Collaborated with local tribes and non-profit organizations to engage thousands of Whatcom County residents to collectively build community climate resilience.

Executive Director

Lummi Island Heritage Trust 2022-2024

- Successfully transitioned organization by modernizing management, record-keeping, and accounting systems.
- Raised more than \$1.5 M for land acquisition, projects, programming, and unrestricted funds from state and county agencies, donors, and competitive grants.
- Oversaw the restoration of a 105-acre former gravel mine, the largest project in organization's history.
- Forged and sustained crucial relationships with elected officials, nonprofit leaders, and community members within the Lummi Nation.
- Launched creative and innovative programs designed to build community climate resilience, such as No Room for Scotch Broom to eradicate Scotch broom on private property, and Grow Another Row, which encouraged gardeners to grow extra produce for distribution to food-insecure islanders.
- Worked with county, state, and federal agencies to secure and close permits for mine restoration and reclamation.

Editor, **University Magazines**

2013 - 2022

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI

- Oversaw all aspects of editorial production, including assigning, writing, editing, and publishing stories written by staff and freelance writers and leading day-to-day tasks associated with creating and publishing original content.

# SUSAN HUTTON

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- Editorial lead for award-winning *LSA Magazine*, a 200,000+ subscriber publication and *LSA Today* e-newsletter, a 150,000+ subscriber publication. Created digital and print material for marketing, fundraising, and the web, including graphics, articles, reports, infographics, and audio and video content.
- Co-led equity and inclusion teams charged with cultivating positive organizational culture, diversifying hiring practices, unconscious bias, and intercultural responsiveness trainings.

## **Chair, Environmental Commission**

2011 - 2021

City of Ann Arbor, MI

- Served as a technical advisor and member of the A2Zero Initiative, the City of Ann Arbor's plan to achieve an equitable and just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Reviewed and advised Ann Arbor City Council and staff on programs and policies concerning air, waste, water, land, and public health.
- Founding member of the Ann Arbor Community Climate Partnership, a group of state and regional public officials, NGOs, citizens, and scientists working to build community resilience to climate change.
- Ran televised monthly meetings; appeared as city spokesperson on local radio, television, newspapers, and magazines.
- Collaborated with city and county staff and elected officials to educate neighborhood associations, school PTO/PTAs, neighborhood businesses, and the media about proposed environmental ordinances, such as banning the sale and use of pavement sealants containing Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, improving waste diversion, and establishing no-idling zones.

## **Development and Communications Director**

2008 - 2011

Leslie Science & Nature Center, Ann Arbor MI

- Established fundraising plans that cultivated corporate, foundation, and individual donors; developed sponsorship programs.
- Created and executed strategic marketing and communication plans; expanded annual appeal; oversaw communications, including annual report, social media, press releases, and print and e-newsletters.
- Learned to handle saw whet, Eastern screech, barred, and great horned owls, as well as American kestrels and red-tailed hawks.

## **Contributing Editor**

2005 - 2008

Poetry Foundation, Chicago IL

- Wrote, edited, and solicited content for the Poetry Foundation website from established and emerging writers.
  - Collaborated with contributing editors to envision and build a literary community and an original online poetry presence for academic, literary, and general audiences.
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