

Application Form

Profile

Meredith

First Name

Noble

Last Name

mnoble@senworks.org

Email Address

Valdez Mailing Address (PO BOX # or HCI BOX #)

#1935

5445 Cummings Way

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Valdez

City

AK

State

99686

Postal Code

Mobile: (907) 830-8435

Primary Phone

Home:

Alternate Phone

SenecaWorks

Employer

Entrepreneur

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Economic Diversification Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

Required Time Commitment: All city board/committee members and commissioners are expected to (1) be present at most, if not all, board/committee or commission meetings and (2) review agenda materials prior to arriving for the meeting to be best prepared for discussion and decision making. Are you aware of the time commitment involved in serving on this particular board, committee, or commission? Are you willing and able to commit to regular meetings plus work sessions every month for your full term?

Yes. I am fully committed to the term and committee. However, since my work allows for working remotely, I am typically away December, January and August. I respectfully request the ability to participate remotely when needed. In all instances, I will come prepared for discussion and decision making.

How did you learn about this vacancy? *

- ☒ KCHU Radio
- ☒ City Website

Question applies to Economic Diversification Commission

There are different term length options available for appointments in 2020. Which term length(s) do you prefer? *

☒ Two Vacancies; Term Expiring September 2022

Interests & Experience

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Valdez board or commission?

I am interested in serving on the Economic Development commission for three reasons. 1) I'm community minded and want to contribute my talents to the City of Valdez. I have been looking for the right opportunity to give back and believe this is it. 2) I bring a unique perspective as a digital entrepreneur and believe it can help grow Valdez's economy. 3) I have been involved in a variety of economic development initiatives. I know to think boldly, while also being resourceful and practical.

Please outline your education, work, and volunteer experience which will assist you in serving on a City of Valdez board/commission.

I have the education, work, and volunteer experience to meaningfully contribute to the Valdez Economic Development Commission. Please consider the following: EDUCATION: Gonzaga University, B.A. Business Administration, Marketing Minor WORK: As my father once said, "You go to school for your ABC's and to work for the rest of the alphabet." Couldn't agree more. My company, SenecaWorks, teaches changemakers how to write winning grants through an online program. I have learned a great deal about what it takes to build a business with global customers, and I am eager to share my learnings with others interested in turning their knowledge into a digital product. In addition, I published a #1 bestseller on Amazon for nonprofit fundraising and grants. (How to Write a Grant: Become a Grant Writing Unicorn). I employ a local Valdez resident full-time and have staff in Anchorage, Kenai, and the Lower 48. I have taught live workshops with over 250 attendees. More info can be found at www.learngrantwriting.org. Prior to starting my own business in 2018, I worked at Stantec, a top 10 engineering and architecture firm. While there, I grew the firm's in-house grant writing capability to a virtual team of 35+ professionals. I have secured over \$45 million in grants for everything from telecommunications to renewable energy to skateparks. Based on my experience with grants, infrastructure, and community development, I would like the City of Valdez to consider pursuing U.S. EPA Brownfield Community Wide Assessment funding. The work funds environmental assessment work on private property to unlock redevelopment potential and important area-wide planning activities. While at my former employer, an architecture and engineering firm, I prepared every successful grant application awarded in Alaska (Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough, and Kodiak Island Borough). As such, I'm familiar with the program and its positive potential for Valdez. I am also a strong believer in the power of placemaking activities to inexpensively benefit small retail businesses, restaurants, and community culture. While I lived in Spokane, I helped implement parklet's (essentially a mini park in a parking spot), to add more public seating in struggling commercial districts. The pilot projects were so successful that we were able to get parklets formally recognized by City policy and permit-able for business owners that wanted one in front of their business. In addition, while in Spokane I led visioning and planning for how to revitalize the Garland Neighborhood District. I was able to stretch a \$15,000 grant from the U.S. Department of HUD to leverage an additional \$50,000 of in-kind design services to help the business owners and neighborhood fully visualize their dream. You can view the video here: <https://vimeo.com/146066123> VOLUNTEER: I've done a lot of volunteering, but my favorite experience recently was founding the Alaska Bike Festival for Mountain Bike for Women. In four months, we went from having an idea of an event to one that had over 250 participants at a festival with skills coaching, maintenance classes, a social ride and more. My leadership philosophy is that people are motivated to give their best when untied around a single problem to solve and when given opportunities that play to their strengths. You can experience the magic of the day by watching this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dB6kE6A4EGg>

Question applies to Economic Diversification Commission

Please mark the industry sector seat for which you are applying (choose one). *

☒ Professional Services (Attorney, Engineer, Banker, Real Estate, Media, etc.)

Please describe your qualifications to represent your selected industry sector.

I don't identify strongly with any of the industry sectors and hope a general entrepreneurship category could be added. However, the industry sectors that interest me and I have some experience in are seafood processing, summer and winter attractions, transportation, utilities, retail, and accommodations. Professional Services // I have been a consultant for ten years, running my own grant writing consulting firm for 2.5 years. While I am winding down that business to ramp up the online course business, I understand the needs of professional service firms. Seafood processing // I've worked with the Alaska Ocean Cluster to help them develop a funding strategy around value-add product development. They wanted to focus on a different pillar of their business, but my passion remained with modeling after Iceland where a \$12 cod is turned into \$3,500 worth of products. I'd like to help Valdez take leadership on this emerging sector, and I'm equipped to help develop this. Summer and winter attractions, accommodations // My mother owns a Bed and Breakfast in rural Wyoming, so I've spent years learning how to reach travelers and create a memorable experience for them. Transportation // On the side, I work as an aid for Council Member John Weddleton of Anchorage to help him get the Transportation Improvement Program scoring criteria updated with AMATS staff. When working at Stantec, I also organized a wildly successful workshop on the future of transportation featuring subject matter experts on autonomous vehicles and other intelligent transportation techniques. Utilities // I've worked on a variety of civil infrastructure projects and understand the role they play in economic development. Retail // I understand modern urban design techniques that support retail businesses with more foot traffic and vibrancy. It's a topic I was heavily involved in when I lived in Spokane and Anchorage. Another sector that is missing is housing. Without diverse and quality housing stock, we cannot attract and retain talent. I would like to work on this. For the sectors I lack personal experience in, I will invest the time to learn more.

Please describe your vision for the economic future of Valdez.

My vision for the economic future of Valdez is that all efforts align around a single message. Why? Because the ONLY time I have seen disparate groups move mountains is when they are aligned to one vision. We have far more differentiating factors than your average community. I'd love to examine every element of what it's like to be a visitor, resident, and business in Valdez and identify what we can do to make it a 7-star experience. Specifically, I would work towards these objectives: A co-working space for small businesses, creatives, and aspiring entrepreneurs. Blue economy development with our commercial fishing industry. Placemaking in downtown Valdez to support a vibrant core year round. Development of different types of housing stock.

[Meredith Noble Resume.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume or Letter of Interest



MEREDITH NOBLE

Geeks in the Woods | 5445 Cummings Way #1935 | Valdez, Alaska 99686
(907) 830-8435 | mnoble@senworks.org | @meredith.noble

PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

Meredith is on a mission to inspire other women to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams. She has secured over \$45 million in grants, before pivoting her consulting practice to teach others to write grants. Her expertise has been featured in Fast Company, and her book, *How to Write a Grant: Become a Grant Writing Unicorn*, is a #1 bestseller for nonprofit fundraising and grants on Amazon. Meredith is a 5th generation black angus cattle rancher from Wyoming, now living in the mountains of Valdez, Alaska building a remote yet connected company. Meredith has a degree in Marketing from Gonzaga University.

FEATURED EXPERIENCE

SenecaWorks LLC | Principal Jan. 2018 - Present

Founded to amplify the impact others have on their communities by learning to write winning grants. Learn more at www.learngrantwriting.org. Trained over 1,500 people in first year. Skilled in customer discovery, product development, go-to-market strategy, teaching, and leadership.

Stantec Consulting (formerly USKH) | Funding Specialist Aug. 2013 - Dec. 2017

Developed Stantec's grant writing service offering from scratch to 35+ professionals. Secured over \$40 million in grants for a variety of infrastructure projects, primarily working with municipalities and Alaska Native tribes.

Cora Valley Angus Ranch | Ranchhand Lifetime

Attribute work ethic to being raised 5th generation on family owned black angus cattle ranch in Wyoming. Most recent project was wiring the barns with wi-fi and cameras to allow checking on the cattle during calving season from one's phone.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration with a Minor in Marketing

Gonzaga University | Spokane, Washington | 2012

VOLUNTEER

Mentor | College graduates and early-stage women founders

Mountain Bike for Women | Founder

American Water Works Association | Chair Young Professionals Committee

2016 Pacific Northwest Section American Water Works Association Heart and Soul Award

INTERESTS

Business | Housing | Biking | Skiing | Reading | Learning | Entrepreneurship