



The Most Livable
City in America

Learn about city jobs from the people who have them!



Xenia
Saint Paul Public Library



Laura
Office of Technology Information



Katie
Mayor's Office



Lao
Human Rights and Equal
Economic Opportunity



Daley
Office of Financial Services



Tyler
Parks and Recreation

Check out what these City employees and others are saying about their careers!

This document is a learning tool for Saint Paul students to explore more about local government jobs, specifically with the City of Saint Paul. The project was put together by Quinn Graham, 2014 Right Track Intern in the Mayor's Office, and Pa Vang Goldbeck, Policy Associate in Mayor Chris Coleman's Office.

What are employees saying about their jobs?

Click on the name of the city staff to be directed to their page or scroll through the document.

City Departments:

Office of Financial Services (OFS) - OFS manages the City's financial resources and assets to ensure taxpayers' confidence, the organizations effectiveness, and the City's fiscal integrity.

- [Daley Lehmann](#)

Fire Department - The Saint Paul Fire Department protects the life and property of the people of Saint Paul. There are 15 fire stations throughout the City.

- [Stacy Hohertz](#)
- [Roy Mokosso](#)

Department of Human Resources (HR) - HR Human Resources provides comprehensive services and support to the 12 City of Saint Paul departments and offices and to its 3000 employees.

- [Chris Martinson](#)
- [Chuck](#)
- [Katheryn Ross](#)
- [Nance Lee Mosquera](#)

Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO) - HREEO champions Justice and Equity by confronting issues of discrimination and providing innovative avenues for accessibility and economic opportunities for all residents and businesses.

- [Lao Sue Yang](#)
- [Tisidra Jones](#)

Mayor's Office - The Mayor's Office administrative team supports the Mayor's vision of making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.

- [Christine Rider](#)
- [J.D Burton](#)
- [Jake Spano](#)
- [Jean Karpe](#)
- [Katie Knutson](#)
- [Nancy Homans](#)
- [William Tully](#)

Parks and Recreation Department - To make Saint Paul the most livable city in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places and a vital environment

- [Eric Thompson](#)
- [Faith Krogstad](#)
- [Kathy Korum](#)
- [Karl Mueller](#)
- [Ryanna Jackson](#)
- [Tyler McKean](#)

Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) - SPPL connects people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime. Today, the Saint Paul Public Library system consists of the George Latimer Library, 12 branches, and a bookmobile.

- [Phasoua Vang](#)
- [Regina](#)
- [Robert Thao](#)
- [Xenia Hernandez](#)

Office of Technology and Communication (OTC) - OTC provides high-quality, secure, cost- effective information technology that supports the business needs of the City, Fosters innovation, and enhances the lives of the residence of Saint Paul.

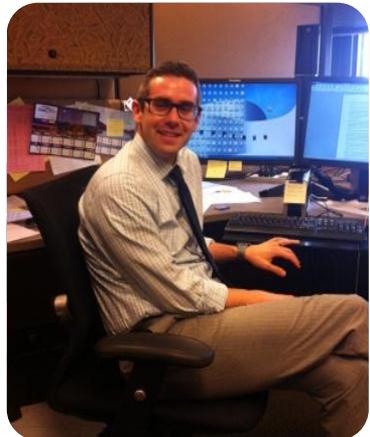
- [Craig Roby](#)
- [Ger Pha](#)
- [Laura Wakefield](#)

Daley Lehmann

Office of Financial Services

Educational Background: I have a master's in Public Administration and bachelor's in Political Science.

Job Responsibilities: I am a Budget Analyst for the Office of Financial Services in the City of St. Paul. My responsibilities include looking at where the city spends its money. My job focuses on looking into the next year, and beyond, to try and predict what the city MIGHT spend money on. I then try to find revenues (money coming into the city) to cover everything the city spends. I work with different city departments to find out what their future needs and priorities are and then evaluate whether those needs should be included in the budget. I am also fortunate to work on St. Paul's Capital budget. A capital budget is used specifically for construction projects such as roads, bridges, playgrounds, etc. I work with a citizen committee, the Capital Improvement Budget Committee, which makes recommendations to the city based on project submittals by the community every two years. St. Paul is one of the very few cities in the United States that gives money to capital projects this way and it is interesting to see the involvement between the City and its residents.



What do you enjoy most about your job? My job consists of a lot of problem solving and critical thinking. You really get to use your brain when you're a budget analyst. A city budget needs to be balanced, meaning all the money that comes into the city must equal the money that goes out of the city. Coming to that balancing point is never easy. You have to weigh options, work with different groups of people, and make recommendations on what is most important to the city. Putting a budget together is much like assembling a puzzle. You have all the pieces, just need to find the right way to fit them all together. There is a common misconception that Budget Analysts have to have an in-depth knowledge of mathematical calculations and financial practices, which is not true. As long as you can critically think, problem solve, and add – subtract – multiply – and divide, you can work on city budgets.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul? I have worked for several large cities throughout my career but St. Paul is by far my most favorite. St. Paul is the most important city in Minnesota because it is the capital. Working with the state capital comes with much more responsibility to make sure everything is done right because St. Paul represents the State of Minnesota to both residents and visitors. I enjoy working for larger cities because of the breadth and scope of the services provided. In St. Paul we have countless parks, a thriving downtown, miles of running paths along the Mississippi River, and a NHL team. I like to think that by being a part of the City of St. Paul, I am helping to make the lives of the residents better.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not? No, this is the last thing I ever thought I would be doing for a career. I originally went to a university to study geology. I thought I could be working on the side of a mountain somewhere. That idea lasted for exactly one semester before I changed my major. I went to college during the 2004 presidential campaign and the hype behind the campaign was everywhere. This got me interested in politics, the political process, and the influences people have on one another. When I was trying to figure out my career, I really wanted to be involved in my community. My friend suggested to me that I look into the idea of city government. I took his suggestion and never looked back. City government is the purest form of government where each and every citizen can have a voice and be heard. You will have city council members take your phone calls directly and you can tell them how you feel about issues and things going on in your community. Citizens have direct access to decision makers. The role of city government is much different than the other forms of government. We do the things that you don't think of necessarily when you think government. We are the ones who pick up your trash, clean your water, build your roads, police the streets, and put out fires. If you really want to be involved in the community, city government is the way to go.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career? Keep current with local events and the world around you. Read your local newspaper and not just headlines online. Be aware, and ask questions. There are countless opportunities to have influence in people's lives, you just have to go out there and find them.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8825 or by emailing me at: daley.lehmann@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Stacy Hohertz
Fire Department

Educational Background:

I have a graduate degree in management.

Job Responsibilities:

I coordinate the everyday activities for the C-shift of the Fire Department. The duties include scheduling personnel, overseeing training, and supporting command staff in providing safety for firefighters and citizens.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy working with people and helping them solve their problems.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

A career in the fire service allows a person the ability to make a difference in others' lives on a daily basis.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

In high school I never dreamed I would be a firefighter. I grew up in a community that had a "volunteer" fire department and I really didn't think it was a career option until I met a firefighter while I was in college.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

If you have an interest in a certain field, find out as much as you can about that type of work. If you have the opportunity to talk with or shadow someone in that field take advantage of that situation. The more you know the better you can prepare to enter that field.

**You can contact me by calling me at: (651)228-6214 or by emailing me at:
stacy.hohertz@ci.stpaul.mn.us**



Roy Mokosso
Fire Department

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Science - Social and Behavioral Science

Job Responsibilities:

Fire suppression and EMS services for citizens of Saint Paul

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Serving the community

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I served in the military and wanted to continue serving at home in a community.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

No. I had no exposure to the fire department. I only learned about the career later in life.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Be open to everything, you are bound to change your mind multiple times. There is information all around, don't rule out anything.



St. Paul Fire Station Number 1 and Department Headquarters
St. Paul, MN

Chris Martinson

Human Resources

Educational Background:

I have two degrees. I have an Associates of Arts in Law Enforcement and Bachelors of Arts in Organizational Administration. I am also currently pursuing my Masters in Theology.



Job Responsibilities:

As a Project Manager I have specific tasks that need to be completed within a specific timeframe and budget. This sounds simple enough if the project only involved me what I do. With Project Management you are responsible to coordinate the work that others need to do for the project to succeed. You have to ensure that all of the thousands of tasks that need to be completed are completed on time and frequently in a specific order as one depends upon the next to be successful. Projects in the city are rarely isolated to a single department and a small group of employees. This means that the coordination of aligning people, processes and policy can reach and result in working with various departments and people. The current project I am managing will eventually reach every employee in the city.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

As I described in the paragraphs about what I do as a Project Manager I highlighted two key aspects of my job. First, there are many moving parts of a project. Sometime they seem to happen “all at once” and always from many different directions. Knowing that others are depending on me to sort through the flurry of items and issues and keep the project moving the right direction so we meet our stated objectives is very rewarding. If you like responsibility, this job is for you! Second, people matter, and what they do every day is import for the city to continue to be a great place to live and work. Change in processes and policy will always be a part of our work lives and as a Project Manager I can have a positive impact on how change occurs. I love that my responsibilities give me the opportunity to work with such a wide variety of employees across the city.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I have lived in Minnesota for my whole life and have always loved being in the city. While this is my first experience in working in the public sector, I have really enjoyed it and have found great fulfilment and satisfaction in what I do – I really believe it has given me the opportunity to make a difference for people.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

Not even close! I started college as music major, transferred schools and got my degree in Law Enforcement. Ten years later I went back to school and received my BA in Organizational Administration. I have worked in Private Security, Law Enforcement and Technology and now Project Management-none of which I could say I thought much about in high school. Work for me has been a journey to get to the place I am now and enjoy coming to work every day.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Study hard, learn well, finish school! Make goals and take the necessary steps to get there. Don’t be afraid to ask for help and always help others along the way. You will never get to where you want to go by yourself; there will always be others that will be part of your journey-enjoy the ride and be thankful! Most importantly, figure out what you love to do and do it! Pursue with passion what you love!

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-6521 or by emailing me at: chris.martinson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Chuck Fox
Human Resources

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota

Job Responsibilities:

As a claims examiner I administer workers claims for the City of St. Paul which is self-insured for workers compensation. I am assigned claims for handling from beginning to conclusion for lost time claims. I am responsible for investigating claims, determine compensability, monitor and direct medical treatment. Facilitate a return to work and bring closure to the claim.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the investigation of claims and the interaction with people involved in the claims, the employee, supervisor, medical provider, nurse case manager and attorneys.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I wanted to seek employment in the public sector and was impressed with the employees that I would be working with in the Human Resources Department.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

No, I had aspirations of becoming a sports broadcaster.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Look for something that would be interesting to you and would be something that makes you excited to go to work each day.

**You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-6514 or by emailing me at:
chuck.fox@ci.stpaul.mn.us**



Katheryn Ross
Human Resources - Payroll

Educational Background:

Associate of Applied Science Degree and current college student

Job Responsibilities:

I am currently working in the payroll department processing the parks departments. I started out in the parks department and worked at many different recreation centers before moving to the payroll department. I have been in this department for two years and see it as a stepping stone to eventually move into a supervisory or management position.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I have always been good at working with numbers. This job was the perfect fit for me. I still get to interact with the parks employees I started with but get to experience the office setting that I didn't get at the recreation centers.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I started working at my neighborhood park because it was where my family participated in many activities. I started as a volunteer coach and then took a paid position with the after school program. It was convenient for me to work right in my own neighborhood.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I grew up. I saw myself as a teacher or artist maybe. I did have great experiences with the small recreation department in the town where I grew up and was not surprised with the satisfaction I felt when dealing with youth in my community as an adult.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Get in now and work your way up. Try many different jobs if possible. The City has many departments people don't even think about and many opportunities within those departments.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-6379 or by emailing me at: kate.ross@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Nance Lee Mosquera
Human Resources - Benefits

Educational Background:

Bachelors of Arts in Communications with a minor in Music



Job Responsibilities:

As the employee benefits manager for the City, I am responsible for delivering quality benefit plans that attract and retain great employees in the most cost effective manner possible. I oversee the administration of all City benefit plans, including health, dental, life and disability, retirement and any other City-specific plans. Part of this role is vendor management - ensuring we are partnering with quality service providers at competitive prices. Additionally, I focus on ensuring compliance with federal, state and local laws as well as bargaining contracts. With City management, I develop a budget for benefits, then review and manage costs to that budget. My team and I assist employees with enrolling in benefits; including retiree benefits, and help with any questions that come up along the way. To help our employees make good benefit decisions, my team prepares benefit books, flyers, and other media, along with conducting employee meetings to explain benefits in detail. And, I manage a City wellness program that incents our employees to make healthy choices and improve their lives.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I work with a great team of people! It is gratifying to know that the work I do directly affects the health and well-being of City employees and their families.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I spent a number of years in the private sector before coming to the City. When I was able to deliver high quality benefits at lower costs, any savings went to company shareholders. Now, I know that any added value I bring to the City's benefits program serves to further strengthen the City of Saint Paul. As City employees we are stewards of the public trust. It feels good to help our employees while helping the City.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

Not at all! I was never one who knew exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up. The great thing about this job though is that it allows me to use more than one skill set. It requires strategic thinking, math, public relations, marketing and communications, and social science. For someone who could never make up her mind that is a good thing!

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

I would say, have an idea of what you want, but be open. Life puts people and situations in your path that you never saw coming. One of those could end up being the key to your future career.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8894 or by emailing me at: nance.lee.mosquera@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Lao Sue Yang
Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

Educational Background:

I have a J.D. from William Mitchell and a Bachelors of Science from Hamline for Political Science.



Job Responsibilities:

We take complaints of discrimination in Saint Paul. We thoroughly investigate each complaint impartially and we educate the public on their civil rights in Saint Paul.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love equal rights; fairness and equality for all.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I find public service to be very self-gratifying. Any time you are in a position to help people that cannot help themselves, it is very rewarding. That is what working for the City means to me.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

When I was in high school, I wanted to do anything that could have impact on my community and I kept my options open. I was open to all opportunities that could be available.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Find an inspiration or motivation.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8971 or by emailing me at: Lao.Yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Tisidra Jones
Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

Educational Background:

I have a background in the performing arts, sociology, and law.

Job Responsibilities:

I manage the City's Vendor Outreach Program. This program was put in place by local law as a result of disparity studies finding that local small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses were not included on City contracts in reasonable numbers. As a result, the City, through this law strives to maximize contracting opportunities for such businesses on all City contracts, with a few exceptions. My job is to enforce this law.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I like that the intention of my position is to help provide economic opportunities for local businesses. It is nice to be in a position, and a department, that is striving to make a positive difference.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I value the mission of the department. HREO's mission is to champion Justice and Equity by confronting issues of discrimination and providing innovative avenues for accessibility and economic opportunities for all residents and businesses.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

In high school my goal was to find a way to tie together my passions of art, education, and law in some way to social justice or human rights issues. I really just wanted to find a way to help people in a creative way. Working for HREO allows me to do that.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

If you do not know exactly what you want to do for the rest of your life, it is alright. Figure out the things that you are really good at doing; the type of things that come easily for you, but difficult for others. Then, think about the things you love to do. If you can find a career that is in that intersection of the two, you will probably be heading in a good direction.

**You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8904 or by emailing me at:
tisidra.jones@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

Christine Rider
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman

Educational Background:

I have a two-year college degree.

Job Responsibilities:

As the Mayor's Scheduler, my main responsibilities are to work with the Mayor's Office Chief of Staff to ensure a smooth daily schedule for the Mayor, to respond to all requests for the Mayor's time, as well as assigning staff to attend various daily events and meetings with the Mayor. My role also includes ensuring the Mayor is prepared for each and every event and meeting attended each day.



What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy speaking with different people, both locally and from around the country about the work being done in Saint Paul.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

My father was a Saint Paul firefighter for many years. Public service runs deep in my family, and it is important to me to carry on that tradition.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I'm really not sure what I thought I'd be doing when I was in high school....it was a long time ago!

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Explore many topics to really find out what you are interested in - what makes you tick. Don't worry about what your friends are doing and follow your own path!

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8510 or by emailing me at: chris.rider@ci.stpaul.mn.us

JD Burton
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman

Educational Background:

College degree and a law degree.

Job Responsibilities:

I am the Director of Government Relations for the city. This means I am the chief lobbyist, representing the city before the Minnesota Legislature, the Governor's office, and the U.S. Congress and U.S. Executive branch offices. I help advance the city's interests by helping to secure state or federal funding, or by helping secure changes to the law that benefit the city.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The ability to represent the capitol city before the legislature and congress is the most rewarding aspect of the job. Each day presents a new challenge, and I am involved in some of the more important issues of the day. Plus, I spend much of the year at the State Capitol, and that means I have a front row seat to some of the major policy debates before the legislature.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

Working for the public - and for an elected official like the Mayor, in particular - is very rewarding. The work you do has a direct impact on your community, and your neighbors. There is a great deal of satisfaction knowing that your efforts have improved the lives of others. Plus, I find it very exciting to see the work you've done become law.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I did not expect to do this work when I was in high school. The law and politics always interested me, but from a historical perspective, not a practical one. I feel fortunate that I was able to transition these interests in to a career.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

I recommend trying out a lot of different things before settling on a career. I am glad I explored several different paths before settling on this one. Take the time to figure out what makes you the most happy, and then pursue that with vigor.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-6545 or by emailing me at: j.d.burton@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Jake Spano
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman – Director of Marketing

Educational Background: I graduated high school in Lawrence, KS in 1987. In 1991 I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art (sculpture) from Hamline University in Saint Paul. My Master's Degree is in Advocacy and Political Leadership from the University of Minnesota - Duluth. I also attended Ealing College in Ealing, England, a city which lies just west of London, England. I've also taken classes at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Technical and Community College, and Dunwoody Technical Institute amongst others. As you can tell, I like learning.



Job Responsibilities: I have a number of specific duties in my role as the Director of Marketing but in a larger sense, I'm responsible for the "brand" of the city of Saint Paul. That means that it's my responsibility to make sure that when people think of Saint Paul as a place to live, work, visit and play in, they think good thoughts. This means that I spend a lot of time working with groups outside the city government to ensure that they can easily open a business, plan a big event, or have their vision for improving Saint Paul realized. Specifically some of my bigger duties are managing the online presence of the city via our website (www.stpaul.gov), Facebook, and Twitter (@cityofsaintpaul). I'm also largely responsible for planning big fun events in the city (Red Bull Crashed Ice, River's Edge Music Fest, Fourth of July fireworks, etc). Lastly, I work quite a bit on strategic (think big - long term projects) that is important to the Mayor. Things like ensuring that artists and creative people have a role in making our city a great place to live and work in.

What do you enjoy most about your job? The Mayor is a big, bold thinker and places a lot of trust and responsibility in his team. I'm fortunate that in addition to having a great vision for the city, he also allows his team to find the best ways to make that vision happen and backs us up when we want to go for it! I also love that every day it's something different - one day I could be planning a concert, the next day I'm at an event with players from the Minnesota Wild, and the next could be meeting with the Ambassador of Switzerland to talk about trade and economic development. Everyone I know tells me I have the best job in the city and I'm hard pressed to argue with them ;)

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul? There are a few reasons - some simple and some more complicated. First, the Mayor asked me to come work for him and that was enough for me! Beyond that though, I used to live in the Midway area - it was my family's first home - and I went to college here so I've always loved it. Second, growing up in my family there was always a discussion happening about how to help others, how to serve others, how to use one's skills to make our little corner of the world better. But for years I worked in the private sector and while I loved much of my work, something was missing. Then Senator Paul Wellstone died along with some of his family and friends in a plane crash and something just changed. I needed a job that provided purpose in addition to money. I needed to contribute. So, I quit my job, went back to school to get a master's degree and ended up working for United States Senator Amy Klobuchar for several years. After leaving her office, I came to work for Mayor Coleman. In the end, I needed more of a purpose in what I was doing so I got involved in public service. I'm also an elected City Council Member in Saint Louis Park which happened after working for the city and realizing all the great things a city can do with its residents.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not? NO WAY! In high school I was all prepared to go to college and become a pre-med major and go on to do Sports Medicine. My grandfather had done that and I really enjoyed it. That changed when I was a junior and college and was fortunate to travel overseas for school - I saw and experienced things that opened my eyes and I realized at that point that I wanted to chart a completely new course for myself so I came back home, switched my major to art, and took off from there. It's not easy I know but if there is ever a chance to study abroad, DO IT. Aside from the fun travel, I learned to be self-sufficient when I was 1/2 around the world - it's extremely empowering and confidence building.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career? I believe strongly that if you are passionate about something go and do that thing. On the other hand, if like me, you have an experience that makes you question that passion, listen to it. Follow it. Some people say, it's their "gut instinct" but whatever you call it, I believe in listening to it. Don't be bound to do something because it's what you think everyone expects you to do. President John Kennedy once gave a speech at Rice University in Texas and in it he had a famous line where he was talking about the dangers of space exploration and he said, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." That speech is worth listening to because in it he is essentially saying the things that we value most, that we hold most dear, that are most important to us, are the things that we work the hardest for. For me, that has meant that I'm always doing something that is "outside my comfort zone" and requires maximum effort but at the same time, that effort has made the successes so much more fun and rewarding.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8527 or by emailing me at: jake.spano@stpaul.gov

Jean Karpe
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman – Office Manager

Educational Background:

Hill-Murray High School, Maplewood Lakewood Community College (now Century College) White Bear Lake Courses/Classes taken at the City of City Paul



Job Responsibilities:

As Office Manager, my job is to make sure that the Mayor's Office runs smoothly which consists of assigning staff to cover the reception desk; administrative support to the Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff; order office supplies; pay bills; work with payroll and budget; and I am the department representative on various city committees.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I just love the variety of work that I do and I get to meet new people every day who come to tour City Hall or who have meetings in our office with the Mayor or our staff. The best part of my job has been the opportunity of having worked for five Mayors, appointed staff, and interns for over 38 years and I continue to love my job!

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I have enjoyed working with the public by phone and in person and I help direct them to appropriate staff in other departments to answer their concerns and questions. I feel like I make a difference every day by helping my staff, other city employees and the public with their concerns and I take the time to listen to them.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

When I was a junior and senior at Hill-Murray High School, I started taking typing, short-hand and other secretarial classes that were offered there to enhance my skills before starting college.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

My advice is to follow your dreams and to work in a field or profession that you are passionate about.

**You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8526 or by emailing me at:
jean.karpe@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

Katie Knutson
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman – Government Relations Associate

Educational Background:

I have a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a master's degree in Public Health.

Job Responsibilities:

I am responsible for developing and implementing strategies to achieve the City's goals with state governments and other partners. I work with the city's elected officials and city department officials to develop the city's state legislative agenda and lobbies on behalf of the city.



What do you enjoy most about your job?

All of the different people I get to interact with- everyone has a different background and viewpoint - learning their stories is fascinating.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I have a passion for the City of Saint Paul I think it's the greatest city in the state.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

Not at all. I had no interest in politics. I didn't know what I wanted to do.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Try things. You don't know what you'll love or hate until you do it and you might be surprised. Explore. Too often we only see or know the careers that are right in front of us what our parents, grandparents and neighbors do. There are a lot of awesome careers out there you just have to find them!

**You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8519 or by emailing me at:
katie.knutson@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

Nancy Homans
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman – Senior Policy Director

Educational Background:

Bachelors of Arts in Urban Studies, College of Wooster MA, Planning, Humphrey Institute, U of MN

Job Responsibilities:

Most of my responsibilities involve supporting the Mayor's work on some of his larger initiatives (e.g. Green Line, homelessness, workforce development) by bringing stakeholders together and charting a path forward. In addition, I represent the Mayor on boards and taskforces and at public events when he is unable to attend.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I have the opportunity to do work that will make a positive difference in the lives of Saint Paul residents.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

My parents were both public servants and I was encouraged to pursue a service-related career. The opportunity to work for the City of Saint Paul was an unexpected honor.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I thought I might want to be an elected official, but I discovered through my internship experiences that I am more comfortable in a support role.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Talk to many people in different careers about what they like/don't like about their work. Volunteer and/or do internships. Go to college.

**You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8568 or by emailing me at:
nancy.homans@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

William Tully
Office of Mayor Chris Coleman – VISTA Director

Educational Background: Graduated from Saint Paul's Highland Park High School, then from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a degree in economics.



Job Responsibilities: I manage the Saint Paul VISTA Program for the Mayor's Office. The VISTA Program partners with schools and community-based organizations, placing national service members at these partner sites to build capacity for educational programs that engage young people and families in Saint Paul. As VISTA Program Manager, I am responsible for supporting national service members, building community partnerships, aligning the work of partners with the overall education goals of the City of Saint Paul, and working with our funders (the Corporation for National and Community Service) to create a culture of service in Saint Paul and our region.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I have the fortune of wearing a great many hats in my job and I enjoy the diversity of my work. I get most excited about supporting and engaging with our AmeriCorps VISTA members, individuals who have given a year of their lives to serve in Saint Paul. The elegance of VISTA is this finite, year-long commitment, and we structure our program to focus first and foremost on the development of members, launching them into all kinds of opportunities beyond service. Plus, we feed them really well with food from all of the amazing restaurants in Saint Paul!

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

My background is in non-profit management and my job now really blends work in the public service realm with that in education and community engagement. I enjoy being able to partner with non-profits and community-based organizations across the city, and to advocate for their work, while maintaining a city-wide lens for what that work can look like. I also believe in Mayor Coleman's vision for Saint Paul. The work of the City of Saint Paul extends far beyond the typical focus of local government. We have experts in education, transportation, planning, environmental sustainability, the arts, community vitality and so much more. It's amazing to work in an environment with so many subject matter experts, all working on behalf of the residents of the Saintly City.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not? Absolutely not. As with many people, my career has been comprised of a series of happy accidents. I went to college to study chemistry and chemical engineering, but decided that was not right for me. I switched to economics because, as a social science, it provided a balance of the science with a focus on the human experience. At the end of the day, I love working with and for people...engaging with others around passions and thinking about how to use diverse ideas to make our community engaging, livable and vibrant.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career? It is much easier to figure out what you don't want to do than it is to discover what you do want to do. Don't be afraid to take risks, to try things out, and to follow your heart (or your gut, as the case may be). It is very hard to plan for the future, especially in a professional context, so make the most of where you are at today and use every moment therein to learn and discover what gets you excited about work and life.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-8582 or by emailing me at: william.tully@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Eric Thompson
Parks and Recreation

Educational Background:

High School Diploma; Bachelors of Science- Double Major in Broadcast Journalism/Speech; Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP)
Certified NRPA Park & Recreation Institute Advanced Manager Academy;
Certified FEMA I.S. 100/200/300/700



Job Responsibilities:

Overall management of permits related to the rental use of park facilities such as picnic shelters, buildings and open space. Overall management of activities such as walks/runs, theater productions and film permits. I manage 4.5 permit staff and 2 environmental education staff. I also am responsible for identifying and developing new park programs and activities that utilize our permit spaces and facilities. I oversee our department's amenity program which includes memorial benches, trees and general donations.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The people I encounter as they contact us for their events and activities. I enjoy helping them identify the best location for their needs. I love the problem solving and trouble-shooting that is associated with the work. I really enjoy managing staff and developing a team that is capable of responding to various situations with efficiency and tact.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

Out of college it was a steady job with fair pay and benefits. It has grown into a career in which I have had a variety of assignments with increasing responsibility and promotional opportunities. Fun work, good hours and relatively stable.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

Absolutely not. I had no idea that working for Parks & Recreation would provide over 3 decades of work opportunities all in one City department.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Complete a 4-year degree program. There is no chance for upward promotion without the 4-year degree. Also, develop your communication and problem-solving skills. Write well, speak well and understand the importance of listening.

**You can contact me by calling: 651-632-2445 or 651-755-5661 or by emailing me at:
eric.thompson@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

Faith Krogstad
Parks and Recreation

Educational Background:

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, a Graduate Certificate in Community and Environmental Education, and a Master of Arts in Education.

Job Responsibilities:

I lead the Environmental Education program, helping people connect to and learn about the environment in Saint Paul's regional parks. I collaborate with other members of the Natural Resources team, community partners, and volunteers to offer classes, hands-on habitat restoration, outdoor recreation, and citizen science.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the freedom to create new programs and engage diverse audiences in the environment. I collaborate with many talented people and learn something new every day.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I grew up in a rural area in Southeastern Minnesota and spent a lot of time exploring the woods and creeks. This experience cultivated a love of the outdoors and learning. I want all Saint Paul residents (including my own children) to recognize themselves as owners and caretakers of our parks and be able to engage in the natural world in the urban core.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

No. I expected to study science and become a doctor. In college, I completed my pre-med requirements, but discovered that I loved studying ecology and environmental issues. Changing course, I studied freshwater mussels in the Saint Croix River and environmental issues in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. In both these experiences, it was easy to see how humans were affecting the health of the natural world and vice versa. These issues were complex, and I saw environmental education as a key piece of the puzzle to improve our health, economic well-being, and environment.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Think about what interests you and follow that passion. Find professionals working in that field and interview them about their daily work life and how they achieved their positions. Forming relationships with professionals is very important for getting jobs. Ask these adults for help with networking, volunteering, internships, and job searching. Don't be afraid to ask for advice on interviewing skills, appropriate work attire, or other unspoken rules in your chosen field. If you want to go to college and would be considered a "nontraditional student" - for example, you are first in your family to go to college - seek out support networks that can help you be successful.

You can contact me by calling me at: (651) 632-2455 or by emailing me at: faith.krogstad@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Kathy Korum
Parks and Recreation

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Arts - Augsburg K-12 Education and Masters in Education - University of Minnesota; Youth Development Leadership

Job Responsibilities:

I am the Deputy Director for the Parks and Recreation Department. This means I am second in charge of the department staff and overall operation. I also provide direct supervision for employees who lead our youth employment, safety and security, Sprockets (Saint Paul's Out of School Time Network) and community youth work initiatives. I am our department's human resources liaison, and provide leadership on collaborations with Saint Paul Public Libraries, St. Paul Public Schools and the Saint Paul Police Department.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I most enjoy working with employees as a mentor and resource and making things happen for community members, especially youth.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I believe there is no work more important than public service.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I set out to teach school but there were no jobs available when I graduated from college. I knew I would always do service work, so staying on with Parks and Recreation was the next best thing for me.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Explore lots of different job and career opportunities. Think about all the things you really enjoy doing and find a job that includes at least some of those. Look for a workplace that values its employees and recognizes the contributions of every worker, regardless of their job title. This environment will promote lots of other great things. Environments that don't value each employee will be frustrating and stifle creative thinkers.

You can contact me by emailing me at: kathy.korum@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Karl Mueller
Parks and Recreation

What is your educational background?

Inver Hills Community College

University of Minnesota (Twin cities) Major: Urban and Community Forestry, Minor: Forest Resources

Please describe in a paragraph or two your job responsibilities:

I am a tree health urban forester responsible for managing Dutch elm disease, oak wilt and other ailments affecting trees. During the summer, I lead a systematic city-wide tree survey identifying dead or dying park and boulevard trees, marking tree trunks with red paint. I also enforce tree-related city ordinances on private property. During the winter months, I plan for the annual Arbor Month (May) volunteer events and activities, which includes a poster contest for third graders in Saint Paul.



What do you enjoy most about your job?

One of the main things I like about my job is that it permits me to be outside, which I enjoy especially during the summer months! I also get to interact with a wide range of interesting people and educate them about their trees. It's challenging in that every tree is unique, which makes every work day different and exciting. And I take pride in working for Saint Paul, where I live and am born and raised.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

In Saint Paul, there are approximately 120,000 public boulevard trees and 200,000 park trees in a city with over 290,000 citizens. Having all those trees and people, I have come across many different tree issues and communicated with a wide variety of stakeholders. Because of this, I feel I gain a more well-rounded experience than I would in the private sector. I also get a better understanding of how municipalities work by collaborating with other city departments to solve issues.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

No. After high school, I was unsure of what I wanted to do. I knew that I wanted to do something in the natural resources field, but I didn't know until I was attending the University of Minnesota that I sought to pursue a career in Urban and Community Forestry. When I was in high school, I didn't know this field existed, so it took some time to see what majors were offered and what kind of jobs were associated with them.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Seek out opportunities and when you do, put in maximum effort. The best way to find opportunities is to network with others including professionals, neighbors, and your peers. Put yourself out there. Talk to people. Good intrapersonal skills can take you a long way. Also, commit to some kind of higher education after high school. Take a variety of classes and immerse yourself in what the college or institution has to offer. Additionally, consider volunteering within your community to find opportunities to network, gain experience, and build your resume to be more appealing to potential employers.

You can contact me by emailing me at: karl.mueller@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ryanna Jackson

Parks and Recreation

Educational Background:

Bachelors of Arts in English, minors in Music and History



Job Responsibilities:

I coordinate volunteers for the Saint Paul Natural Resources section, though, like most jobs, I end up doing more than that. I coordinate the majority of the volunteers in Saint Paul parks. These include individual and small groups of volunteers who have adopted certain areas of land, parks and gardens and regularly take care of them. I also work with many large one-time or annual groups who help with large-scale planting, gardening and habitat restoration events. Finally, I manage and coordinate several large-scale volunteer events, including the department's largest in-house event, the Citywide Spring Cleanup. Volunteer coordinating includes a lot of organization, as you may guess, but also a lot of relationship and partnership building, as well as community outreach. I spend a lot of my day corresponding with volunteers and representatives from external partners and companies, either through email, phone or in-person meetings. I also spend a lot of time marketing and promoting our volunteer opportunities and the work that we do. Overall, I am an advocate for our work and our organization.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy connecting people to other people and other opportunities. Most of the time, people come to me looking for something: something to do, some way to help, finding out how to take care of a garden, etc. Other times, I end up being the person to field questions about who do I ask if I have a diseased tree on my boulevard? Or when will our playground get fixed? I enjoy being this connecting party to the community. I learn a lot about the City and I learn about our communities and neighborhoods.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I enjoy giving back to my community. My background reflects years serving in AmeriCorps and many years of volunteerism. Connecting groups and individuals to help their own neighborhood and communities is a natural fit for me. I have almost always worked for nonprofits, too. I like to find work that is beneficial to others, but that is also rewarding.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

Absolutely not. I thought I would be a teacher, but in a way, I am a teacher and the volunteers are my students. I like to think of myself more as a leader, leading people to help THEM learn about more resources and more opportunities to continue to perform the great work they already do.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Explore. When I was in high school, growing up in a small town, the only kinds of jobs I knew about were the major ones, e.g. doctor, lawyer, police officer, teacher, etc. I had no idea there were jobs like City Planners, Landscape Designers, Geology Researchers, Mechanical Engineers (there are different kinds of engineers??), and more. Learn about as many opportunities as possible in your areas of interest, and don't stop asking people questions. There are so many professionals - young and old - in the working world who would be comfortable and excited to talk to you about their work and their career paths. Officially, these are called informational interviews.

You can contact me by calling me at: (651) 632-2411 or emailing me at: ryanna.jackson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Tyler McKean
Parks and Recreation

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota



Please describe in a paragraph or two your job responsibilities:

Oversee operations at the City of Saint Paul aquatic and winter sport facilities including Como Regional Park Pool, Mount Como Ski Center, and Highland Park Aquatic Center. These programs serve 300,000+ visitors a year and have an operating budget of over \$2 million. Staff size ranges seasonally from 50 to more than 300. Responsibilities include everything from day-to-day operations to long-term planning including budgeting, marketing, and facility upgrades.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy that each day is different and there are always small things and big things to work on. Since we have programs and facilities that run almost every day we're constantly working with our staff and patrons to improve.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I came to the City of Saint Paul after working for a local non-profit where I had similar responsibilities. The attraction to the City was largely due to the opportunities it affords to work on exciting projects and continue to advance my career.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I didn't really know in high school what I would be doing, but I'm glad I have ended up where I am now. I didn't consider myself as a manager or leader in high school, but as I had more opportunities to learn the skills that go along with leading others I began to really enjoy that kind of work.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Be patient but also aggressive. If there is something that excites you, be aggressive about working at it. Be patient though if it is difficult or your interests change. In your working career you'll change a lot and may even change your path several times, but stay enthusiastic about the work that you are doing and do work that you are proud of and you'll be very happy.

**You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-6396 or by emailing me at:
tyler.mckean@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

Phasoua Vang
Saint Paul Public Library

Educational Background: I graduated from Como Park Senior High School.

I also completed an undergraduate degree in English from Hamline University.

Job Responsibilities: I am the project coordinator for the library's Learning Dreams Grant. This will be a collaborative project with Saint Paul Public Library, the Learning Dreams team lead by Dr. Jerry Stein from the University of Minnesota and community partners from the west side of St. Paul. I will be coordinating the implementation of this grant. Some of the tasks I am responsible for include logistics, meeting set goals and assembling a dynamic team.



What do you enjoy most about your job? I enjoy being able to apply much of what I have learned in library work, academics and life experiences into the job I do. The combination of these three things enable to me to use different skills, mindsets and strategies in order to accomplish tasks.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul? Working in public service aligns with my values. Saint Paul has been home to me for over 17 years. I love living in it, voting for the people in it and working in it. In high school, US American History teacher Mr. Magnuson asked us what work we aspired to do in the future. I figured I would either be a teacher, librarian or judge. All of these careers - though I didn't think about it then - would be in public service. It was meant to be.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not? Yes and no. In high school, possibilities are endless. A few years later, there are some challenges - schooling, money, passion. I started working for Saint Paul Public Library my senior year in high school. Did I think I would still be working here this many years later? Definitely not, but I am getting to do something I would never have known was possible in high school, that didn't exist when I was in high school - so the reality of what I could have dreamed for myself then is even better.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career? Give yourself credit; you're much smarter than you think. You may already know what you want to do, the type of person you want to be - but allow yourself the flexibility to change, try new things and to grow. You may be creator of the career you have. Also, grammar counts.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-666-8438 or by emailing me at:
phasoua.vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Regina
Saint Paul Public Library

Educational Background:

I attended the University of Minnesota where I earned a BA in Journalism. I also attended St. Catherine University where I earned my MLIS (Masters of Library and Information Science)

Job Responsibilities:

I currently serve as the Manager at the Rice Street Library. My daily work consists of supervising 11 library staff and 3 volunteers. I also assist library guests by answering informational or technical questions they have. During the school year I visit the neighborhood schools and talk to students about getting library cards and other educational resources they can use at the library.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Many of the people who visit the library also live in the neighborhood so I get to see them on a daily basis. I enjoy getting to know our library guests and forming relationships with them. I like to greet them by name when they enter the building. Establishing a rapport with library guests is important to me because it creates a sense of community. This is the type of environment I like to work in.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I have always had a heart for serving others. The jobs that I worked as a teenager were all service related in some type of way. I enjoy helping others because that is what I do well.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I never thought about being a librarian when I was younger. I did not grow up seeing librarians that looked like me so I never considered it as a career option. However, I did know that I wanted a career that allowed me to help people.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Never be afraid to be unique and to do something different. There are a variety of careers that you can take advantage of and enjoy doing. Do not limit yourself to the most common and popular careers like professional athlete, doctor, lawyer etc. Career opportunities are endless and the best time to discover what you're good at is now!

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-558-2223 or by emailing me at: regina.harris@stpaul.gov or: reginah202@gmail.com

Robert Thao
Saint Paul Public Library

Educational Background:

High School Diploma

Job Responsibilities:

As a Library Customer Service Assistant 1 I'm responsible for aiding patrons when they need assistance with their account records/library card or simply helping them obtain the material they're looking for. Another one of my duties is dealing with circulation, which consists of shelving returned/new material, repairing damaged material, making library cards, sending out materials to other locations, and answering phone calls related to circulation.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

What I enjoy most about the job is getting to know the community that you're working in and just being able to help people out with their problems! Getting to assist with the amazing programs from time to time is also a great bonus!

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I chose to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul because as I was growing up I've always loved reading! During my senior year in high school I discovered that I really enjoyed being a problem solver, especially when it came to helping out people. So this was a great opportunity!

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

As a high school student I did not expect to be working in the library at all. I saw my possible future careers as a community organizer, architect, accountant, or an engineer. I was really into the whole architect and engineering thing- I just never considered the library. But I'm glad I did eventually!

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

As a High School Student it is important for you to take the time to think of your future since you're about to become young adults. Try shadowing adults who have different careers and if you find it interesting then do some research on it. Just remember, there's no such thing as a stupid question when it's about your future.

You can contact me by calling me at: 6516323870 or by emailing me at either robert.thao@stpaul.ci.mn.us or robert.lee.thao@hotmail.com

Xenia Hernandez
Saint Paul Public Library

Educational Background:

B.A. in Spanish Literature and Sociology with a Minor in Portuguese Language from the University of Arizona.



Job Responsibilities:

As a Library Associate at the Arlington Hills Community Center I coordinate and design programs for the Community Learning Lab which functions as both a job search hub and digital learning space. I teach computer classes in English and Spanish and have Open Lab hours where I help customers write resumes, fill out online applications, and practice their interview skills. I also partner with outside organizations to teach workshops (from video editing to marketing your business) and create events together such as our upcoming East Side Collaborative Employment & Resource Fair. Another role I have with the Saint Paul Public Libraries is as a Cultural Liaison. As a liaison, I visit other libraries and conduct Spanish Story time hours for children. We read, sing, and play using traditional Hispanic rhymes and oral storytelling.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy knowing that my job is to help people every day, but what that is or how it happens changes every day, sometimes every minute. Working in a public library means being a part of multilayer, mixed-use, racially & culturally diverse space and that creates very interesting and incredible stories.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

The Arlington Hills Community Center is one of the first spaces that blend the culture of public libraries and parks & recreation to meet the needs of the community. That concept and the importance of this project is what led me to choose to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

When I was in high school, I didn't expect to be doing exactly what I am doing now. I planned to study criminology and wanted to work in either a lab or do research. What I did do in high school was a volunteer for lots of places, from senior community centers to the police department to repairing homes in resource-poor neighborhoods. My job today blends a little of all of that, so it's not a total surprise, but not exactly what I planned for.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

I say try everything (sports, clubs, internships, and your own business) and don't wait for next semester or next year to start doing something. If you can't decide between two clubs or sports just pick one and see how it goes. It's not the end of the world to not like something for a semester, but it is better to try it rather than wasting time. And if you already know what your passionate about, keep doing it and improve on it, maybe you decide in college that's now what you want anymore, but what you learn from one passion you can apply to the next one. Again, just go for it!

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-632-3873 or by emailing me at: xenia.hernandez@stpaul.gov

Craig Roby
Office of Technology & Communications

Educational Background:

St Paul Central High School Graduate; Associate of Arts Degree-Computer & Electronic Technology from Brown College; Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Network Technology & Security at Metro State University.

Job Responsibilities:

I provide on-site and remote technical assistance to City of Saint Paul staff using management tools and techniques which include imaging and configuring workstations. I perform hardware and software updates for the local and wireless infrastructures. I also assist, consult, support and train staff and visitors with the City of Saint Paul's Technology equipment and infrastructure.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Helping people! Many people are intimidated by technology. People feel overwhelmed with navigating programs within technology. I see my role as one where I assist, coach and train various levels of users. I am a "teacher" of sorts--it is my job to differentiate my support based on the needs of my customers. I also enjoy solving technology-related issues, including networking hardware and software concerns.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I am committed and believe in working within the public arena. I have spent nearly 20 years working in technology in government agencies (public schools and local governments). Working for the City of St. Paul is like coming home. I am a product of St. Paul--having grown up in the area, attended and graduated from St. Paul Public Schools--this feels like a natural progression to work for the city that I love and have called home most of my life.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I have always had an interest and passion for technology. By nature--I am a problem solver and liked the challenge of pushing my own thinking. One of my favorite courses was computer programming as it allowed me to be creative and felt like a natural fit for my interest.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Talk to people about their career paths and what gives them inspiration. I think it is important to connect with people in their fields of study as those professionals are great resources for exploring the best career pathways for young people. People can share their journey of what has led them to a particular career and why they remain.

You can contact me by calling me at: 651-266-6752 or by emailing me at: Craig.Roby@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ger Pha

Office of Technology and Communication

Educational Background

Masters of Science in Geography with emphasis in Geography Information System (GIS)



Job Responsibilities:

GIS Administrator and developer, responsible for gathering data and analysis, design, coding and testing of new applications or enhancements to existing applications using ESRI ArcGIS web mapping API base technology. Performs spatial data analysis and advance tabular data queries to produce reports, maps, and graphs. Interprets and transfers data from source documents including digital and/or printed plates, record drawings, plans, profiles, and legal descriptions into GIS system.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy analyzing data and solving interesting problems that others don't really know how to solve by using Geography Information System.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

I took an internship position with the Parks and Recreation Department. as GIS Tech a few years back and found that City of Saint Paul provided a friendly work environment with endless opportunities.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I didn't know anything about Geography Information System or geography but I always wondered how maps are created. Until I went to college with an undecided major, I ended up taking a general class which was Intro to Geography. Everything seemed to sink in very well for me. I was thinking about being a Geography teacher but as I enrolled further into courses I found the GIS classes to be more fascinating and interesting to me.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Stay focus and concentrate on what you want to do as a career. Do anything that will help better your self

You can contact me by emailing me at: ger.pha@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Laura Wakefield
Office of Technology & Communications

Educational Background:

BA in Computer Information Systems from Metropolitan State University



Job Responsibilities:

I am a technical consultant and project manager responsible for coordinating tasks, staff, and budgets for technical projects. Project work entails new software implementations, process redesign, and technical upgrades. I am responsible for ensuring project success through identification of the true business need, and delivering high quality business improvements. Additionally, I work with departments to procure services and new solutions. I represent the Technology department to ensure that the business is considering all technical aspects of their desired purchases and to ensure that their solutions will fit into the City's technical infrastructure.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I especially enjoy working with a diverse group of people, and the opportunities I've had to impact a variety of departments in the City. My work as a project manager has allowed me to work with a large number of departments including the Department of Safety and Inspection, Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, Police, Finance, Human Resources, Parks, Procurement and Council Operations. It is exciting to be able to help guide and advise departments as they make technology decisions that will ultimately improve the way they do business.

Why have you chosen to work in the public service realm at the City of Saint Paul?

Public service work definitely has its challenges – but so does any job. The work I do helps other workers in the City do their job. Knowing that a completed project has successfully allowed someone to do their job more efficiently is very rewarding. The people that I work with are committed to providing all customers of the City with the highest quality of work. That makes it fun to work here, and I'm proud to be a part of that team.

When you were in high school, did you expect to be doing what you are doing now? Why or why not?

I don't think the job I'm doing now even existed when I was in high school! Technology was just beginning to enter the business world. Personal computers were introduced, but not many people owned them. The World Wide Web wasn't to be invented for another 6 years! But, when I was in high school, I knew that I wanted to help other people. And I was always interested in leading teams of people with a common goal.

What advice do you have for high school students as they're thinking about their future career?

Don't worry too much about what your career will be in 10 years. Find something that you are good at. Find something that intrigues you, and challenges you to grow intellectually and allows you to grow personally. If you find those things, your future will be yours to shape.