

Althea Jane Northcross

Somerville, MA 02143

Dr. Vanessa Boukili  
Urban Forestry & Landscape Planner  
City Hall  
93 Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143

September 28, 2018

**Re: Urban Forestry Committee Application**

Dear Dr. Vanessa Boukili,

Greetings from Union Square! I am Somerville resident and a Boston area urban landscape designer and would be absolutely delighted to serve on the Urban Forestry Committee. Five years ago, I moved from my hometown Memphis where I taught French to Inman Square to begin a master's program in landscape architecture. I love this city and would relish an opportunity to help advise, plan for and educate the public about the developing set of best practices and strategies for strengthening Somerville's Urban Forest.

Urban forestry composition and management have been a passion throughout my education as a landscape architect. In my graduate coursework, I completed an independent study at the Arnold Arboretum, performing extensive field observation and GIS mapping of woody species occurrences in Peter's Hill Woods. Since 2016 at Brown, Richardson + Rowe, the majority of the work I do is with municipalities of the Gateway Cities across Massachusetts, working to execute open space strategies across all categories of public space. Most of the work we do is in densely inhabited urban areas and the quality and maintenance of the urban canopy is always a premier concern of our office. In my role at the firm, I specialize in the creation of clear graphics for communication with the public, conducting interviews and presentations, as well as GIS mapping for presentations and analysis.

As a professional interest, I have followed the best forestry practices of neighboring municipalities and am very interested in the possibility of helping Somerville to develop powerful and precise management strategies that can respond to the reality of the health of the canopy and the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. With Somerville poised to complete their tree inventory and make substantial changes to their best management practices, I would be thrilled to be a part of this exciting and crucial planning process.

In closing, I would love the opportunity to combine my passion for mapping, urban forestry, and public education to serve my community, the City of Somerville. Attached you will find both my full career resume, as well as my landscape designer professional resume.

Best Regards,  
Althea Northcross