

## **Aya Kouaho – Treasurer**

“It is not about what you see, but what lies within, the unseen.”

*Aya Kouaho*

I am Aya Kouaho (pronounced *Ah-yah Qwa-oh*). I am seeking to be the next Urban Management Assistants of North Texas (UMANT) Treasurer.

When I was asked what I wanted to become when I grow up, I had a big smile on my face and answered: “Certified Accountant”. However, in middle school, I oriented my education toward literature and foreign languages and cultures. In college, I followed a track that allowed me to study both literature and numbers. I am currently a Grant Management Analyst, Neighborhood Services, City of Fort Worth, Texas. As a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) professional, my duties permit me to use both my Public Budgeting and Financial Management and Urban and Nonprofit Management skills. The daily use of data empowers me to excel in my capacity and produce results. Working on financial reports destined to the United States Treasury Department has prepared me to be the next UMANT Treasurer.

The first time I heard about UMANT was when the Chair of the Master’s Public Administration (MPA) Department strongly encouraged my peers and me to join this exceptional organization. In 2019, I joined as a student. I had no idea what this adventure would take me. First, I attended a few events. Then I started to volunteer. Before I knew it, I was a member of the Professional Development Committee, and working closely with UMANT’s Executive Board members.

My personal and professional experience and my degrees (Sociology and MPA) establish my dedication to public service. UMANT helped me have a clear understanding of my stand in public service. After working eight years in the public education industry, I am now in local government working to improve the wellbeing of the community. I am grateful to have the support of amazing local government professionals through UMANT. Finally, I will simply state that “My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.” (Maya Angelou:

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/maya-angelou-quotes>)