



LAUREN LANEAVE

2022 PRESIDENT

URBAN MANAGEMENT OF NORTH TEXAS CANDIDATE STATEMENT

My name is Lauren LaNeave and I am seeking to be your Urban Management Assistants of North Texas (UMANT) President for 2022. I began my local government career and UMANT journey in 2013 as a Management Intern in the Southlake City Manager's Office. After graduating with my MPA from UT Arlington, I moved down south to work for the City of San Antonio in the Office of Management and Budget as a Budget Analyst, working on Hotel Occupancy Tax-related departments. During this time, I was a member of the Urban Management Association of South Texas (UMAST) and was privileged to have the opportunity to learn from their operations. After two years in San Antonio, I returned to Southlake as the Assistant to the City Manager, and have served in this role since February 2017. In Southlake, I still focus on budget, as well as, solid waste, citizen engagement, diversity and inclusion, and intergovernmental relations.

UMANT has been a tremendous resource for me throughout my local government career. Being part of UMANT as a student and an intern helped me establish and foster a network early in my career. When I returned to North Texas, I immediately started attending UMANT events to reconnect with my peers and meet new colleagues throughout the area. After getting settled, I looked for opportunities to serve the organization to continue to add value for other local government professionals.

In 2018, I served UMANT as the Professional Development Committee Chair, focusing on events that could showcase both the tactical and strategic side of local government leadership. The next year I served as the Co-Chair of the Special Events Committee, where raised nearly \$6,000 for the scholarship fund at the annual Wine and Dine fundraiser. In this role, my co-chair and I also planned the annual UMANT One Day Conference, where we worked to continue the legacy of previous chairs and grow the event to include additional speakers through break-out sessions. In the last two years, I have had the honor of being elected as your treasurer in 2020 then vice president in 2021.

As a UMANT leader, my focus has been on the value to our members. I believe by investing in our members, we force multiply the value that UMANT adds to the region and to the profession. As President of UMANT, I will work with the officers and the Executive Committee to continue to enrich the careers of local government professionals. I feel strongly that this has always been important, but under the current conditions and uncertainty that the future holds, this has become even more critical. This outcome can be achieved through several strategies.

Add strong value for our members with quality programming and events

While the traditional path to City Management may be true for some, today the ladder to the top job looks quite different for many. With this, the goals, experience, and backgrounds of our membership has changed throughout the years and as an organization we must continue to evolve. As President, I will lead the executive committee, using membership feedback, to develop programming that provides tools for growth for all our members.

Networking and mentoring are incredible value-adds for our membership, and throughout the pandemic we have been limited in the networking we have been able to provide. As President, my hope for the coming year is that we can safely gather and return to holding networking events, both formally and informally. While we don't know what the Delta variant will hold for us, I will lead the committees through the development of strong networking and mentoring options for our members to ensure that our members receive the best value in a safe environment.

Add value to the region through membership growth and partnerships

Our organization serves TCMA regions 3, 4, and 5, and most of our membership resides within the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Within the Metroplex, there are still several cities that have no members receiving the excellent services that UMANT provides. As President, I will review the membership for geographical locations to not only help with event

LAUREN LANEAVE

2022 PRESIDENT

URBAN MANAGEMENT OF NORTH TEXAS CANDIDATE STATEMENT

locations, but to assist with recruiting efforts for new members. As UMANT continues to grow and add more members with great backgrounds and experiences, we add even more value to our membership.

As President, I plan to continue to grow our strong partnerships with organizations like NTCMA, TCMA, ICMA, and other assistant's organizations like UMACT and UMAST. During the pandemic we grew these partnerships through virtual offerings, and as President I will continue to foster and grow these relationships.

Add value to the future of the profession

Students are the future of the profession, and I strongly believe that UMANT should be a strong partner with the area universities to promote the profession. As President, I will continue the annual events that we hold with the local university graduate programs and identify opportunities to expand these partnerships. Also, continue to ensure that funding is available to offer the now twice a year scholarship to continue the investment in future city leaders.

I would be honored to have your vote for the position of President for the 2022 UMANT year. If you have any questions for me or ideas for the coming year, please feel free to contact me at llaneave@ci.southlake.tx.us or 469-744-4639.