

UCFS Board Member Profile: Jamie Lim

Name: Jamie Lim

City, State/Province, Country: Seattle, Washington

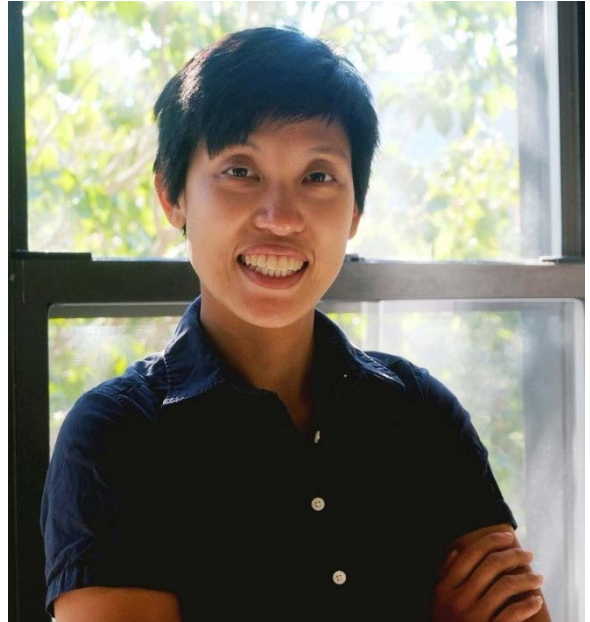
Place of Employment: Seattle Parks and Recreation

Job Title: Urban Forestry Manager

Educational level and major field: MSC
Environmental Conservation (Concentration in
Arboriculture and Forest Resources)

List any professional certifications:

- Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualified (June 2024)
- Washington State Certified Pesticide Applicator (May 2023)
- Certified Flagger (April 2023)
- ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist (February 2022)
- ISA Board Certified Master Arborist (December 2019)
- ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (August 2019)
- ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional (September 2015)
- ISA Certified Arborist (August 2012)



List any other urban forestry, arboriculture, or related organizations you're involved with:

- American Society of Consulting Arborist, Member
- ISA Arborist News Editorial Board Member, October 2024
- Judge for Puget Sound Tree Climbing Championships in Aerial Rescue event, August 2024
- Judge for British Columbia Tree Climbing Championships in Work Climb event, July 2024
- Review committee for ISA's Best Management Practice for Managing Trees during Construction, 2023
- Review committee for ISA's Best Management Practice for Root Management, Second Edition, 2023

LinkedIn profile link: www.linkedin.com/in/jamie-lim-b09b0b195

Brief bio:

Jamie Lim is the Urban Forestry Manager at Seattle Parks and Recreation and an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist with 14 years of international experience in municipal and nonprofit urban forestry. She holds an M.S. in Environmental Conservation from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where her novel research on arboriculture safety standards was published in *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.

Jamie has led urban forestry programs in the U.S. (Seattle Parks and Recreation and Central Park Conservancy) and in Singapore's National Parks Board, specializing in tree risk assessment, inventory management, pest preparedness, and policy development with an equity lens. She has contributed to ISA Best Management Practices, presented at major conferences worldwide, and serves on the ISA *Arborist News* Editorial Board.

Her leadership combines research, technology, and community engagement to advance resilient, equitable urban forests.

What got you interested in the field of urban forestry?

I was first drawn to urban forestry through my passion for the outdoors and nature. Trees have always fascinated me, not only because of their incredible biomechanics and ability to adapt to their environment, but also because of the many benefits they provide to both communities and the environment. I see trees as central to addressing climate challenges while also advancing social and environmental justice.

The technical side of arboriculture—whether it's climbing, risk assessment, or understanding how trees grow and respond—has always captivated me. Beyond the science, I am motivated by the opportunity to do meaningful work in public service. Coming from Singapore, a city internationally recognized for integrating green, blue, and grey infrastructure into a livable and sustainable urban landscape, I feel strongly about contributing my technical expertise and international experience to ensure that cities remain inclusive, resilient, and enriched by healthy urban forests.

In what ways do you want to contribute to the [mission](#) and [strategic direction](#) of UCFS? Are you particularly interested in a certain area of board service such as governance, policy, outreach, financial oversight, etc.? Do you see any of your strengths being especially helpful to leading the organization?

I want to contribute to UCFS by bringing my professional and international experience in urban forestry to strengthen the development of policies, standards, and practical guides that support professionals in the field. When I first stepped into a leadership role in municipal forestry, I struggled to find resources that addressed the real-world challenges of managing programs,

staff, and equity-focused initiatives. By advancing frameworks and best practices, I hope to help others lead with confidence, competence, and clarity.

I am especially interested in governance, policy, and outreach. Governance and policy are natural next steps in my career, allowing me to translate my technical expertise and management experience into impactful guidance that raises the quality of tree care and urban forestry management across diverse communities. Outreach is equally important to me—I believe education, mentoring, and public engagement are key to empowering the next generation of professionals and fostering partnerships that sustain strong urban forestry programs.

My strengths align with UCFS's values. With a global perspective, I bring experience from Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as from New York City and Seattle, and maintain international connections through ISA and global conferences. I am dedicated to service through public and nonprofit work, embrace innovation through modern arboriculture technologies, and uphold integrity by leading with honesty, dedication, and accountability. I also prioritize equity and inclusivity, drawing on my experience advancing Race and Social Justice initiatives in municipal forestry to ensure that urban forestry benefits are shared fairly across all communities.

What makes you happy about being an UCFS member?

What I value most about UCFS membership is the ability to connect with a wide network of urban forestry professionals across the country. It is inspiring to see the variety of work happening in different cities and to learn from others' successes and challenges to strengthen policies and programs. I also appreciate that UCFS places equity and inclusivity at the center of its mission, both in supporting diverse members and in advancing our profession. The organization provides valuable resources, publications, and educational opportunities that continue to raise professional standards. Above all, UCFS fosters a supportive and collaborative community—one that I am proud to be part of and eager to give back to through my service.

Favorite tree and why?

Larches are my favorite trees because they represent both my love for the outdoors and a deeper personal meaning. As unique deciduous conifers that thrive at higher elevations, they are remarkable in how they transform into a brilliant golden forest each Fall, especially radiant at sunrise and sunset. I first encountered them after moving here, during my very first solo backpacking trip—a journey I was initially hesitant to take. Experiencing the Larches then became symbolic for me: they remind me to have the courage to take on new challenges, to venture into the unknown, and to discover new places where I can grow and thrive. Like the larches that stand together and shine in gold, they inspire me to embrace change and find strength in new beginnings.