

# Emma E. Houston

Emma E. Houston was appointed as the Director of Diversity & Inclusion by Mayor Ben McAdams in 2016. Before that, Emma was the Assistant Program Manager for Aging and Adult Services and started her county career in 2002. Emma was the first to bring national accreditation status to a senior center in the state of Utah and became a team lead in 2013 in ensuring all 16 senior centers received national accreditation status. She is an advocate for diversity, leadership, high performance, creativity and innovation. Emma has an understanding of the process of organizational transformation and has facilitated conversations for local organizations and community groups in SLC. Her presentations have provided knowledge on how to create culturally compatible and inclusive working environments.

Emma is responsible for defining, encouraging and fostering a work culture that values diversity of talent, ideas, values and backgrounds across all parts of county government. She is the liaison between county staff and community leaders and oversees the County's diversity and inclusion commitments. She works closely with senior executives to promote and implement focused diversity strategies throughout the organization. Emma has been certified through Innovations International, Incorporated, as the Diversity, Inclusion and & Equity trainer for Salt Lake County Government.

A longtime community volunteer and advocate, Emma is the former chairwoman of the Governor's Office of Ethnic Affairs, executive secretary for the YWCA Utah, The Children's Justice Center, Utah Aging Alliance Board, and the Senior Centers and Nutrition Sites Board. Emma currently serves on the Reverend France A. Davis Scholarship Board, The Utah State MLK Commission, The *HistoryMakers* Regional Board and is the president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Upsilon Beta Omega Chapter. Emma has strong affiliations with The Huntsman Cancer Foundation, The Judge Anne Striba Cancer Foundation and The Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation Utah Affiliate.

Emma has been presented with the following community awards.

- *Certificate of Recognition*, The *HistoryMakers*
- *Trail Blazer Award*, Senior Charity Hope Foundation
- *Business of the Year Award*, Iota Iota Iota Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated
- *Spirit of Delta Award*, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
- *Outstanding Achievement Award Community Service*, YWCA Utah
- *Volunteer of the Year*, Huntsman Cancer Institute

Emma holds a B.A. in Business Management and a MBA in Business Administration, both from the University of Phoenix.