



Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

April 22, 2016

Honorable Members  
Providence City Council  
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, I am this day appointing Jr Neville Songwe of 1 Chestnut Street, Providence, RI 02903, as a member of the Providence School Board for a term to expire on January 31, 2019, and respectfully submits the same for your approval. Mr. Songwe replaces Ivette C. Luna, who recently moved out of the City of Providence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Elorza", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jorge O. Elorza  
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 19 2016

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Loi L. [unclear]", followed by the word "CLERK".

Mayor Jorge O. Elorza  
Providence City Hall  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

April 19th 2016

Dear Mayor Elorza,

It is with deep regret that I submit my resignation from the Providence School Board, effective immediately. I have recently moved out of the district and am no longer eligible to serve on the board.

Please know that I have thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the Providence School Board to further the educational well-being of Providence Students. I am proud of the efforts and the significant progress the board and the city have made toward improving education and overall success of our community's children. As a city, board, and as individuals, you are all tremendously talented, and I feel lucky to have served by your side these past few months.

I hope to continue to support PPSD via other projects and initiatives, in particular our ELL students, which are extremely important to me. I am committed to addressing the opportunity gap, ensuring that we continue to provide the necessary support and resources to both our students and teachers, and to increasing the number of success stories that stem from PPSD. I will always champion this cause and remain available to the district via telephone or email.

I look forward to seeing your collaboration unfold and hope you continue to serve the students and families with enormous dedication and skill.

Sincerest Regards,



Ivette C. Luna

cc.: Providence School Board President Nick Hemond  
Respective School Board Members  
Superintendent Chris Maher

# Jr Neville Songwe

*Enthusiastic, creative, detail oriented, knowledgeable and versatile*

## **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

I am a confident, highly driven, talented product/business development professional with broad experience in the U.S., Africa, Europe and Asia. I have 10 years of practical hands-on product design and entrepreneurial experience. I am resourceful and proactive. I am proficient in managing large multi-disciplinary teams to deliver complex, multi-faceted projects. I combine excellent strategic planning abilities with strong communication skills to ensure projects are delivered on time and within budget.

My competencies and skill sets include:

- Achieving over 90% operational objectives by contributing information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews.
- Enhancing the firm and organization's reputation by accepting ownership and responsibility,
- Meeting 100% financial objectives by forecasting requirements; preparing annual budget, analyzing variances and initiating corrective actions.
- Accomplishing human resource objectives by recruiting, training, communicating job expectations; reviewing job contributions and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Project Management, Management Proficiency, Process Improvement, Self-Development, Planning, Performance Management.
- Strong working knowledge and advocacy skills with government and a range of stakeholders
- Strong Motivation skills and great Communication skills

## **LECTURING EXPERIENCE**

**University of Rhode Island** - Guest lecturer - Entrepreneurship Program - **July 2015**

- BUS 499 ENTREPRENEURSHIP - Prof. Edward Mazze - Lecture topic: Design and Entrepreneurship, based on my experience.

**Rhode Island School of Design** - Guest lecturer - Industrial Design Department - **March 2015**

- **BioMotive Human Powered Vehicles (HPV)** - Prof. Khipra Nichols. Lecture topic: Logic Model and Value Proposition for Designers

## **DESIGN EXPERIENCE**

**Joneso Design and Consulting, Inc. RI** - Founder & President      **2006 - Present**

At Joneso Design ([www.jonesodesign.com](http://www.jonesodesign.com)), a product research, design and development firm, I am responsible for driving the mission, strategy and operations in the company, including all the new product development, brand strategy and positioning, marketing, mass media, market research, package design, sourcing, procurement and quality management. I generate design briefs and make presentations to potential investors and other financial stakeholders.

Our flagship projects are: A police car interior redesign (Brijo), a manual wheelchair design and a cup for persons with Parkinson and Essential tremors.

Accomplishments: I was able to offer the end-users a product that meets their need in a cost effective way. I

## Jr Neville Songwe

was also able to draw in a tremendous amount of free press and consequently secure private funding for the company's projects. I attracted and retained great talent and foster a creative working environment. One of my personal favorite achievements, was inspiring my team, company stakeholders and clients.

Skills Used: Product design skills, User Experience and User Centered experience, Research skills, Modeling & Prototyping skills, Managerial skills, Entrepreneurial skills, Communication skills, Project management skills, Multi-tasking skills, 2D & 3D Skills, Social media skills.

### **Item (Providence, RI) - Designer Contractor**

**June - September 2005**

- At Item, I worked as a design contractor, researching and designing the user/object interaction sequence for medical devices. My responsibilities included: Studying and documenting the relationship between the Proctologist (doctor), Nurse and Patient during a proctology examination for prostate cancer. Researched and designed a new user interface for the medical devices used by the doctors and nurses during the proctology examination
- Skills Used: User Experience and User Centered experience, Research skills, Communication skills, Project management skills, Multi-tasking skills, 2D Skills

### **Curitel Pantech (Seoul, South Korea) - Industrial Designer**

**2004 - 2005**

Pantech R&D Center, I-2, DMC Sangam-dong Mapo-go, Seoul, Korea

- At Curitel, I worked as a cell phone designer on the "Infotainment: design team. My responsibilities included: Researching and designing the next generation cell phones (Infotainment) and user-experience, targeted at Americans between the ages of 15 - 25. Researched and studied the marketing briefs, sketched 20 concepts, created life-style storyboard narratives, and presented to senior management. I researched on product properties such as cost, product material, quality of product etc. I also designed the Graphic User Interface (GUI) for all the cell phone concepts models and worked with in-house engineers, model makers and CNC prototyping manufacturers
- Skills Used: Research skills, 2D & 3D Design skills, Modeling & Prototyping skills, Peoples' skills, Communication skills.

## ***NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE***

### **Urban Ventures, Inc. (Providence, RI) - Executive Director**

**2010 - Present**

At Urban Ventures, Inc. ([www.urbanventuresri.org](http://www.urbanventuresri.org)), a non profit organization, I work with more than 150 Rhode Island entrepreneurs and startup businesses, providing a full range of business consulting services, counseling, training and mentorship; Business planning; Personal and business finance; Skills development; Market strategy and research. I'm responsible for the day-to-day operations, including implementation of the organization's policies and programs, as established by the Board of Directors. I publicly and privately advocate for urban micro businesses, with the strategic objective of impacting policy.

Accomplishments: I have ensured and managed over \$800,000 in State funding, to the organization. I have worked and positively impacted more than 150 entrepreneurs and business in the urban communities in Rhode Island. I authored the: Broadband Rhode Island "E-Incubator", Micro Business Blue print and Micro Business size standards. I have conducted many public business workshops and seminars, in community centers and churches. I have been able to attract and retain a very diverse and experience board of directors.

Skills Used: Research skills, Modeling & Prototyping skills, Managerial skills, Entrepreneurial skills,

# Jr Neville Songwe

Communication skills, Project management skills, Multi-tasking skills, Social media Skills, People skills.

## EDUCATION

**Masters in Industrial Design (MID)** - Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, RI - 2005

**B.A. Industrial Design & Visual Communication** - Istituto Superiore degli Industriale Artistiche (ISIA), Rome, Italy - 1999

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- 3D - Autodesk Alias
- 3D - SolidThinking
- 3D - Rhinoceros
- 3D - AutoCAD
- 2D - Adobe Photoshop Suite
- Autodesk Vred and KeyShot rendering software
- Modeling & Prototyping
- Materials
- Website and Social media development
- Mind mapping & Story board software

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Inventor - Awarded utility patents by the USPTO- 2009
- Featured in 15 articles ranging from sources such as CNN Money to the Providence Journal; and featured in television news coverage (CNN's "The next big thing", ABC6 News and NBC News) in connection with the Brijo project.

## EXPERTISE

- Experience working across disciplines and industries
- Fluent in English, Italian and French
- Excellent understanding of the management of donor and investor funding, reporting and working
- Expertise in developing new product and new venture start-up
- Consultation, Facilitation, Training, and Mentoring skills
- Experience working in different countries and across cultures

## AWARDS

- Rhode Island School of Design Industrial Design Faculty Award - 2005
- President Scholar at Rhode Island School of Design 2003-2005

## BOARDS

- Ocean State Development Authority - 2015 - Present
- Lt. Governor's Small Business Advocacy Council - 2012 - 2014
- African Alliance of Rhode Island - 2010 - Present

## REFERENCES

- **Dr. Edward Mazze** - Distinguished University Professor of Business Administration at the URI
  - Tel: (401) 295-5802 - Email: [edwardmazze@uri.edu](mailto:edwardmazze@uri.edu)
- **Mr. Jaime Aguayo** - President of Urban Ventures Inc. Board of Directors, RI
  - Tel: (401) 295-5802 - Email: [jaim.aguayo242@gmail.com](mailto:jaim.aguayo242@gmail.com)
- **Major Steven Melaragno** - Director of Public Safety, Roger Williams University, RI
  - Tel: (401) 255-0429 - Email: [smelaragno@rwu.edu](mailto:smelaragno@rwu.edu)