

Amanda Olson Biography

Amanda currently serves as the Executive Director of the Augusta Housing Authority, where she has been since 2013. A graduate of the University of Maine at Augusta, she has spent 20 years working in federal and state programs, with more than a decade focused on affordable housing. Through Amanda's leadership, Augusta Housing has successfully expanded its role through the strategic growth of programs and development of high-quality examples of affordable housing including the award-winning Hodgkins School Apartments, which created 47 units of senior housing through the adaptive reuse of a blighted, historic middle school and most recently, Maple Street Apartments, with 29 units of new-construction workforce housing. Amanda also provides consulting services in the area of affordable housing including project-based vouchers, policy revisions, inspections, grant applications, and SEMAP.

As a lifelong resident of Augusta, Amanda is passionate about her hometown and has poured herself into work and volunteer opportunities that improve lives in the Capital City. Currently serving as an At-Large Member of the Augusta Board of Education, Amanda has also served as past Vice-President of the Augusta Downtown Alliance, and President of the Friends of Lithgow Library during the Capital Campaign for renovation and expansion. She has been the recipient of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Award, the Mayor's Recognition of Excellence Award for housing-related work in her community as well as several other recognitions.

Amanda lives in Augusta with her husband, Andy, where together they operate Maine Mushroom Company, a microfarm focused on year-round production of gourmet mushrooms. Andy and Amanda have five children; Jaden, Olivia, Eben, Kyle and Ashley. In addition to volunteering in the community and spending time with family, Amanda enjoys hiking, exploring Maine, and spending time with her horses, motorcycle and chickens.