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# CHICAGO MARKET

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A COMMUNITY

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## Voter Guide

Launch Board  
fall 2014



# Welcome to your Voter Guide for Chicago Market's first Board of Directors election.

Inside, you'll find everything you need to make an informed decision about the Board candidates and be prepared to vote beginning Dec. 7.

All Chicago Market Owners in good standing are eligible to vote. The voting period runs from Dec. 7-Dec. 20. Election results will be tabulated and announced shortly thereafter.

We're hosting a Meet the Candidates event from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 7 at Dank Haus in Lincoln Square. You'll be able to vote onsite at the event, if you like.

## Voting Particulars

- You'll receive a personalized voting link in your inbox this Sunday, December 7.
- You'll be voting to create a 15-person Board.

## Current Leadership

A slate of seven current Chicago Market Steering Committee members is offered as one of your voting options. If you choose the slate, you will then have eight remaining votes for the rest of the board. All of the applicants on the slate have been heavily involved in Chicago Market operations for much of 2014; a couple of the committee members have been a part of the co-op organization since the very beginning. Retaining these people will continue the institutional knowledge of Chicago Market once the Board is seated. The slate will be elected if it receives more "yes" than "no" votes.

## How to Consider Candidates

We are thrilled to have 27 candidates running for the Board in addition to the 7 Steering Committee members. Choosing among 27 candidates, however, is challenging, so we have come up with five criteria we recommend you consider to make informed choices for who will represent you on the Launch Board: Skills, Experience, Diversity, Knowledge, and Professionalism and Responsibility. We hope examining candidates with the filter of these criteria will help you in making your decisions.

**Skills:** Our Launch Board ideally will be made up of people with particular skills to help us build the co-op. Many of these skills we already have on the Steering Committee, but we are building a big organization and need many skilled people to make our vision a reality. The skills that we have identified as helpful to our development right now include:

- Accounting/Finance/Financial Strategy/Community/Public Financing
- Architecture/Commercial Real Estate/Development/Interior Design
- Human Resources/Volunteer Management
- Board Development/Management
- Marketing/Communications
- Writing/Content
- Legal/Regulatory/Licensing
- Grocery/Retail/Procurement
- Owner Recruiting
- Owner Relations/Management
- Event Planning
- IT/Systems Management/Developers
- Programs

**Experience:** Candidates do not need to have board experience. But we recommend that you consider candidates' experience with Chicago Market or other co-ops and other boards as part of your overall criteria in making your decision.

**Diversity:** Chicago Market represents our whole community, and our leadership should reflect that.

**Knowledge:** Do candidates have knowledge about food, farms, distribution systems, or retail groceries? Do candidates have knowledge about the values and principles of cooperative development?

**Professionalism and Responsibility:** The Launch Board will have fiduciary responsibility for the development and implementation of the co-op. Do candidates have backgrounds or experiences that suggest they will be professional and responsible members of the Board?



Local.



Sustainable.



Yours.

Applications for all Board candidates are on the following pages.



**Gregory Berlowitz**  
gregb@chicagomarket.coop



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I am the founder of Chicago Market. I have been on the Steering Committee since Chicago Market began, and believe passionately in this dedicated group of people's ability and drive to build a community owned and operated food co-op in Chicago. The launch board will be organizing in the most critical time of Chicago Market's development; we will be making foundational decisions such as site selection, procurement policy, hiring of staff and employees, and other decisions which will form the basis of our operating food co-op.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I have been part of Chicago Market's leadership since it began and have learned a tremendous amount about consensus-based, group decision making processes and organizations. I am also on the Leadership team of Ruby Garden, one of Chicago Park District's first organic community gardens, in Schreiber Park. I am a former board member of the Land Connection, a not-for-profit organization which trains organic farmers and helps farmers buy and transition land from conventional to organic.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am an attorney. I have a background in writing. I also worked in the restaurant industry for many years, and have volunteered at farmers markets. I also have a theatre background which compels me to desire to speak in front of large groups.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I have been excited and looking forward to this board forming before anyone had ever heard of Chicago Market. I am not only committed to Chicago Market, but I am also committed to co-op development in the larger arena, and represent Chicago Market in a new Chicagoland Co-op Coalition, which is a partnership between Dill Pickle Food Co-op, Sugar Beet Co-op, Prairie Food Co-op, Shared Harvest Co-op, Rogers Park Food Co-op, and Chicago Market dedicated to assisting and fostering the development other food co-ops in the Chicagoland area. I am also on the Parent Advisory Council for Chicago Public Schools school lunch program.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I volunteered with Common Ground Food Co-op in Urbana for three years, before it expanded into its current space. I was a member of the Wedge Co-op in Minneapolis and Willy Street Co-op in Madison. I also was formerly part of a food buying club in Chicago.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I am deeply committed to supporting farmers who follow organic practices, responsible environmental land stewardship, and sustainability. I enjoy growing my own food, canning food, and cooking. I believe that the industrial food system is not only environmentally irresponsible, but it is more concerned with profits than health and nutrition. I believe in our right to know how our food was produced, to learn all of the ingredients in food, and the truth about sourcing and production. I also believe in supporting access to healthy food for low-income people and in reasonable wages for farm workers and people working in food production. I hope that Chicago Market will be a leader in teaching people about honest food procurement and production and help to demystify food laws and labeling complications.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes

**Malcolm Haar**



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I'm running for the Board to help transform my idea of a dream grocery store into a real, live store. My dream grocery store? A store that knows that "Grown in the USA" isn't a good enough label. A store that fosters community. A store where my ideas can go further than a comment card box. A store that doesn't have an organic "section". A store that celebrates the bounties of each season (even in the winter!). A store that supports local food producers. In short, I'm running for the Board to help open a store that embodies my values.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I've been a part Chicago Market Steering Committee since June. I've been actively involved with the Steering Committee, helping to shape the co-op's direction and helping to move it forward. I've also been the I.T. Chair, responsible for the co-op's technology pieces.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I bring a background in software development and I.T. I have also been a small business owner -- I started and ran a small neighborhood cookware shop.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I'm a consensus decision maker by personality, and will bring that to the launch Board.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Chicago Market is my first experience with a food co-op.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

My biggest passion is "local". Eating locally, supporting local farms, and supporting our local economy, is important to me.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes

**current  
leadership  
slate**

**current  
leadership  
slate**



**Kelly Hewitt**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I am running for the Chicago Market launch board because I want to be a part of creating a positive change in the community. I want to empower people to make educated choices that will genuinely help them. I want to help the people that work hard to do the right thing succeed. Chicago needs a grocery store that will change the way the food system works and I fully believe that Chicago Market is that element for change.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I have been with Chicago Market since the first meeting Greg Berlowitz held in early 2013. I've served on the launch team and Steering Committee since then.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

My career is in client service. I excel at anticipating and meeting the needs of people. I think that my background in client service can help shape a successful owner relations group. I also think that it could be helpful in making new connections in the community and professionally.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I've been with the group from the beginning. I know the vision and I am committed to seeing it turn into a reality. I am not afraid to ask tough questions and I will work hard to do the work needed, even if it isn't glamorous. I've spent a lot of time in my professional life implementing processes and I hope that I can bring some of that experience to the Board.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I've never been an owner of a food co-op but there is a food co-op where my sister lives in Great Barrington, MA which sparked my interest in co-ops. That co-op was where I really learned about how close knit a food community can be and why I'm so interested in seeing one here.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I'm committed to local and sustainable eating. I feel very passionately about ethically raised meat. I want to help small farms do the right thing and I want to educate people to eat healthier. I also think food prices are too high and I believe everyone should eat well every day. I feel strongly about eliminating processed foods and giving people all of the information they need in order to make better food choices.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

yes



**Grant Kessler**  
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**current  
leadership  
slate**

**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I've been a long-time advocate for healthier, local foods and an improved food system, but I often took a negative, complaining approach. Building Chicago Market is a chance to instead create a positive solution. No longer do I complain; now I'm a part of the solution toward a stronger, more resilient local food shed.

Why run? It's simple. I am running because there are over 600 people in my community who want this grocery store. I find the combined power of your voices compelling – there is work to do on your behalf and as a Steering Committee member thus far, I've had the honor of doing it. I am powerfully drawn to continue. For you.

I am also building this store for the producer side of the equation. Some of my proudest moments thus far have been when farmers have joined you and become Owners of Chicago Market. We have succeeded in defining "our community" to include farmers. You, the community, should be proud that you've built something farmers and local food producers want!

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

For three years I have been an active participant on the Executive Team at FamilyFarmed, working to plan and produce the three-day annual Good Food Festival & Conference. My board experience has been working for the past year and a half as a Steering Committee member for Chicago Market. The Steering Committee played the role of "acting board" working to set internal policies, plan strategies for marketing and promotion, and recruit our first Owners. My role on the team as Project Manager means I've facilitated our team's progress and consensus; coordinated with outside vendors on major projects; resolved internal discussions; set structural policies and protocols; and managed event coordination for many of our tabling and other appearances this summer and fall.

I feel I have a good sense of the big picture and enjoy resolving roadblocks by recognizing them as patterns and working to provide an ongoing structural solution rather than a Band Aid.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am a self-employed freelance food photographer with over 20 years' experience shooting in Chicago's food, restaurant and dining scene – this has made me a tenacious, independent self-starter who can manage time and projects well.

In recent years I have also taken on consulting work with FamilyFarmed managing social media accounts, outreach, and marketing efforts. Over 4500 people attend the three-day Good Food Festival and many attend because of the work I've done to get them there. I am a good fit for both FamilyFarmed and Chicago Market because I have been so active in the local food scene in recent years and enjoy strong connections to farmers, chefs, and local food producers and organizations.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

Chicago Market is already a top priority for me. I have spent the last year and a half working long hours to build this co-op. I am familiar with the workload and am able to make a 110% commitment in both time and energy.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I have never been a co-op owner elsewhere, but I have recently made a point of visiting other food co-ops when traveling. So far, I've visited and shopped at co-ops in Milwaukee, Madison, Viroqua and North Carolina. They are wonderful. They have personality. They are welcoming. You can feel the community pulsing within them. Ours will be a magical place just as those are.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Black Krim, Inciardi's Paste, Green Zebra, Lemon Drop, Cherokee Purple – I am passionate about preserving the poetry of heirloom tomatoes and about having lots of apple varieties, and about pork with flavor and names like Mangalitsa and Red Wattle and Duroc. We have incredible farmers at our fingertips, and they grow such things with sustainable practices. We can be eating more of them. We can stock grocery store shelves with them. And we can teach ourselves and our kids to taste the difference. I would like to see more variety, more poetry, in our fresh local food aisles and less variety coming from processed foods. A grocery store with thousands of SKUs (individual products) but only "red" and "green" apples has missed the mark.

I already have this variety – I shop at farmers markets. But what I want is for these foods to be reasonably priced and readily available to all in our community, every day.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes.

**current  
leadership  
slate**



**Heather Lalley**  
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@flourrrrrl



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I am passionate about the availability of local food in our community. And I'm delighted at the prospect of year-round, one-stop shopping for sustainable, local food here in Chicago. I've been working hard with the Chicago Market Steering Committee since last summer and I've been in charge of most all of the written communication generated by and for the Market.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

Since June, I've been volunteering my time to serve on the Chicago Market Steering Committee. I have attended numerous committee meetings of this group to discuss everything from Chicago Market's logo to its payment plan to our upcoming events. Most specifically, I have been in charge of most all of the written communication generated by and for the Market.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am a journalist, specifically a food writer. I've written a farm-to-table cookbook about Chicago chefs who work with local farmers. Farmers and chefs -- these are groups I know well and am passionate about. I am able to provide the Market Board with clear, concise written words to make our story known. Also, I'm a culinary-school graduate and have worked in a professional kitchen. I would love to be involved in future educational programming for the co-op.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I've learned, through my time with the Chicago Market Steering Committee, that I actually enjoy consensus-based decision making. I'll admit, I found it frustrating at first. But I've grown to like it. And I've been so impressed by the depth of talent and commitment present on the Chicago Market Steering Committee. I look forward to seeing that expand further with the Launch Board.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Although I grew up in Minnesota -- the hotbed of food co-ops -- I'm sad to say my family never shopped at one. From my research, though, I've learned about some amazing co-ops around the country and I very much look forward to shopping, eating and learning at our very own co-op.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Organic food is great, to be sure. But our food sourcing is so much more complicated than slapping an organic label on something. I support transparency in our food labeling, so consumers know exactly how it is grown and by whom. And I'm a big supporter of local food. We can do so much for our economy and our health simply by supporting our local farmers.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

yes

**Tony Neuhoff**  
tonyn@chicagomarket.coop



**current  
leadership  
slate**

**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I currently serve on Chicago Market's Steering Committee and want to continue my commitment to the organization and the current leadership's amazing efforts to build a member-owned grocery store for the diverse residents of Chicago's North Side.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

I've been Chair of Chicago Market's Legal and Regulatory Committee for more than a year. Working with the Market's leadership, I've learned that I am naturally inclined toward group decision-making and believe that better decisions result from it. Previously, I was previously the public relations and marketing chair of a museum's young professional board.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I have worked for more than seven years as a corporate attorney in the investment management industry, where I conduct negotiations and manage complex financial transactions. I am also involved in general business matters at my company, including insurance, loans, employment and other issues. Previously, I worked for five years in the nonprofit sector, in editing and as the public relations and marketing manager for an art museum. I am particularly proud of the professionalism that the current leadership has brought to Chicago Market and endeavor to continue that.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I am passionate about food quality and local economies. Ever since becoming a vegetarian more than 20 years ago, I have been on a path of discovery about where our food comes from and the impact our buying choices have on our communities. More than anything, I want to see Chicago Market succeed because I want to shop there alongside others who are choosing to spend their dollars at local businesses.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I've never had the chance to shop at a co-op consistently, but whenever I travel I seek them out. Willy Street, Common Ground, Blooming Foods, Park Slope -- these are all amazing co-ops that I have visited. In my current role on the Steering Committee, I attended a day-long seminar for Illinois co-op start-ups hosted by Common Ground in Urbana, Illinois.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I have been the resident vegan among Chicago Market's leadership. Healthy, plant-based, whole foods are my passion. I think it's important to have a variety of voices at the table, so while others argue for a full-service butcher at the Market, I'll be there working toward a vegan bakery.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes.

**current  
leadership  
slate**

**Anthony Todd**  
artodd1@gmail.com  
@FoodieAnthony  
Anthony-todd.com



**current  
leadership  
slate**

**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I am running for the Chicago Market launch board because i'm incredibly excited about doing the work to make this grocery store and community gathering place a reality. I've been a member of the Steering Committee since April of 2014, I've managed the marketing campaign for the Market, and I've gotten to know so many passionate owners and local food advocates. I want to do my part to grow that community.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

My primary experience in this area comes from my time working on Chicago Market - I do not have prior board experience, but am eager to learn.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I have two different career tracks, both of which would be useful to Chicago Market. During the day, I'm a corporate attorney, and am rapidly gaining experience with finance, corporate structure, regulations and employment laws. In my off hours, I'm an experienced food and drink journalist, with extensive knowledge of the local food scene and plenty of communications and writing skills.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

After putting so many hours and so much work into helping this project to get off the ground, I want to see it through to completion!

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I have been an Owner of a food co-op since I was a small child. First, the New Pioneer Co-op in Iowa City, then the Mississippi Market Co-op in St. Paul while I was in college and the Hyde Park Co-op during graduate school. I'm also an owner of the Grand Marais Whole Foods Co-op in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

My primary personal issue is sustainable meat. I'm a stickler for local, free range and humanely raised animals, and would rather eat vegetarian than eat factory farmed meat.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes.

**current  
leadership  
slate**



## Mark Ahlheim

www.uncommonhomes.com for more about me and my values. Look especially at the 'Ethos' and 'I'm Different' tabs.

onefinehouse.wordpress.com for a blog about 'Healthy Homes in a Toxic World', and a fuller discussion on topics that I believe are relevant to Chicago Market Owners and shoppers.

Email: thedairyguy@hotmail.com



### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

Because I care and know I can make a difference. I have the skills, experience, and perspective to help.

I also miss working in the grocery business. When I worked in natural foods I was happier and more proud. I loved being part of a group with shared goals and vision and which felt like it was part of something bigger. This launch helps satisfy those needs and begins to stoke my entrepreneurial spirit.

Our kids have been taught to take care of Mother Earth, the importance of healthy food, and food's connection to the farm. After tending to a backyard organic garden, starting a composting bin, and numerous trips to Amish Indiana, my middle daughter says she wants to be a farmer. I couldn't be prouder.

So I run to align my vocational interests with my personal values; to honor my children's commitment to environmental stewardship and healthy eating; and to act as a role model, showing my kids that getting involved and working on things you love and believe in makes a difference.

### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?

#### Do you have prior board experience?

As an undergrad at the University of Detroit, I was Chairman of the Student Activities Board, the group responsible for planning all on-campus events. By charter, this group had to appeal to a cross-section of campus interests and constituents.

In New York, I was a Board member of the American Dance Theatre of the Deaf. My work there began as a volunteer with the Brooklyn Literacy Program. My student was a Coney Island High School Senior and totally illiterate, yet fluent in sign language. His brother was deaf AND a dancer with a belief that anything in life is possible.

More recently, during a career in public transportation, my analytical work frequently dictated that I consider and weigh very diverse points of view representing various community groups. My work especially here in Chicago as part of the RTA required that I both attend and present at Board meetings, and advise Senior Staff on policy issues where multi-criteria decision-making was the norm.

### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

As a Civil Engineer I learned how to problem solve and how buildings are built, valuable insights as we build-out the store. As a real estate buyer's agent and Certified Negotiation Expert, I have the skill-sets to evaluate specific sites and negotiate purchase or lease agreements.

As a Buyer on the Nutrition Team, Grocery Team Leader, and Shift Manager at Whole Foods, I was mentored by the best and taught buying, merchandising, and store operations. As a Trader Joes' Full-Timer, I did almost everything: rung up customers, accepted deliveries, hired staff, cashed out. I was part of the management team that opened two stores. This will help when hiring a general manager.

At the Wharton School of Business, I majored in Marketing and Finance, and know the language of both. I was taught how to look at the big picture, how to create a defensible niche in the marketplace, and how to think through strategic decisions critical to a company's long-term health and competitive position.

### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

I set national sales records for Whole Foods Market when working as a Frozen Buyer. I was responsible for finding the Lincoln Ave site for Trader Joe's North Center store—their highest grossing sales store east of the Mississippi. And I make a pretty darn good lasagna.

### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

At Whole Foods, I met periodically with representatives from food co-ops like Organic Valley (dairy) and Frontier Natural Products Co-op (primarily herbs and spices). The next-door neighbor to the Amish family we visit when traveling to Shipshewana is an Amish dairyman, and part of the Organic Valley cooperative.

As a consumer, I have always tended to shop the smaller independent natural food retailers in search of local artisan foods, some of which are co-ops: Harmony in Beimidji, MN; Common Ground in Urbana, IL; Maple City Market in Goshen, IN; Lexington Market in Buffalo, NY.

I admire the co-op business model which encourages active involvement, democratic governance, and advocates for a triple bottom line. Being part of a food co-op is one of the reasons I am so excited by the possibility of serving on this Board and an attribute that will help distinguish the Chicago Market brand in Chicago's retail grocery space.

### What food issues are you passionate about?

I believe many health problems can be cured through food and lifestyle change. Most grocers are beholden to agribusiness conglomerates whose nutrient-void and chemically-laden products contribute to childhood obesity, allergies, asthma, and autism. We can make a difference by educating consumers to take responsibility for their own health and knowing the healing power of food, while challenging the entire supply chain to make healthful foods more affordable.

I also believe that Chicago Market can have a measurable impact on the local economy. Why can't Chicago be an incubator of the nation's best local food manufacturers? The next Amy's Kitchen, Burt's Bees, Bob's Red Mill, or 7th Generation might get their start here if given venture capital support and a nudge from retailers like Chicago Market. These companies all started with modest goals and limited resources, and they all got their start somewhere. Why can't the next generation of natural food manufacturers start here?

### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

yes



## Angela Barros-Semler

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twitter.com/adventuresofang  
facebook.com/angmsemmler

### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

I am running for the board because I am passionate about local, organic food and the impact it can have on the local economy and community. I use my consumer voice every time I buy groceries to support local economies, humanely raised meat and the environment, through pesticide free produce.

When I moved to Chicago less than two years ago I was struck by the lack of access to affordable and locally produced food at the major grocery chains and started seeking out other options. Since that time I've discovered so many hidden wonders in Chicago's local food scene.

I want to get involved in supporting a project from the ground up. Since moving to Chicago in May 2012 I have sought every opportunity to get involved in the local food movement here both through work and volunteering. After working for two start-ups I have experienced the dedication, detail and passion that goes into growing an idea into a business.

### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?

#### Do you have prior board experience?

I work in accounting/administration for a property management firm. My job includes helping coordinate board elections, facilitating communication between board members and property owners, and coordinating bill payment and reimbursement of numerous condo associations. I've watched how the democratic process plays out and how disagreements are best handled among boards with many viewpoints. An openness to others points of view and strong listening skills seem crucial to making decisions and getting things done.

### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

I became the General Manager of an artisan teahouse at a time when the company was running a significant deficit. I focused on analyzing sales data, directing the store's resources to our most profitable items, cutting costs, and establishing a more efficient system for inventory. I significantly boosted profitability, however, due to insufficient sales to cover costs, the store went bankrupt.

I then worked as Supervisor for a mobile farmers market company. My job focused on increasing coordination at the markets and creating and implementing systems for tracking product waste. Now in my current role, my work is split between office management and accounting.

Working for two start-ups, both of which went out of business, gave me great insight about what can cause a young company to fail, rather than survive. I saw first hand how much work it takes to start a company and bring it to a profitable point.

### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

I am a good listener and always open to new ideas. I think working in a consensus-based group these traits will be crucial to fostering open communication and efficient problem solving.

### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

My food co-op experience is primarily as a customer. I have always preferred to use my purchasing power to support local businesses. I have shopped local as much as possible both living in California and now here in Chicago.

### What food issues are you passionate about?

The food issues that reverberate most deeply with me are humane treatment for animals, decreasing food waste, and better food production methods that work in unison with the environment. The way we're producing food now and the significant percentage of it that goes to the landfill is inefficient, wasteful and not sustainable. By volunteering as a board member, I hope to promote more sustainable methods of food production through the many great brands the Market coop would carry. As well as encourage both teaching and taking of classes in the space that the coop provides. I think so many of the issues in our food system today are amplified by the lack of education about them.

### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes

Local.  
Sustainable.  
Yours.



## Nisha Kapadia Bhesania

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instagram: nishamkapadia



### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

Chicago Market was one of the first things I learned about when I came back to Chicago this past summer. I wanted to find a way to be involved, but I wasn't sure how, until I actually asked! I knew I wanted to do something to contribute because I really believe in the principles of the co-operative movement; I believe there is a parallel universe to big (unsustainable) corporate and small (unsustainable) non-profit. There is something somewhere in the vast middle that has a real chance at working - for people, for the planet, and for our pocketbooks. And I want to get in at the ground floor to ask the tough questions and find the tough solutions to make something that people can feel good about and that can last.

### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?

#### Do you have prior board experience?

After graduating from university in Michigan, I helped my friend start her community gardening non-profit, which has evolved to include a lot more than that - educational programming, a farmers market, and a for-profit garden supply store. I was involved at the very early stages, from writing the mission statement, putting together the first board (I was the treasurer and interim president, briefly), strategic planning, and our first fun-raiser event.

While at the Sacramento Hunger Coalition, I was in charge of bringing together stakeholders in the local and regional food system to agree on the long- and short-term agendas of the group. It was an iterative process that took several different directions over a period of years, with the actors changing roles over time. In the end, the group played the role of an umbrella body where people doing important work in the food system could come to share their successes and seek guidance or support.

### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

I have a Master's degree in Food Policy and a background in environment and food issues, including everything from nutrition education to farmers markets to food stamps to urban agriculture and beyond. More lately, my interests have evolved to sustainable food supply chains - sourcing, distribution, logistics. I want to improve the food system by choosing the best products and ingredients available while taking into account environmental, ethical, and economic issues.

Currently, I work at sustainable zero waste restaurant and am the Event Director of the Midwest region for a start-up food enterprise based in New York. In the latter position I place a growing network of local small farmers and small-batch makers into events such as farmers markets, pop-ups, and street festivals.

### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

I love to network and connect people who need/want things with the things or people they need/want. I often ask a lot of questions because I want to push the boundaries of how things have always been done, but I don't get (too) discouraged when my boundary-pushing needs to be pared back to match reality (at least for the time being).

Also, I am currently assisting the Owner Relations team lay out and implement a strategy to identify and engage owners in various aspects of the Market such as organizing events, financing, and other types of support.

### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

During my undergraduate years I worked at the People's Food Co-op in Ann Arbor, Michigan, while living in the student co-ops, the first or second largest student co-op system in the US. While living in London, I was a member of the Co-operative Group, the root of the movement itself (though it looks very different from Chicago Market, which is part of the beauty of co-ops!). I've been a member of REI for some years and quite enjoy the perks of a more corporate-style co-op for my high-quality outdoor gear needs.

### What food issues are you passionate about?

I want to make the best food choices the easiest ones. I'd love to see the healthiest, freshest, most sustainably produced food available to everyone everywhere. It's important to support the growers and makers who subscribe to this philosophy by bringing their products to market. I am fascinated by the complexities of that supply chain and keeping it as short as possible by establishing policies for sourcing.

Food is the issue that unifies us. Unfortunately, for too many for too long, it has become a fleeting thought at the periphery of their busy lives. However, it seems the average person is now starting to see how food is connected to everything from climate change to political uprisings to big data and Chicago Market is a sign of that shifting mindset.

### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes



## Nancy Bucher

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### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

"Chicago Market wants to change the way you shop for groceries", the website says. So do I. I believe completely in the mission of the Market, and recognize the unique one-time opportunity to be part of the launch Board, at the launch stage of the Market's lifecycle. The launch Board, with the Owners, will help build the foundation for the Market to exist and thrive for the future. Future Boards and Owners will all be part of the support system for the Market down the road, but it's a monumental moment to consider being part of the group entrusted with seeing that the Market comes to fruition and becomes the reality that's envisioned today. It's exciting to imagine helping make that happen.

### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?

#### Do you have prior board experience?

My experience with such groups have been both volunteer- and professionally-based. In my day-to-day job as an HR Director, there is rarely a time where I'm the sole decision-maker on a topic; a thorough understanding of issues at hand and determining what is best for the business guides me in how I advise my colleagues and teams. Group input and consensus building are constants for me in presenting solutions. Outside of the HR realm, I have several years of volunteer experience in designing and staffing youth leadership retreats and conferences. Each minor and major detail, from determining what content to present to how to staff and execute the sessions, each year's event involved months of planning with many, many volunteers, and voices, involved. Each of these scenarios involved or involves a tremendous amount of listening and give-and-take, to ultimately move forward and collectively reach decisions.

### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

By day, I'm an HR professional. What that means for the Market is that I can do a lot that others might not find so interesting...but I do! Some of those things include: Job Descriptions and Interviewing - It's so exciting to put on paper what you think you're looking for, and through talking to the people that you think can do it, find out you're back at square one, yet closer than before, because now you know what you're really looking for. Presenting complicated information in ways that make it easy to understand - As someone who has explained Benefits & 401k plans, as well as all kinds of rules, I'm good at breaking down the info no one really wants to hear, and trying to make it interesting along the way. Policies and Procedures - where others might find the granular detail frustrating, I have a penchant for putting on paper the exact 'what-ifs' and general guidelines to capture the spirit of what we're trying to convey, with language that makes it crystal-clear for everyone.

### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

I'm a recent-ish transplant to Chicago, and of all the new experiences I've had here, nothing spoke to me quite like the Chicago Market did. It's an idea that has sprung up at a time when food-consciousness seems greater than it has been in decades. It's the first thing that I've been truly moved to become a part of, in part because conscientious food consumption is important to me, but also as a way of solidifying my growing roots here in Chicago.

### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

I've been a casual consumer of Co-ops in the past, but more keenly aware of sourcing and food consumption choices via visits to Farmer's Markets or locally-focused grocery stores.

### What food issues are you passionate about?

The main issue, that I believe the mainstream consumer is having success with, is that the Consumer should never be treated like a dummy by food suppliers; from ingredients to nutrition, I believe the informed Consumer is the greatest driver of the changes we are currently seeing when it comes to food choices and labeling, as well as demand for 'real food'. Secondly, I'm passionate about the return to home-made goods. Cooking dinner, creating food from scratch, canning (canning!)...these are all things that can empower consumers to take back control of their food supply through buying choices, and take back control of long-term health impacts by choosing what does and does not go into their bodies.

### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes

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**Emily Crespo**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I love what I do, and I want to do more of it. I feel like this project was made for me. I've amassed a really random collection of skills over the years, and I swear it's like some force in the universe brought the Chicago Market Coop project into my life just to utilize those skills. Working as part of a dynamic and inspired group to create something from nothing just happens to be in my wheelhouse.

Chicago born and raised, this city is simply in my blood. I treasure living somewhere where not everybody looks like me. I live somewhere where you hear six different languages on the walk to the train, where Ecuadorian bakeries are open 24 hours a day, where you can find live chickens or Korean newspapers, and where the Romanian Pentecostal church is kitty corner from the mosque. The creation of a food co-op will be the absolute cherry on top of it all, and I'm beyond excited to be a part of it.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

At Northwestern University we are two years into the planning process for building a new, \$150 million university center. Our team is focused not only on what services and spaces we want in the new building, but also how we're going to continue to meet the needs of the university in the interim. With university-wide survey results in hand, we've met with consultants and architects to determine what the new university center needs to stay exciting and relevant. We have also begun planning our move to our temporary space across campus, a multi-million dollar project itself. With my background in event management, we're focusing on how we can best utilize the temporary space without compromising our level of service and guidance.

I also provide technical and event production consultation to the founding director of the Chicago Dance Institute, a non-profit that brings art education to Chicago schools.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

As the production coordinator for the Northwestern University office of Events Management, I've become a resident expert on managing events with students, staff, faculty, and volunteers. I regularly lead meetings to review building plans, event schedules, production requirements, and building and safety code compliance. I create risk management plans, assess staffing needs, create schedules for my 25 student employees, and maintain the facilities of 8 different event venues around campus. If nothing else, I am a person who knows how to get stuff done.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I've been extraordinarily lucky to work in a field of my choosing, with people who trust in and believe in and inspire me, all while utilizing and developing what I consider to be my best skills and qualities: turning vision into reality, creating opportunities for education outside the classroom, and near unflappability in the face of crisis. With some professional success under my belt, I've been looking for a way to use my talents to better my community.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Visiting New York a few years ago I got my first taste of food co-ops. The bustling Brooklyn storefront, boxes of the most beautiful produce, the organization as gathering place in a vibrant neighborhood. It makes me dream of what the Chicago Market Co-op can be.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

There just aren't a lot of things that inspire me more than food. Everything about it: the search, the selection, the preparation, the experimentation, the savoring. It's not unlike me to visit every produce store on the north side of Chicago looking for the season's first black figs or the perfect Belgian endive leaves. The joy I presume other people get out of shopping sprees or fancy electronics I find in the acquisition of a particularly beautiful piece of sushi grade tuna or authentic jamón serrano.

As fortunate as I am to have access to all that our city has to offer, I realize that not everyone is so lucky. It's not always easy to find quality, affordable food (in some areas of this city, it's downright impossible) not to mention how rare it is to forge a connection with a farmer or baker or butcher or brewer. On the most basic level, food sustains life. But food is so much more than fuel. "Good food is the foundation of genuine happiness" - Auguste Escoffier

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Sure does.

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**Rachel Duerkop**  
ResonateYogaChicago.com



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I'm running for the launch board because I've often wished for a food co-op in my area and I want to help make that wish a reality.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I'm a pragmatist and look for the middle ground rather than the extremes. Ideals are what help us dream and set goals. Listening and compromising are what help us move forward to where we can be and where we should be at the time.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I'm neither entirely "left brain" nor entirely "right brain." I've enjoyed life as an appellate attorney, a yoga instructor, and a Thai bodyworker. These are all helping professions. They require study and preparation, but also a willingness to improvise and adjust. These are qualities that are needed on the board so that the co-op can have a solid foundation and vibrant life.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I'm excited about the prospect of joining the co-op board because of the people involved as well as the importance the co-op has in supporting our overall community. A co-op is a way to sustain our local producers and align our consumption with our values.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I've supported co-ops whenever possible. Co-ops resonate their community's interests and involvement.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I'm interested in having access to clean, nutritious food and drink; living lightly; and supporting food producers that are ethical.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

I will gladly make time in my schedule for the board responsibilities.



**Joy Duginske**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

In both my personal and professional life, I'm dedicated to helping others feel empowered to make better choices for their health and I strongly believe we must find practical ways as a community to make better and healthier food sourcing a priority. I would be honored to be a part of the Chicago Market co-op leadership team that will work to make this a reality.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

My career began in association management and all of my clients were boards of directors for membership organizations. I planned and helped run board meetings; was responsible for board of director communications; and I also directly served the members of the associations as their membership coordinator. Therefore, I understand and appreciate the ins and outs of how to work with membership organizations and governing boards. These early career experiences have no doubt proven invaluable in my later positions, especially because I have a deep understanding and belief that the interests of members (or customers) are what should drive the decisions made by governing bodies like a board of directors.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am a passionate wellness professional with extensive marketing communications experience across a variety of industries including for-profit and non-profit organizations. I am a Health Coach and have a Master of Arts in Communication. I am service-oriented and possess excellent member/customer service skills. My career spans over 13 years and I recently departed the corporate world to launch my own wellness business, Joy to Wellness Health Coaching, serving individuals in their pursuit to live healthier and more balanced lives. I also spent the summer of 2013 as an organic farm intern at Uncommon Ground in Edgewater.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I am a resident and homeowner in Ravenswood and an active member of the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, so I have a vested interest in making this neighborhood a happy and healthy place where people can live, eat and grocery shop.

And on a personal note, my desire to be a member of this board, in part, stems from my personal journey of restoring my own health with food. I would be thrilled to serve as a leader in an organization for which healthy food matters and the goal is to bring local and organic food to the community. My personal philosophy is that people can change their lives with food (just as I did!) and I know this co-op will engage and empower residents to do just that.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I'm new to the co-op scene and ready to roll!

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Local sourcing, food education, healthy families, organic lifestyles, holistic healthcare

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Absolutely!

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**Daniel Farris**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I am running for the Chicago Market Launch Board mostly because I believe in the organization's mission and goals. Bringing a community-oriented grocery store dedicated to providing healthful, locally sourced, sustainably farmed, organic meat and produce to a neighborhood near my home would provide my family, friends, and neighbors with responsible choices, and the opportunity to become more educated about the food we consume. I believe that I can help to make the Chicago Market launch a success. I have prior board experience, and a significant portion of my law practice is focused on start-ups and emerging companies, so I am familiar with the issues faced by new ventures such as this.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I previously served on the St. Benedict's Prep School Board, as well as an advisory board for Big Shoulders Fund, a Chicago not-for-profit geared at helping under-served students and parochial schools throughout the city.

I also serve professionally as outside general counsel for a number of organizations. In that role, I often participate in board meetings, and advise the boards, officers, and directors of small to mid-sized companies at various stages of operation, ranging from start-up to mature.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am a corporate, technology, and intellectual property partner at a large law firm. I am also a leader on my firm's Start-Up Ventures and Emerging Companies Team, which focuses on all manner of issues related to start-up and growth companies. In this role, I advise embryonic and pre-launch companies regularly on matters ranging from formation, corporate structure, bylaws, and governance to fund raising and capitalization issues, intellectual property protection, and compliance. Given the nature of Chicago Market today, I believe this experience could be very useful.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I have lived in Chicago for nearly 18 years, almost entirely in the areas Chicago Market is considering for its first location - Lincoln Park, Lakeview, Wicker Park, Uptown, and now Roscoe Village/North Center. My wife and I have two small children, and we are active in the community. She is a Speech Language Pathologist serving families in the area, and she volunteers for an animal assisted therapy not-for-profit in the Ravenswood area. I am active in the Association and Dad's Club of my oldest son's independent school located near Lincoln Square. We have a young family and roots in the community, we support local and independent businesses, and we are dedicated to improving and developing the area in any way we can. We also grow food organically - as much as we can - in our small yard, and try to teach our children about the importance of cultivating healthy food, and knowing how and where their food comes from.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

My parents were founding members of Whole Foods Company when it began in New Orleans in the 1970's. My extended family owned an orange orchard in an area outside of New Orleans called Buras, Louisiana. From a very early time in my life, my family picked and donated locally grown citrus produce to what was, at the time, a co-op. Admittedly, my experience with co-ops in my adult life is limited, but I do have experience with all manner of companies, including not-for-profit organizations, corporations, LLCs, and partnerships.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Despite the diversity of choices in a city like Chicago, there is a significant gap between Farmers Markets and large grocery chains, where, hopefully, locally sourced, organic, and healthy products can be provided at a store with close ties to the community. Increasingly, people are disconnected from their food. They do not know where it comes from, how it is grown, what goes into it, or who produces it. As a child, I fished regularly, and hunted occasionally. My family always had a significant garden, and I picked fruit in a working family orchard (as well as wild strawberries and blackberries). When we bought food, it was often from the person who grew it or caught it himself. In a city like Chicago, having that connection with food is very difficult, but it is something I want my children to have, as much as is possible. Chicago Market is part of that mission, and I hope to be able to help make it a reality.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes



**Mark Graham**  
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newfoodstudio.com

**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

Thrilled at the prospect of being part of something bigger in terms of how the world relates to food and making Chicago a better place to live. Also, to best utilize skill sets in bringing quality food to Chicago. Additionally, I'm devoted to eating well in a big city and I want to be part of a movement that not only feeds myself but my neighbors.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

Several years ago I sat on the board of directors for TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network). TPAN is an HIV/AIDS awareness network that empowers everyone living with, or at risk, for HIV/AIDS to live open, healthy, and productive lives. TPAN innovates to deliver peer-led support programs and collaborative wellness services and to communicate comprehensive information about HIV/AIDS.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I've been working in food product development for the past 15 years, most recently with New Seasons Market in Portland, OR as Corporate Chef. My primary responsibilities were to create branded food products in prepared foods, private label, and grab and go. I am a trained chef and entrepreneur with a proven track record of successfully launched products that achieved financial and sales goals.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

Having lived on the west coast for the past 10 years, it's a pleasure to be back in Chicago and witness the recent urban growth. I think a cooperative supermarket is only the beginning of a movement towards living more sustainably. I'd be more than thrilled to be an engaged and active member influencing the success of Chicago Market.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Growing up in New York City in the 60's, my family was a member of a cooperative supermarket. We shopped and worked collectively as a family for many years here.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Promoting sustainable agriculture.  
Advocating pasture raised animals.  
Encouraging slow food vs. fast food.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

yes!

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**Chuck Gullett**  
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mepaleo.org



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I would love to be part of a movement that is bringing good food and products to the Chicago market. I am getting involved because I want this concept to succeed and thrive in Chicago.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

I am currently a director on the board for Harrison St Lofts Condo Association. My term completes at the end of March 2015. I served on several volunteer committees prior to joining the board and I led the committee for our lobby remodeling project.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am a partner and the managing broker for Best Chicago Properties, LLC. We are a boutique real estate brokerage located in the West Loop. I have experience with both commercial and residential real estate, which could prove valuable for site selection. I also own a photography company, ThreeSixtyChicago.com, which specializes in commercial and real estate related photography. This could be of benefit for online marketing and print promotions for the new store.

My prior career was with Caterpillar, Inc, where I was involved in deploying CRM systems and sales/ marketing processes to the dealer network in the US.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

My partner, Rene and I adopted the Paleo lifestyle when Rene was suddenly diagnosed with MS in 2013. Through researching the recommended MS drugs, Rene found the story of Dr. Terry Wahls and started reading further about Paleo principles to restore health. I fully supported her decision to not start meds and adopted the Paleo lifestyle as well. Originally, I started my mepaleo.org blog to de-bunk or document if this lifestyle choice would really work. Today, Rene and I are advocates of the Paleo lifestyle and share the enormous health benefits we have experienced through prudent food choices. We live it everyday.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

My only experiences with coops have been from the consumer perspective. The Willy St Co-op in Madison, WI was probably the first co-op I ever went into. At that time, I was more of a big box consumer so the experience was a little strange. Now, we seek out co-op grocery stores. Most recently, we found great co-ops in Sedona, AZ and Traverse City, MI.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Sustainability, GMO Labeling, Organic Foods, Safe Products

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes

**Karen Jacobs**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I have recently moved as an "empty nester" back to Chicago. A goal in choosing our home near Lincoln Square was to be part of a diverse urban community, and to use my life experiences and skills to help others, meet others, grow and have fun.

I love cooking, eating, gardening. A Farmers Market is "my happy place." I've always envied friends who've been part of successful food co-ops and this feels like a perfect opportunity to help build something that will matter to me & to others.

I appreciate the advantages of the many market options we have already on Chicago's north side, but I feel there's an opportunity for producers & neighbors to work more creatively together - take away the corporate middle-folks and the limitations and extra \$ they require - instead, we can provide choices, knowledge and some cooperative fun for everyone.

I know of no better way to build community than around food - it's our most basic right, pleasure and need. I want to be part of the adventure.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

I spent three years as part of a startup suburban synagogue board of directors, during which time I developed both a growth plan that grew membership dramatically, and an inclusive "Communications Policy" plan that addressed the community's need to ensure our written & online communications were aligned with the values our community was based on. I also spent three years as part of a board that oversaw a parents committee supporting choral music at a large suburban high school, and edited that group's newsletter.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I spent 18 years at Leo Burnett/Starcom Media, rising from entry to executive level, focused on planning & buying of media placements across print & broadcast for major clients in the US. I took time off to focus on family & community (see board experiences, above) and then recently returned to Starcom for another 1.5 year stint, carrying out a company-wide re-structure and creating a 200+ person operations team from ground zero.

I have strong marketing instincts and communication skills.

I know how to start things.

I know how to motivate people and how to create win-wins.

I'm not intimidated by learning or trying new things.

My organizational/project management skills are second to none.

I'm a great listener and a great writer, although a little shy w/public speaking I'll rise to the challenge when I have to :)

I have a great sense of humor!

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I've spent years watching close family members start up and run successful local food businesses - Jacobs Bros Bagels, Piece pizzeria & Brobagel in Wicker Park, so I've had a birds-eye view to the issues and the opportunities. I know just the kind of patience & passion it takes to do it with heart - and I've got a solid network of folks to call on for advice on everything from real estate to prep equipment to labor to sustainable service! :)

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Shopping in them with friends who are lucky enough to live in areas where they exist!

I have also been a CSA member in the past (Angelic Organics).

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

CHOICE: whether you're vegetarian, GF, paleo, diabetic or organic, a grower, producer or a member, able to afford a lot or a little, a good food community offers choices that value individuals and community over corporate decision-making and third-party profits.

TRANSPARENCY: a good food community welcomes and supports individuals' knowledge of where & who their food comes from, what's in it (or not), and how it comes to market.

JOY: a good food community celebrates all the joy that \*food\* brings to our lives -- the way it looks, tastes, smells; the rewards of growing, cooking, baking, preserving, serving and sharing -- and also all the joy that \*community\* brings to our lives - working together for common benefits; using what we do as a way to welcome, nourish, support, partner with and grow our neighbours and neighborhoods.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes.

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**Kristian (Kris) Koerwitz**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

To help do the research on how the food I'm buying is being produced in a sustainable, humane way that benefits the environment as well as the local economy. I hate being lied to by the large grocery chains about just how sustainable, "natural" or organic their products are.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I've no prior board experience. I've worked as part of a team in past employment situations & believe in strong, healthy debate while being open to learn new perspectives & ideas.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I was a paralegal for nearly 30 years & have very strong research & compliance backgrounds. Once I've done the research on the products, farmers & farming methods, patrons can rest assured they won't have to pour over every label in the store.

I've also worked for a small national grocery chain. I am familiar with basic fundamentals of operating a store. I've owned my own retail specialty food shop, managing staff & inventory.

Mostly, I'm very passionate about food & the role it can play in bringing us together as a community. I also believe food, when grown or prepared properly, is a far better medicine cabinet than anything made by a pharmaceutical company.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I'm a very hard worker that believes in doing what's best in the long run, not what's fast & convenient. (Although if the best option is fast & convenient, who am I to object?)

Being reliable & hard working has served me well in my life. If I tell you I'm going to do something, consider it done. I'm practical to a fault & have a very over developed sense of justice & ethics.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Absolutely none.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Locally produced, organic, non-GMO & fair trade food is a priority to me. Granted, not all products can be produced locally. For those that can't be, finding organic (or organic except for the official certification) products that have not been genetically modified or shot full of antibiotics or steroids is important. Making sure the farm workers are treated & compensated fairly also makes a difference. Yes, it makes food more expensive, but it's more sustainable to the economy overall.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

I'm sure over the course of 2 years it may be more challenging at sometimes than others, but I'm sure I can make it work



**Erika Kubick**  
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thebuckwheater.com

**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

My life has and always will revolve around food. Over the past couple years, I have cultivated an extensive knowledge in specialty foods that I only wish to grow further. I've applied my knowledge through food writing, blogging and working both as a cheese monger and in a Michelin-starred restaurant. My goal is to make a difference in Chicago's community and I believe I can do so with Chicago Market.

While my passion food covers each and every nutritional grouping, my focus and expertise is in artisanal cheeses. I believe that Chicago Market will benefit from a fairly priced, well cared for and accessible cheese selection.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

While I do not have prior board experience, I am excellent at working with others in a group setting. For the past 6 months, I have worked as a food runner at Longman & Eagle in Logan Square. My job is to work with the kitchen and the rest of the staff to ensure that the high-volume of dishes reach the right table. This position often involves quick-thinking and critical decision making in a high-stress environment. While I am a laid-back person who thrives in a more relaxed environment, my work ethic and ability to cooperate with others has contributed to my excellent performance at Longman & Eagle.

While my experience is in a fast-paced environment, I believe that my experience working with others will provide me with the cooperative skills it takes to be on the board of directors for Chicago Market

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I have a year of experience as a cheese monger at Pastoral in Chicago, where I developed an extensive knowledge in artisanal cheeses. I know how to take care of cheeses to keep them at their prime. Cheese is a living product that requires a lot of care and attention, which most retailers don't do. I also have a strong working knowledge of both domestic and international cheeses. My connections within the cheese community will prove invaluable when developing the selection of cheeses for Chicago Market.

In addition to my cheese knowledge, I've developed expertise in food while working at Plate Magazine, Food Tank, and Chicagoist.com. Working at Longman & Eagle has introduced me to the reality of sourcing local ingredients in a cost-efficient manner and has broadened my culinary vocabulary. My thirst for knowledge on all things food will never be fully quenched and I feel that I can be an asset.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I'm a very driven individual. In addition to working at Longman & Eagle, I pursue a lot of freelance opportunities, which require a high productivity rate and a tremendous amount of motivation. I pride myself in the way I receive criticism and learn from my mistakes. Above all, I want to learn about how a co-op functions and how we can change America's food culture. I think Chicago Market is a fantastic addition to our city and I'm confident that I can help.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

My experience is limited: I've shopped at Dill Pickle Co-Op before and even interviewed to work there. I find the concept of a co-op fascinating and valuable in regards to bettering food quality and nutrition.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Cheese, obviously, is my main passion, but I also feel very strongly about sustainable agriculture, controlling food waste, humane practices within the meat industry, and food education, including nutrition and cooking.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes.

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**Kora Lazarski**  
klazarski@spins.com

goodfoodoneverytable.com/2014/11/03/first-person-how-a-young-survivor-pursues-a-natural-life-unmodified-in-a-world-of-change/

goodfoodoneverytable.com/2014/07/29/first-person-approaching-protein-mindfully/



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

Working with the Chicago Market since its early days in Ellen Malloy's kitchen has made for some of my favorite memories of breakfast meetings with chickens and roosters. Arriving at a time when I was unemployed but eager to contribute, the Market allowed me to engage in its development through building out the NationBuilder tagging protocol and dictionary.

I believe that beyond its community-building potential, working with the Chicago Market is an opportunity for people to hone desired skills and experience working on real-world projects.

I now work at my dream job, in business development for a retail measurement services company for the natural and organic products industry and I believe my experience with the co-op was the X-factor that got me the offer. I want to bring my knowledge about natural retailers and CPG back to the Market so others may enjoy the same opportunities.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

I currently work directly with my executive team in strategic planning of business development by way of partnership creation, go-to-market sales & marketing strategy, and more. I manage many of the communications across multiple business entities in the organic/natural space to ensure compliance with key stakeholders' vision.

Several years ago in college, I also served as the liaison to the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US military branches for Silver Wings, a professional organization creating effective civic leaders through community service in the national defense.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

As a former paralegal to the lead partners of a premier family law firm in the US, then an enterprise software saleswoman in tech, and currently a business developer for my company today, I am versed in managing and accelerating big business' internal and external growth with legal and social sensitivity.

My connection to the leading data provider for the natural industry and support from my executive team allows me to bring our natural retailer services to the co-op at a free or discounted rate. Specifically, storewide mobile couponing platforms, website store/product locators, market and store level retail measurement data, true trend insights, analytics, online ordering capabilities, and other e-tail solutions like drop-ship home delivery, and others.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I believe that the only true progress in sustainability that we'll make as a society will be through social change and that is only possible starting from the grass roots. Although during the day I work at a national level, as a Polish-born citizen of the US and lifelong Chicago resident, I'm most interested in change on the very ground I stand on. There is a lot of movement in the food sustainability world, natural retailer dynamics, technology, and data worlds in Chicago right now and I believe that the Chicago Market is in the right place at the right time to capitalize on all of those waves. My connection with all of those worlds and genuine drive to leave the world a better place than I found it lead me to believe that me and the Board would make a very good fit.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I've shopped at many food cooperatives over the years and work with INFRA and NCGA, national food co-op retailer associations, very frequently.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I'm most passionate about seasonal and region-specific family farming. That is, farming in accordance to what is appropriate and available in that space and time, rather than forcing agriculture to meet societal taste demands. Labeling issues are very near and dear to my heart as well, especially as growth of Non-GMO labels and USDA Organics continues to rise and almost compete depending on the manufacturers budgets. As conversation over FDA enforcement of certifications as well as label-claims continues to grow, especially with the newest Unilever vs. Hampton Creek dispute, I will surely be tuned in and blogging about it on my company's website and perhaps the Chicago Market's blog!

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

2 hours per week is possible



**Jacob Lehman**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

My wife and I are excited to be owners of the Chicago Market coop. I care deeply about the sustainability, quality, and accessibility of the products I consume and the organizations I support and engage with. I believe that I would bring a creative, pragmatic, and idealistic approach to problem-solving to the Chicago Market board.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

I was on the board of directors of the Ring of Steel: Action Theater in Ann Arbor, Michigan from 2006-2009. Decisions considered and made included prioritizing among performance and training activities, evaluation of opportunities, and creation of policies to improve the operation of the group.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I currently work for BMO Harris bank on customer acquisition. My job centers around building business cases and developing campaigns to help BMO Harris provide new services and attract new customers to the bank. Prior to BMO Harris, I was a management consultant with McKinsey & Company, advising corporations and non-profits on innovation, efficiency, and expansion plans. I have a J.D. from the University of Michigan and am a member of the Michigan Bar Association.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I believe firmly in the importance of human engagement in every aspect of the enterprise. To guide the Chicago Market effectively, its board members should care about each other and respect each others' opinions, understand the business issues facing the Chicago Market, and make themselves familiar with the products and personnel staffing the Chicago Market. The Chicago Market will be as strong as its membership is committed, and I am excited to try to help the Chicago Market delight its members consistently.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I was a member of the Ann Arbor food co-op in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the Greenstar food co-op in Ithaca, New York, where my wife (maiden name Jennifer Wholey) contributed to their marketing materials, including the newsletter Greenleaf and member materials.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I am passionate about the sources and quality of food; I believe that food should be delicious, healthy, produced with respect for the planet and workers, and affordable. These are not small goals, and there are challenges in trying to meet all of them, but I look forward to helping the Chicago Market be a standard-bearer for excellence across these dimensions.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes.

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**Mike Mayer**  
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meliorak.com



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I've had the opportunity recently to visit the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Milwaukee. In these visits I've been amazed at the strength and sustainability of the co-op communities they've created. As a city with so many strong communities and neighborhoods, Chicago needs to have a stronger presence of co-ops to allow people to shop better and connect with their neighbors. While we may not be able to build 30 stores across the entire Chicagoland area, we can at least add one more!

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

I was the president of the alumni board for the University of Wisconsin - Madison chapter of Triangle Fraternity (engineering fraternity) from 2006-2007, as well as serving as several junior board positions in 2004 and 2005.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I spent the first part of my career in product development and project management positions in engineering. This gave me the tools needed to break down large, complex problems into smaller, bite-sized pieces, then put them back together in a complete solution that addressed requirements from many people.

Since August of 2013, I have been the co-founder and CEO of an environmentally sustainable cleaning products company. In the time since, I have learned a lot about how the grocery industry operates. We are also solving a similar challenge of delivering high quality products to a similar target market with a small budget.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

In addition to my engineering and cleaning products careers, I've also spent several years working in supply chain and distribution here in Chicago.

I also really like good food, and where better to get it than from the farmers and producers around Chicago!

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I've enjoyed shopping at co-ops across multiple travels in the Midwest, including the Minneapolis/St. Paul region (The Wedge), Milwaukee (Outpost Natural Foods), northern Wisconsin (Chequamegon Food Co-op), and of course, Chicago's own Dill Pickle.

Chicago Market is the first time that I've had the opportunity to be an owner.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I think it's important for people to understand what they are eating and how it affects their health and the health of those around them. Education and awareness can help people make better decisions about what they eat and use in their homes. A great perk of another co-op in Chicago is having food producers come into the store to connect with customers and owners, giving both the supplier and customer a chance to learn from each other.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes



**Dan Miller**  
dan@danmillerarchitects.com  
danmillerarchitects.com

**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I am very interested in the coop movement, and in being involved in the process of creating a place in my community that can stand against our present food system of factory-chemical farming, processing, and long distance transportation. I also have a long-time interest in health and nutrition, and favor healthy unprocessed food. I want to have a voice in how the store gets put together, from location and building design to the content of the shelves.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

As an architect, virtually every project is a group process to some degree. Some projects have required consensus or at least group decision-making, and many have been collaborative. Many of my recent projects involves working with condo boards in helping to solve various issues with their buildings.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I've been an architect in Chicago for 25 years, and am very familiar with the intricacies and absurdities of the City of Chicago codes and zoning. I have worked primarily on renovation projects in this city, projects of varying sizes, all with their own problems and solutions. I have also worked with a number of not-for-profits.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

My wife tells me that I have an ability to be objective and cool-headed. My clients say I am a good listener. Friends have told me I can digest, synthesize and summarize information to further discussions. My youngest just left for college and I am ready for the next project. I make my own hours and can be available on a flexible basis.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I have been shopping at coops whenever I can all of my adult life, in college at Stevens Point, in Madison, Portland OR and other places that I have visited. When we travel the first thing we do is look for a good food store.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Food passions: organic, hormone-free, chemical free foods; low or no processed foods; humane treatment of animals raised for eating; vegan and vegetarian eating; cooking and baking; nutrition and health information.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

yes

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**Kirsten Muszynski**  
komuszyn@gmail.com



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

Chicago Market sounds like a dream come true for me and I believe I can offer many valuable skills to the launch board. Chicago has many great farmers' markets and other specialty grocery stores, but it is missing a truly great local grocery store where you can find everything you need and I would love to help Chicago Market be that place. I have experience in starting my own business, community organizing, and an accounting background that will be helpful in getting the market up and running. I am also really excited about the community aspect of the Chicago Market. Not all of my friends and family are as passionate as I am about how and where my food was grown/raised and it will be exciting to connect with more people who share my passion.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

In 2012 I started a retail franchise with a few other business partners (we comprise the board of directors and share in all decision making). I am on the Thresholds Associates Board and have served as Vice President and Social Media Chair. In 2008 I worked for the Obama Campaign and started a Field Office in Wisconsin with four other individuals from very diverse backgrounds. In a new town, we located a free campaign office, recruited volunteers, and connected with various community organizations.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

In the last two years I have gone through the start up process of launching a new retail business including obtaining financing, site selection, hiring and training employees, marketing, human resources, and vendor selection. Currently, I am responsible for the accounting and finance functions for this business. Previously, I worked at two investment management firms in an accounting and finance capacity and was an auditor at KPMG, LLP, a big four accounting firm. Additionally, while working on the Obama campaign, I was responsible for recruiting and training volunteers and raising awareness within the community about the campaign.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

Through my previous employment, board experience, and current business endeavors, I have a lot of project management experience that I think can be very valuable to the launch Board. I enjoy working with community leaders and governing bodies and I would be a great asset in getting things moving forward.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

My main experience is with New Pioneer Co-op in Iowa City, Iowa. It's an amazing place and I really wish I could do all my grocery shopping there. I love the atmosphere there and the employees are super nice and helpful. They have amazing produce, meat, dairy, and bakery. It is usually my first stop on any trip to Iowa City. They also have a really great bimonthly magazine/newsletter.

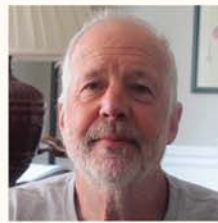
**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I'm passionate about organic, locally sourced food. The environmental impact of the food and packaging is also extremely important to me. I like to know and support my local farmers. I am passionate about feeding my family (including my dog) the healthiest food available to us.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

yes

**Bill Petty**  
williamwpetty@yahoo.com



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

There is nothing more important to good health than diet. What we eat determines the type and quality of both the macro and micro nutrients that build and maintain our bodies. There is much debate about what constitutes a healthy diet, but one thing is for sure; eating nutrient dense, chemical free foods is an absolute must. I want to be involved in deciding the types of foods and their sources that will be offered at the Co-op.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

"I have been president of Buena Park Neighbors for the last four years. During that time we have significantly increased our membership and donations/sponsorships. I work with business leaders, civic leaders and concerned neighbors on a daily basis to ensure that Buena Park is a great place to live and work.

I was on the board of the Nebraska Kidney Foundation for 15 years and during that time I was secretary, treasurer, VP and President. During my term as president (at two year obligation) we had the best two years of fund raising up to that point. I was also on the finance committee of the National Kidney Foundation and was instrumental in developing a standardized financial reporting system for affiliates nationwide."

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am president of my own construction company that does general contracting and am mostly retired. General contracting is basically centered around solving problems and making decisions. I use all sub-contractors so I am used to relying on the expertise of others. When I make decisions, I try to get as much information as I can from people who know what they're talking about and then make my decision. I am used to working with strict deadlines and will work as many hours as it takes to get the job done.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I learn something new everyday. Right now I am learning about cell respiration and the function of sugar and fat in the metabolic process. I don't claim to be an expert, but I have learned a lot about nutrition and human body over the last five years.

One caveat that you need to know. Although I am mostly retired, I will be gone on a construction project for two months sometime during the first half of 2015. I will have my computer with me and will have time to make phone calls and communicate via email.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

none.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

As I mentioned in question one, I am convinced that good nutrition is the answer to many of our health problems and I think the co-op has the potential to be a leader in changing the health of Chicago by providing good quality food as well as education. It is time for we the people to take control of what we put into our bodies. Industrialized agriculture is not going to do it, the government is not going to do it; it is up to us and I think the co-op is the right idea at the right time to do just that.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

yes

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**Lance M. Rantala**  
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bluehawk.coop



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I would like to help build a premier food cooperative in our local community. Unfortunately, Chicago is underserved by cooperatives as compared to cities like Minneapolis and Madison. It is time for the cooperative model to gain momentum in Chicagoland. I am eager to roll up my sleeves and help Chicago Market become a reality.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

As CEO of BLUE HAWK ([www.bluehawk.coop](http://www.bluehawk.coop)), a purchasing co-op for business-to-business HVACR (heating, ventilation, air conditioning & refrigeration) wholesalers, I prepare quarterly board documents and oversee board meetings. Additionally, I serve on the NCBA CLUSA (National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International) Board of Directors. I am in my second year of a three-year term. In the past, I served on advisory councils for the NCBA's annual purchasing cooperative conference.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I have been the CEO of BLUE HAWK ([www.bluehawk.coop](http://www.bluehawk.coop)) for the past eight years. BLUE HAWK is a member-owned purchasing co-op serving independent HVACR wholesalers. We currently have 229 wholesaler members with 1,299 locations in 49 states. Last year, I negotiated \$700+ million in contracted purchases that generated over \$30 million in patronage dividends (cost savings). Since our founding in May 2005, BLUE HAWK has become the largest purchasing entity in the HVACR industry.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I have helped build six cooperatives: BLUE HAWK (HVACR distribution co-op), AMAROK (drywall distribution co-op), NEMEON (roofing distribution co-op), PrimeraTurf (turf and seed distribution co-op), Sphere 1 (tool and fastener distributor co-op) and YaYa! Bike (bicycle retailer co-op). I have firsthand experience promoting the cooperative model to potential shareholders and suppliers. Additionally, I have a Executive MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business (2005).

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I have met many food co-op executives through my relationship with the NCBA CLUSA ([www.ncba.coop](http://www.ncba.coop)). Though I have not managed a food co-op, I have managed six cooperative entities during my career.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I am passionate about eating tasty locally grown food. My wife and I have two teenage boys, and we continually try to put non-processed healthy meals on the table. I hope Chicago Market will enable us and our neighbors to find fresh affordable groceries close to our homes.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes, most months.

**Lovelle Reynolds**  
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blog: [hippieurbanites.com/](http://hippieurbanites.com/)



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I was born and raised in Chicago and work for Chicago as an academic dean for Daley College. I am committed to improving the Chicago community. I see a position on the Chicago Market Board as an opportunity to take an active role in improving the community around me through an organization whose mission and goals align with mine.

My husband and I own a home in the Ravenswood / Lincoln Square area. We have a young daughter and fully intend to make this community the permanent home for us and our family. I have personal interest in supporting and taking an active role in organizations like Chicago Market that will enable Ravenswood / Lincoln Square to continue to become a community that reflects my personal values.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?  
Do you have prior board experience?**

My professional role at the City Colleges of Chicago includes consensus-based and group decision making on a daily basis. I often work with deans, vice presidents, presidents, faculty members, and other academic professionals to come to large strategic and policy related consensus decisions that effect students and faculty at my college and across the City College system.

I do not have prior board experience.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

As a nurse and educator I have learned throughout my career to work in teams of diverse professionals to solve complex short term and long term team and organizational problems. I have held many diverse roles in my career but I have always continued to excel upwards and find ways to bring tangible value to any team. I think my problem solving ability, ability to work with anyone, and my ability to add value in any situation would be invaluable to Chicago Market.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

My husband and I are both very much committed to a mentality and lifestyle for us and our children that involves the kind of living and thinking that this organization stands for. I think you will find that I am a team player and hard worker that always finds ways to contribute. I also think you will find that I am passionate about everything I do. I would find it an honor to be involved with Chicago Market at the Board level.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

No direct experience although my husband and I have been involved with the Peterson Garden Project for the last year and are committed to sustainable, community living and related organizations. For several years my husband and I have grown our own produce year around using an indoor farming system.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Local garden projects, locally sourced produce and food products, and other community based food programs.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes

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**Liat Shanani**  
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#### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

During the past 6 months, since joining Chicago Market as its Program Chair and member of the leadership committee, I have learned that food co-ops don't just offer good food; they offer inspiration, education, and a sense of community. I want to be part of building that community.

I want to share my energy and passion to help making the Chicago Market Food Co-Op a reality. I love the feeling that I get when I visit other Food Co-Ops across the country, and I can't wait to make that happen for our own community here on the North side of Chicago.

And I want to continue to be inspired by this energetic, creative, and dedicated group of people I've been working with for the last 6 months.

#### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies? Do you have prior board experience?

I have contributed to not-for-profit organizations as a Board member, professional staff employee, and as a community member. In all of these roles, I was actively involved in building and leading community.

At Temple Shalom I served as a religious school teacher, art teacher, Family Program Director and Board of Directors member. At Congregation KAM Isaiah Israel served as Educator and Supplemental School Principal. As KAM Isaiah Israel School Principal I was actively involved in the Chicago Association of Jewish Educators and was elected to its board of directors and served as its Treasurer.

In every one of these roles, I connected with peers, co-workers and community members of all ages, and supported consensus-based group decision making both in group member and in group leader positions.

#### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

I bring to the board 15 years of experience in business administration. Since completing my Master of Science in Human Services Administration degree in 1998, I've worked as a supplementary school principal from 2000-2007, and as a co-owner and manager of a veterinary practice specializing in pet hospice and palliative care since 2007. My responsibilities in these positions included budget planning, project planning, developing action plans, creating annual work plans for my organization, developing curricula, planning community events, and working with volunteers. I have been responsible for team building, leading weekly leadership team meetings and monthly staff meetings, hiring and training new employees, establishing protocols, writing employee manuals, and managing payroll. In addition, I was responsible for marketing the services of the organizations I led, taking advantage of my formal fine art training for many in-house graphic design projects.

#### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

Building community within Chicago Market at all levels is critical for our success and requires a combination of many skills and talents. I connect with peers, co-workers and community members of all ages, who recognize me as a fair and compassionate listener and observer, a creative problem solver, and a person of rock-solid moral integrity. I'm committed to seeing projects come to fruition and to adherence to work plans and deadlines, simultaneously seeing the big picture and the small details. I bring to the launch Board my community building and managing experience, rich life experience and passion for serving the needs of the co-op and its members.

I bring a multicultural perspective having lived in 3 different countries with very different cultures and speaking 3 different languages.

#### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

My first experience with coops was when I lived on a collective farm in my early twenties where I worked in the orchards and with dairy cows. Later I was a member of ELFCO food coop in East Lansing, Michigan before moving to Chicago. I am a proud founder owner of Chicago Market. I have served as the Chicago Market's enthusiastic and dedicated Programming Chair and member of the Leadership Committee since May 2014. In these roles I have contributed my time and talents to the various efforts to educate the community about the benefits of opening a food Coop in Chicago, leading community programs and helping recruit new owners.

#### What food issues are you passionate about?

I'm passionate about supporting the local family farm and organic food production methods, as ways to provide our community with access to healthy, sustainable, and cost-conscious food. I'm also passionate about helping to spread the word about healthier, sustainable food options thru education, training, and creating a community space for the Chicago Market to share these ideas.

As a community that owns our Food Co-Op, we all have a voice and a vote and one of our greatest challenges is to ensure that each of these voices is being heard. As a launch board member I look forward to hearing all of our member-owners' ideas and how each can contribute to the cooperative effort to building our own store.

#### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes, whatever it takes!

**Morgan Snouffer**  
morganasnouffer@yahoo.com



#### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

I'm running for the Chicago Market Board for a few reasons. The mission of Chicago Market is one I'm passionate about: supporting -- and educating about -- accessible, local, farm-to-table food. I'm also extremely supportive of the growth of small regional farming (full-if-only-partially-relevant disclosure: my brother is a Kansas City-area organic farmer). And finally, I'm very committed to giving back to the community in any way that I can, but particularly through active service. I also think my particular skill set is well-suited to board work.

#### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies? Do you have prior board experience?

While I don't have any prior board experience in my background, I have lots of consensus-based decision-making experience. In both my past volunteer work and the majority of my professional work, true active listening, compromise and a group commitment to producing the highest quality result/product are key. I am both a good negotiator and a good ideas producer.

#### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

In my role as a brand and content strategist for Sears's iRLabs, I create, refine and support brand identity and communications strategies to reach my target audiences effectively, creating positive recognition and financial outcomes. I can offer that perspective in a role on the board, helping to build the Chicago Market brand and expand recognition through the Chicago community and, perhaps, beyond. I also just really love working with people toward a common goal--I get and give a lot of energy from it.

#### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

I am committed, I am enthusiastic and I'm passionate about the Chicago Market initiative. I'd really like to help out however I can, and I'd really love to do that from the board.

#### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

This is my first experience with a food co-op. I've participated in CSAs in the past.

#### What food issues are you passionate about?

There are so many, starting with 'where does our food come from' and 'who's interests are being met,' but I think, from a Chicago perspective, I think I have to put emphasis on the food deserts and how that affects children and families. EverThrive Illinois's Cooking Matters program does some very interesting work around this.

#### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes.

Local.  
Sustainable.  
Yours.



## Mike Sullivan

mike@umgchicago.com.

I welcome hearing from other Owners with any questions they have about my candidacy for the Chicago Market Board.  
cantinadelagranja.com  
thesofotap.com  
worldsgreatestbar.com



### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

I believe my experience as a small business owner and twenty one years as an attorney makes me well-suited to be a member of Chicago Market's launch Board. Many of the issues that Chicago Market will face as it works toward opening are ones that I have dealt with operating two businesses and opening a third, as well as advising both large and small clients on legal matters as an attorney. In addition, as discussed below in more detail, the mission and vision of our newest venture, a farm-to-table modern Mexican restaurant, closely align with the mission and vision of Chicago Market. I believe the relationships I am developing as we move toward the opening of Cantina de la Granja, whether it be with local/regional farmers and producers, Chicago non-profits, local aldermanic offices or neighborhood chambers of commerce and development organizations, will be invaluable for Chicago Market as well.

#### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?

##### Do you have prior board experience?

2005-11: Board of About Face Theatre, a GLBT-focused theater company, served as Secretary for 2 years and Vice President for 3 years

While I was on the AFT Board, the company transitioned from being a Founder-led organization to a Board-led organization and hired its first non-founder Artistic Director. Like the soon-to-be formed Chicago Market Board, the AFT Board was a "working board," involved in all aspects of the company, including company finances, fundraising, marketing, and Board development and recruitment.

2010-present: Board of AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, currently serve as Vice President

For 25 years, ALCC has represented people living with HIV and AIDS. In 2014, ALCC expanded its mission to include legal services to people with disabilities, the homeless and children with chronic medical conditions. The ALCC Board is a "governance board," as the Chicago Market Board will become once the market opens and becomes established.

#### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

As co-owner of several businesses, I have diverse experience in the matters that will affect Chicago Market, including strategic planning, financial structuring, HR, marketing, advertising, staff management, product development, promotions, cost monitoring and control, and regulatory and legal compliance.

The skills and knowledge that I have developed through Cantina de la Granja are particularly relevant to Chicago Market. A majority of the food and beverage served at Cantina de la Granja will be sourced from local growers and producers year round. We will actively support and work with family owned and operated farms engaged in sustainable agriculture, many of whom will be the same farms working with Chicago Market. Cantina de la Granja will also work closely with a variety of community organizations. In our pre-opening phase, we've already begun working with Gary Comer Youth Center, Common Threads, Care for Real, Purple Asparagus and Green City Market/Growing Power.

#### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

Through our businesses in Uptown and Andersonville, we have developed strong working relationships with Aldermen O'Connor, Osterman, Cappleman and Pawar, and a variety of members of their staffs, as well as the Andersonville and Uptown chambers of commerce and development organizations. A strong relationship with the aldermen and business groups in and around the neighborhood in which Chicago Market locates is going to be instrumental to navigating the process of getting the market open and running.

#### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

I do not have any prior experience with food co-ops. However, in the development of Cantina de la Granja, our team has developed valuable relationships with farms and local suppliers and a deep understanding of the food system and potential resources to fully develop the Chicago Market.

#### What food issues are you passionate about?

I am passionate about supporting local and sustainable farmers and producers, both in my own purchasing and through our restaurants. The mission of our newest restaurant, Cantina de la Granja, mirrors in many ways the mission of Chicago Market.

A major factor in our development of the Cantina de la Granja concept is my belief that people should know where their food comes from and what is needed to provide healthy and sustainable food sources. This overarching theme has driven our development of the key pillars of Cantina de la Granja and those elements are similarly critical to the Chicago Market vision.

I am also passionate about community outreach and education and see Chicago Market as another avenue to provide education and opportunities that will help spread the word about the importance and value of sourcing locally and supporting sustainable food suppliers.

#### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes



## Philip Tadros

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### Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?

My passion for local start ups, especially in food. From clients and vendors in my cafes to our own coffee and beer I have been working with the Chicago scene with my ear to the ground for 15 years now. Also as a kid, I grew up in 7 grocery stores on the south and west side of Chicago.

#### Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?

##### Do you have prior board experience?

Unfortunately, I do not have prior board experience. As CEO of a variety of small companies, my consensus based, group-decision making experience is very high.

#### What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?

My grandfather was a sheep herder in the Ottoman Empire and my father owned grocery stores in Chicago's under served communities. I opened up my first cafe at age 19 and have opened 18 storefronts since. I love this. I feel I can contribute on many fronts, from people, to connections and capital and spaces and support. etc

#### What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?

I am always looking for new opportunities to connect and grow the local market. We do our best in each of the companies I run to use almost exclusively local vendors, printers, providers, as possible. I believe in order to thrive as a small local business you must do business with other people in the same boat.

#### What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?

Limited. But I am very eager for this one to become a thriving part of the Chicago community.

#### What food issues are you passionate about?

I passionate about locally grown produce, sustainable practices and the ability to keep food simple and close. My wife is a chef, so having access to the highest quality products is a priority for our family and for our future.

#### Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?

Yes

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**Jen Vest**  
vest.jen@gmail.com  
@hellomynamesjen



**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I'm eager to help create and grow something in our community. I see such potential for Chicago Market to create an impact on our local economy and to influence how we shop for and consume our food. As a strategic marketing director with a focus in startups and challenger brands, I have a deep passion for entrepreneurship and business strategy. So for me, being a part of the Chicago Market's launch board would be a dream – combining my passion for the food world and creating successful businesses – to put my experience and energy into something I really believe in.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

Though I don't have any direct board experience, I am very well versed in group decision-making. In my career, my role is to facilitate collaboration and ensure alignment between various groups – client side, vendors and internal agency stakeholders. The key is to leverage the skillset of each contributor, actively listen to everyone's input, and ensure everyone is aiming toward the same goal to achieve together.

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I've worked at marketing agencies for eight years, working primarily in branding and audience engagement. In my last position, I led our "creative entrepreneurs" division in which we helped launch startup brands as well as created projects and brands of our own.

This line of work has not only challenged me to think strategically about organic business growth on a limited budget, but also to implement strategies that ensure a quality return on investment and minimal risk.

With my previous marketing experience, I could help develop short & long-term initiatives such as owner engagement, customer acquisition, advertising, influencer networks, press outreach, and social media publishing.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

I really, really love food – no doubt, in my next life, I'm coming back as a restaurateur. Meanwhile, as a hobbyist, I love to cook, eat out, host dinner parties, and experiment with new flavors. I moved to Chicago a year and a half ago from NYC, and I'm still having fun discovering the great food culture here in Chicago. Being back in the Midwest, where I'm from originally, I'm excited to learn more about sustainable agriculture and urban farming to be more closely connected to our food source.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Sadly, I haven't had food co-ops in the communities I've called home, which is why I'm so eager to help make Chicago Market a reality. In the absence of food co-ops, I've participated in CSAs with Montalbano Farms, shopped at the Green City Market, and explored various local food events/classes across the city from Nosh to Chopping Block and Cook au Vin to the upcoming Tasting Table.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

I'm passionate about food waste elimination – it's absurd that quality food goes wasted while others are in need. Recently, I heard about a Chicago-based startup called "Zero Percent" that aims to connect surplus restaurant and grocery ingredients with nonprofits to provide fresh produce and meats. I'd love to see these kinds of partnerships in place at Chicago Market to help support the entire community. I think it's the Launch Board's opportunity to establish the sustainable practices of Chicago Market from its beginning – minimalist packaging, encouraging re-use & recycling, etc as part of the vision to create, connect and grow an honest food community.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes, absolutely! Let's dive in.

**Jamaine Wells**  
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**Why are you running for the Chicago Market launch Board?**

I want to the success of this co-op. I have just like everyone hear have invested money, time and sweat equity, just to see it come this far. I want to be on the ground floor getting something amazing started, that will have a wonderful impact on the community.

This co-op taken off on the right foot can lead to multiply site around Chicago. I am willing to devote even more time then the minimum time you are asking the board members to commit too.

This will not be my first time serving in this type of capacity. However I may not know all thing, but I am willing to learn all things needed to grow this co-op.

I treat any thing I invest in the same way regardless if it's \$10.00 or \$10,000.00, I want to see it grow, and help in anyway I can.

I see this as an opportunity to learn and grow myself professionally with real world experience.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies?**

**Do you have prior board experience?**

I served as a senator on the Olive-Harvey Community College Student Government Association, I was also voted in as Executive Treasure for the Student Government Association. I devoted countless hours, served on many committees, and created an annual gospel concert for our institutional that involved all city college's

**What professional/career expertise would you bring to the table to make you a good fit for this Board?**

I am the owner of Wells Janitorial Service Inc. a up and coming cleaning service here in Chicago. I have ten years in the cleaning industry, over 15 years in customer service/relation, cash handling.

**What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?**

For all the reason listed above and the fact that once I give my word, I do everything to up hold my commitment. I live by a set of value, lets say there my core values I live by: Service | Leadership | Integrity | Commitment | Excellence

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

None at the moment but learning a lot.

**What food issues are you passionate about?**

Provide healthier option and diabetics education.

**Does your schedule permit you to make a two-year commitment of five or more hours a week to help make Chicago Market a reality?**

Yes

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A red badge with a scalloped, sunburst-like border. The text is centered within the badge in white.

Chicago Market wants

**YOU**

to vote

Board of Directors

Deadline: Dec. 20