

2019 Shared Capital Board Election Candidates

This year's vote will be held electronically. Members have received an email with voting credentials. If you don't receive one or if you prefer a paper ballot, please contact adam@sharedcapital.coop.

The election is for member cooperatives only. The individual member seat is not up for election and individual members will not vote.

This year we have seven candidates nominated by our member cooperatives running for four seats, including three seats with three-year terms and one seat with a one-year term (a vacancy with partial term remaining). The top three vote getters of the seven nominees will fill the seats with the three years and the fourth-highest vote getter will fill a seat with a one-year term. For a current list of board members, [click here](#) or go to: <http://sharedcapital.coop/about/shared-capital-board-biographies/>

Patrice Lockert Anthony

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

GreenStar Cooperative Market

Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.

I've sat on several boards over the past 20+ years, both not-for-profit, and for profit. I'm the current President of GreenStar Cooperative Market's Board of Directors (three years in regular service and three years as its first African American President).

I'm a writer, a community advocate, an educator, and the owner of two businesses (A Writer's Alchemy is fifteen years old, and Black Label Consulting and Coaching, or BLCC is, in work done about thirty years old, in name, about a month old. Through BLCC I and my associates develop curricula, (C.H.O.I.C.E. (Choosing How Our Intentions Create Experience), L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Equity/Anti-Bias:Applications and Development, and HARAMBE! (Swahili for "Let's All Pull Together!)), develop and lead workshops, give presentations, and engage as speakers for various functions.

I am a trained and experienced facilitator, cafe facilitator, transformative mediator, anti-bias trainer, diversity and inclusion educator, restorative justice educator. I believe in the power of uplift over handouts and relationships that connect people and resources to opportunity.



Patrice Lockert Anthony continued

I'm Type A Minus; I need to get the work done, but I know how to have a good time. I occasionally snort while laughing (I try not to, but stuff happens). I believe there are few things better than a Sunday afternoon spent with good friends, good food, and good wine. I read voraciously. I love strategy, critical reasoning, word games, and I won't say no to a good debate. The sharing of ideas and workloads make me giddy.

Please tell us how you feel your experience will help you serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors.

Cooperative work is about purpose and passion for me. That would hold as true if I sat on the board of Shared Capital as it does currently in my work on the GreenStar board. There are many who believe that financial institutions are only about the numbers and profit. Financial cooperatives prove the truth of cooperative principles as offering an alternative to business as usual. One of the ways in which cooperatives of all kinds will thrive is through service. The key for me is that we improve service to our constituencies/customers/communities, and to ourselves as organizations. What will make us better? What will make our products better? Are we engaging in training and development such that we communicate well (better) with the cooperatives we serve? Are we expanding our base? All of these questions lend themselves to my background and experience. And I'm always looking to learn and collaborate, so I'm excited to work with equally committed, dedicated, and experienced folks.

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board?

I am a servant-leader by design/nature. I am vision and broad-perspective based. In serving mission, through consulting and coaching, the first question I need answered is "How may I assist you toward excellence?" The only difference between my working on an individual basis, and my working cooperatively/collaboratively is that the "I" in that sentence changes to "we". I see my interests and Shared Capital's interests as being aligned. Let's grow our cooperative community.

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital Cooperative in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

The primary challenges and opportunities are the same. We need to grow our funds and base. We need to always seek improvements in how we serve our communities. We need to challenge ourselves to seek knowledge that exists outside of the norm, to listen to stories and understand history, to allow our cooperative promise to exist shoulder to shoulder with the promise of beloved community. This is the work I do *and love*. My entire life's work (please look back at my training, skills, and experience), has included experiences and skills that serve *this work*. Building relationships and community to benefit a cooperative paradigm that gives our community members a shot at empowerment, security, and growing a future that will serve generations of cooperators.

Alex Betzenheimer

Incumbent

Shared Capital Nominating Member

Seward Community Co-op



Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.

Since 2011, I have been the Finance Manager at Seward Community Cooperative. Seward is a natural foods co-op in Minneapolis operating two grocery stores, as well as a restaurant and production kitchen. I have been lucky enough to have spent most of my adult life working in co-ops, have previously worked at The Hub, a worker-owned bike shop, and North Country Co-op, a smaller natural foods co-op also in Minneapolis. A few years ago, I went back to school to add some formal education to my on-the-job experience. After first pursuing an accounting certificate, I am currently in the MBA program at the University of Minnesota. I am about to finish my second term on the Shared Capital board. I have been board chair for the past two years, and also serve on the Finance Committee. Prior to that I spent several years on the loan committee.

Please tell us how you feel your experience will help you serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors.

I believe my finance and accounting skills, dedication to the cooperative movement, and experience on the Shared Capital board are all valuable to our work. As a cooperative financial institution, I think Shared Capital's governance benefits from some cooperative financial expertise (although no one wants an entire board full of accountants). I have firsthand experience in both the consumer natural foods and worker co-op sectors, and my time with Shared Capital has brought with it a broader knowledge of the U.S. cooperative movement.

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board?

Over the past two years, I have enjoyed the challenge of being board chair, and the feeling that my time on the board and various committees has led to a point where I can provide some real leadership in our governance and long term planning. I believe most organizations benefit from a mix of new energy and institutional knowledge. With Shared Capital, it feels good right now to be on the institutional knowledge end of that spectrum.

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital Cooperative in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

While I have been involved with Shared Capital, we have had two periods where we have had major challenges because of concentrations of risk in particular industries. These challenges were several years apart, and we have weathered both. But I do believe this is an indicator that

Alex Betzenheimer continued

we need more diversity within our portfolio, and to accomplish that we need to help facilitate more diversity within our movement. I think that means both diversity of industries in which co-ops are active, and working with communities that have been under-served by Shared Capital in particular, and perhaps the co-op movement more broadly. At Seward, we have undertaken some major diversity initiatives in the past few years. This work has never been easy, but it is one of the things I am most proud of in my time at the co-op. More recently, staff from Seward have been invited to numerous events around the country to help other food co-ops with issues of diversity and inter-cultural competency. This kind of work is happening all around the country, and I want Shared Capital to be there to finance it.

Dana Curtis

Incumbent

Shared Capital Nominating Member

Black Star Co-op Pub and Brewery



Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.

Dana Curtis is a native Texan and one of the founding members of the Workers' Assembly at Black Star Co-op Pub and Brewery where she began working in January of 2010, overseeing the membership and investment campaign which brought the Co-op from a dream to reality. After six years at Black Star, Dana left to start Key Figures, a cooperatively-owned bookkeeping and financial management firm. Currently she is the Board Treasurer at Shared Capital Cooperative. Dana attended the University of Texas at Dallas where she studied Literature and Philosophy before attending graduate school at Texas Woman's University, before leaving academia to join the labor movement as a union organizer. Dana has committed her life to social justice and strongly believes in the transformative power of the cooperative model.

Please tell us about any other experience you have that you feel is relevant to serving on the Shared Capital board.

I'm was one of the founding Workers' Assembly members of Black Star Co-op Pub and Brewery, where I served as the Business Team Leader for six years before leaving to form a worker-owned bookkeeping and financial management firm, Key Figures, in 2016. In addition to my cooperative career, I've served on the boards of Cooperation Texas, Black Star Coop, the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, and Shared Capital Cooperative.

In additional to my experience serving on cooperative boards, I also provide training for other co-ops and non-profits on board governance. I am very familiar with what it takes ensure

Dana Curtis continued

Shared Capital Cooperative is acting in the best interests of its stakeholders and the wider cooperative community.

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital board?

I love that Shared Capital provides a way to create living-wage jobs; access to healthy, sustainable food; and furthers democracy in our communities. Particularly through a focus on supporting low-income communities, this organization gives access to the capital needed to grow the economy in ways that spread our cooperative values and principles. I'm so excited to watch Shared Capital grown and meet the changing needs of cooperative businesses!

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

Shared Capital is poised to expand its impact as a national funder and expert on cooperatives within the CDFI community. One of the challenges in ensuring Shared Capital's growth and development as an important national loan fund, is to be sure we have Board members who are as diverse as our current, and future, membership. It's important to have directors spread across the country who are able to build strong local connections that brings Shared Capital into communities coast to coast and border to border. As a woman born and living in the southern United States, I feel I'm able to help build connections needed to grow our organization.

Nicole Klimek

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

Neighborhood Co-op

Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.

Nicole has been obsessed about local economic sustainability for as long as she can remember! When it came time to decide on a career, she decided to focus on food co-ops and independent natural food stores. She has worked on over 250 projects all over North America and is the only person in the industry that combines Store Planning & Design, Interior Design, Marketing and Branding to create unique shopping experiences and efficient operations.



Nicole Klimek continued

Please tell us how you feel your experience will help you serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors.

Co - ops are a huge part of my life and I've spent my entire career working with them. For the past 12+ years, I have worked with hundreds of food co - ops and continue to work with more every day. I feel this would serve the Shared Capital board well because not only do I understand the cooperative model, I have very detailed knowledge about the operations and board functions of both startups and established food co - ops.

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board?

Through my clients I've worked directly with Shared Capital for many years and I have always enjoyed my interactions with staff and board members. I see this position as an opportunity to better serve co - ops. By being on the Shared Capital board, I'd gain knowledge and insight that will better help me understand the capital campaign process co - ops go through. I'd be able to guide them much better and as a result, maybe help the process go smoother and be more efficient. I believe that the deeper my understanding of the inner workings, the better servant I can be for the cooperative movement.

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital Cooperative in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

I see the changing grocery landscape as both a challenge and an opportunity. As the landscape changes stores will be faced with increased competition in many areas, not just selling groceries. Tech, innovation and e - commerce will all play a huge role in how we operate stores. Shared Capital will be affected because all of these new operations cost money and stores will need more resources. The challenge with this is the uncertainty of success while the opportunity is to help bring co - ops to a new level of service and operations. Another challenge is the rate of failure for startup food co - ops; the industry is changing so rapidly that some of the data we've accumulated over decades is no longer accurate. We don't know how much these startups will generate in income and what their chances of success are. I feel I can be a valuable resource because I understand these challenges and work with food co - ops on addressing these very issues. I'm often times experiencing them right at the inside. This will put me in a good place to strategize with Shared Capital and work on solutions that are efficient and practical.

Rek E T Kwawer

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

NASCO Properties, Inc.



Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.

I have been involved with the cooperative movement, primarily in the group-equity and affordable housing realm, since 2001. My professional background is focused on administration, finance, and education. I've taken coursework towards a degree in Cooperative Organization Administration through the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

I served as the Director of Operations of NASCO (North American Students of Cooperation) from 2014-2017, where I focused on finances, human resources, and member services, as well as visiting member cooperatives and conducting educational workshops for cooperatives. From 2011-2014, I served as the Member Services Coordinator for Madison Community Cooperative (a Shared Capital Cooperative member), where I worked on leasing, training and education, member debt issues, and member support.

During that time, I served on the board of NASCO Development Services (NDS), which oversees NASCO's intensive cooperative development support, including two terms as board secretary. In 2013 and 2014, I represented NDS on the board of NASCO Properties (a Shared Capital Cooperative member), which functions as a co-op of cooperatives by holding property in multiple states which is master-leased to local cooperatives who govern the organization.

From 2003-2005, I was on the board of Boston Community Cooperatives, where I was involved with the purchase of their first property, Seed Pod, in which I was also a resident. My involvement with cooperatives started when I was a student at Oberlin College and a member of the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association.

I currently live in Madison WI, where I am a member of the Willy Street Co-op, Summit Credit Union, and UW Credit Union. I work as the Office Administrator for a small software start-up. My job focuses on financial management (including hiring accountants), human resources, and business planning/expanding our services.

Please tell us how you feel your experience will help you serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors.

I've worked for two different organizations that are members of Shared Capital Cooperative, and have experienced both the process of members making the decision to invest their money in SCC, as well as the process of members borrowing money from SCC when conventional banks were not viable solutions. I understand the trust that cooperatives place in Shared Capital when they invest money to support the growth and perseverance of the cooperative movement. I also understand how important these loans are to the cooperatives who receive them.

Rek Kwawer continued

Having a background in co-op finances will give me the skills to work with fellow board members to make fiscally sound decisions for the organization, and my background in member services means that I am able to act as an advocate for members and cooperatives interested in seeing Shared Capital grow, as well as promote Shared Capital to members and prospective members.

I've also developed, through my board service and my professional experience with member services, the ability to facilitate groups through challenging conversations. I will be able to work with fellow board members to clarify viewpoints and reach agreement about how to proceed in difficult decisions and how to take advantage of exciting opportunities.

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board?

I want to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative board to support the funding of the cooperative movement. Cooperatives are economic enterprises, and if we want to build a broad sector, that means we need to be able to fund it. We often talk about the potential of cooperatives to bring economic opportunities to low-income communities, but like starting any business, starting a cooperative requires capital, and low-income areas are also generally low-wealth. Cooperatives want to ensure that their investments are being well-managed. In addition to providing financial oversight, I want to be part of planning how Shared Capital Cooperative will grow investments and utilize funding, and I want to share this with members in easy-to-understand ways.

Finally, I want to help grow investment in the cooperative movement, and Shared Capital Cooperative is one of the strongest examples of how people and co-ops can put money towards cooperative growth.

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital Cooperative in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

One of the challenges that Shared Capital Cooperative faces is that in order to lend money, there must be sufficient money invested in the fund. Many cooperatives want to invest in building the sector, but also face costs of their own, or tight economic situations or uncertainty. I believe that my experience in member services, and of encouraging cooperatives to join NASCO Development Services, has given me the ability to promote investment in Shared Capital Cooperative. Having been involved with cooperative development projects that were dependent on funding from Shared Capital Cooperative means that I can speak from personal experience about how much of a difference members' investments can make.

The momentum in the US for cooperative development is a huge opportunity for Shared Capital Cooperative. As cooperative businesses grow and are successful, Shared Capital is a logical place for them to place money to support Principle Six. I will be able to actively help with planning for growth within the organization, from internal operations to external functions like lending.

Repa Mekha

Incumbent

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

CP Local 001

Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.



Repa Mekha serves as President and CEO of Nexus Community Partners, a Community Building Intermediary that works at the intersection of community building and community development, engaging communities of color to achieve equitable, sustainable neighborhood revitalization in the Twin Cities region. Mekha has more than 30 years of experience in community-based leadership, community capacity building, asset and wealth building strategies, organizational leadership and development, and systems change work. He is recognized locally and nationally as an innovative and visionary leader and heads up Nexus' work with national partners. Mekha is also a founding member of the Northside Funders Group and is currently on the Advisory Committee, and the working committee leading the funder group's racial equity work. He is co-founder of the Twin Cities African American Leadership Forum, and he sits on the Board of the Minnesota Council of Foundations, where he is also a member of its Government Relations & Public Policy Committee. Mekha is a 2005 Bush Leadership Fellow, a 2004 James P. Shannon Leadership Institute Alumni, and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government with a focus on community development; a pending Master's in Counseling and Psychological Services from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and; a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Urban Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Mekha was nominated by the Wirth Co-op Grocery and was elected to the Shared Capital Board in 2017. He serves on the Loan Committee.

Please tell us how you feel your experience will help you serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors.

In 2016, Nexus launched a three year plan to advance the learning and practice of Community Wealth Building (CWB) in order to better address racial and economic disparities. A core part the CWB framework is a systems approach to economic development that is rooted in the values of equity, mutuality and stewardship. The first year of the plan was focused on creating an environment conducive to CWB models (cooperatives, social enterprises, technical assistance capacity, and anchor institution investment), and to prepare the soil in which the models can grow in the Twin Cities region. Our work included convening a series of learning sessions on CWB strategies and practices, and bringing together cross-sector partners to carry out an ecosystem mapping around worker cooperatives of color. In addition, we held funder briefings on worker cooperatives, and conducted an analysis with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs on the potential in the metro area for business conversions to worker cooperatives.

Repa Mekha continued

In our second year of the plan, Nexus' focus includes weaving together parts of an ecosystem that supports the growth and/or expansion of CWB strategies in communities of color, with a particular focus on cooperative ownership models. Four interrelated projects (Culturally-Based Cooperative Development Cohort; Northstar Black Cooperative Economics Fellowship; CWB AmeriCorps VISTA Cohort); were launched and have been operating since 2017. A Business Conversions to Worker Ownership Initiative is slated to launch in 2019 to better equip cross-sector organizations, practitioners and leaders with the tools required to scale business conversions to worker ownership enterprises. We recognize that the work that we are doing is only part of a larger effort to create community wealth. I believe that the work I've have been involved in aligns with the work of Shared Capital Cooperative. Serving on the Shared Capital Cooperative's board creates opportunity for greater alignment and impact.

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board?

I know that Shared Capital Cooperative's *Mission* reflects a commitment to advancing racial equity through expanding opportunities to grow community wealth in low-income communities. This aligns with my personal and professional vocation. I bring over 30 years of experience in community-based leadership, community building, asset and wealth building strategies, organizational leadership and development, and systems change work, all with an equity lens. I believe this experience would contribute to Shared Capital Cooperative's ability to deliver on its external work of supporting co-op development, as well as the internal organizational capacity building required to achieve that goal. I am also very interesting in learning more about Shared Capital Cooperatives approaches and practices in supporting democratic ownership models locally and nationally.

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital Cooperative in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

Although Culturally-based cooperative economic models can be found in nearly every cultural community, the field of cooperatives in Minnesota disproportionately benefits European Americans. I believe that achieving equitable economics in our region, and nation, requires intentionally tapping the creative potential of different cultural communities. We will need a broad range of knowledge and insight to understand issues, explore alternatives, and create a shared roadmap to addressing our best opportunities, as well as our most complex challenges.

I bring well established and trusted relationships with many of the communities in our region that are engaged in culturally-based economic practice. I also have extensive relationships within the philanthropic and government sector. These asset would significantly benefit Shared Capital Cooperative in its efforts to build economic democracy.

Julie Ristau

Incumbent

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

Lakewinds Food Co-op



Please provide a bio of relevant experience which will be on our candidates forms.

Julie Ristau has a broad practical expertise in organizational, community, and business development. A focus of her work is animating new possibilities for a wide range of organizations and people. Her work includes collaborative planning, detailed problem solving, strategic visioning practical implementation and an orientation for collaborative process and cooperative structures. Plus she is a whiz at numbers, cashflow—she got her training as a farmer.

She is currently the COO of Main Street Project in Northfield, MN, where she helped to acquire—with a new paradigm shifting ownership model—the first Regenerative Farm that has been sanctioned by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. This new demonstration farm has at the heart of it cooperative structure, co-creative process, and an intention of being a pilot for immigrant farmers who can own their own means of production and control.

Julie's experience crosses many fields. She grew up on a diverse small farm in South Central Minnesota, and attended Iowa State University and Mankato State University, where she received her BS degree. She then founded and ran her own swine breeding stock business. After moving to Minneapolis, she helped launch the nationally recognized *Utne Reader* magazine and was publisher from 1983-1987. From 1987 to 1991 she was executive director of the National League of Rural Voters, a family farm advocacy and policy group with offices in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. She then founded and directed Regeneration Partnership, a non-profit organization that worked with small communities on realizing their potential for more economic visions and strategies.

In 1999-2000 she did field research and organizing (Community Endowed Chair) pertaining to local economic strategies and sustainable cooperative business development while working along side the Experiment for Rural Cooperation in Southeast Minnesota.

She returned to *Utne Reader* magazine as Publisher in 2001 to help lead the company during a transition in ownership and strategy, helping to reinvent the magazine and create a pioneering hybrid for-profit/non-profit structure.

She was the co-director of On the Commons, a broadly focused national network that raises the visibility of resources that have been created by the public or are part of the natural wealth that must be protected and passed on to future generations. Among the projects she's initiated and helped to implement have been a national convening that focused on farmland restoration and investment, <http://www.onthecommons.org/work/developing-commons-based-approach-security>; <http://www.onthecommons.org/work/commons-based-community-investment-strategies> and a report for Northwest Area Foundation entitled

Julie Ristau continued

“Growing Regional Wealth: A Closer Look at the Impact of Local Food Systems and Creative Financing. (available upon request).

Currently she is the Chief Operations Officer of the Main Street Project in Northfield where she oversees the operations and programs, including training and R+D. She led the acquisition and development of the new Main Street Central Farm that will serve the Latino farmers that are being trained in MSP’s poultry centered regenerative ag model and system, while in the future striving to build a cooperative model that will de-risk their control and ownership. Cooperative based financing is part of that work.

As an active community volunteer, Ristau co-founded, helped design and lead Homegrown MPLS, the Mayor’s local food initiative. She served as a board member of the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture for six years, she is chairing the Permaculture Collaborative, (formally the Permaculture Research Institute, Cold Climate.)

Please tell us how you feel your experience will help you serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors.

My experience bridges several areas of work that I hope Shared Capital Cooperative could benefit from.

- I have spent over 10 years working in the area of cooperative structures, processes and what we names several years ago “commons-based frameworks and projects” when I was Co-directing On the Commons and also as a consultant. To that end I have a deep commitment and knowledge base of cooperative enterprise development and structures, having been able to work with many in this field that have expertise.

- I have been focused also during that time on the area of Slow-Money investment (having helped to start the Slow Money effort here in Minnesota) I was involved when I was Publishing Utne Reader with its pressures, the Social Venture Network, and currently I am working to apply the principles and possibilities of Impact Investing at my job with Main Street Project as their Chief Operating Officer. I believe this experience can be leveraged on behalf of Share Capital.

- My deepest knowledge base stems from having worked in production agriculture, first as a hog breeder in Southern MN in my earlier years, coming full circle as an community-based Endowed Chair working in SE Minnesota in the 90s when the idea of local food was just taking shape in rural areas. I helped to start the first formal distribution network in SE that helped to spawn such businesses as Clancy’s Meat Market. Back then it was a sea change to begin to accompany some farmers towards food and away from commodities. I have had a steadfast commitment to good/local food business efforts, such as our vast network of Food Co-ops in this region. I spent 4 6 years as a volunteer working on behalf of the Minneapolis Mayor’s office to launch Homegrown Minneapolis, and the Food Council.

Julie Ristau continued

Why would you like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board?

I think my intersection of common-based economics and frameworks, socially conscious and out of the box investment and also a multi-dimensional aptitude for food based enterprise development could be an effective match for participating as a Shared Capital board member. I also believe strongly and have acted on lending my history and skill base as a volunteer. I grew up with that ethic. In short, I put my energies and talents where I can be effective. I have just finished a 6-year position on the MISA board at the University; my “volunteer time commitment” is open. As soon as I saw the announcement for the Shared Capital Board I jumped on the opportunity to contribute. Building Economic Democracy is what my life’s work has been about. I would like to be a part of your work. Period.

What are the primary challenges and opportunities you see for Shared Capital Cooperative in the future? With those in mind, how do you see yourself contributing to addressing those issues?

I do not have a lot of access about what your current challenges are in your inner workings; I have read your annual reports from the last years, studied your website. I am excited to see your evolution, (here is a little aside, but to say I did the first board retreat for NCDS many, many years ago.) But I do see some trends with continued receding margins with co-ops writ large. I am used to working nationally. I am very good with spreadsheets and economic analysis. I admire the process you went through to re-brand organization, and I think it is working well. I would like to be a part of your next evolution.

I would listen closely in the first phase of my board membership to learn where I could be of most service. On the writ large factor, I do believe that what you are doing now is more important than ever to making paradigm- shifting change. Shared economy strategies and structures are more and more being sought after in this world of continued commodification, at the same time margins are squeezed out of local and sustainable efforts because of the system they live in. I think I could lend some insight and additional expertise to this tension.

~