

2024 Shared Capital Board Election Candidates

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Introduction and Election Information

This year's vote will be held electronically. The election is for both cooperative members and individual members. This year we have eighteen (18) candidates: sixteen (16) candidates for the five cooperative member seats that are up for election and two (2) candidates for the one individual seat that is up for election. All seats have three year terms except one cooperative member seat which has one year left on its term – which will be filled by the fifth highest vote getter – and the individual member seat which has two years left.

Cooperative Member Candidates

Gail Patrice Lockert Anthony

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives

Candidate Bio

I have been involved in the co-op movement for almost forty years (since 1987) as member, staff 2002-05), board (03-05 and 2013-2019, board president (2016-19) I was President of GreenStar Food Co-op from and board and start up consultant). I believe that the co-op hasn't even begun its real work yet...the work of justice, and that is the work I am here to encourage, engage in, and promote.

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

My professional work is diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). And as a Black woman in



America; it is the work that I do personally as well. I've been doing this work most of my life. It is the lens through which I see the world, organizations, and systems. I've been able to share that lens and perspective with my fellow board members and use it to evolve how we see our financial institution's role in helping to heal history's and today's discriminatory acts against allowing people of color (and particularly black and brown-skinned folks) to build and benefit from generational wealth.

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

I want to continue to serve because there's still so much left to do. This is to be expected. But a huge piece of this healing is to make sure that board members, operational staff (through the ED and members of the co-op know and understand how important our work is, and what it takes to honor the commitment we're taking on as board members. I'm a founding member of the board's Racial Justice Committee and I serve on it, and the Loan Committee. It gives me the bandwidth for assuring that the language, meaning, and heart of DEIJ is heard and understood in ways that invite understanding and welcome dialogue that serves not only our organization, but that might eventually be modeled in the financial and cooperative communities.

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?

Our primary challenges and opportunities are the same as they've always been for organizations upon systems designed to favor one particular group/culture from the beginning of our country. We must honor truth and the principles which make cooperation fundamentally democratic. We must also be clear about using and creating policy that moves us toward evolutionary change even while 'coloring within the lines'. Policy is only good in democratic organizations if it is regularly witnessed as being true to goals, mission, and vision. We shouldn't ever allow policy to stand because that's the way it's always been. To move forward, we should vigorously pursue courage, forward-thinking democratic values, and visionary change which entrusts **all** with the responsibility of moving our organization and society both forward and upward.

Samantha Bailey

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

Eastside Food Cooperative

Candidate Bio

For the past 12 years, I worked in community based organizations spanning hunger relief, affordable housing and cooperative development and finance. Recently, I joined another social impact organization, Software for Good, where I work with social enterprises, nonprofits and public agencies to design technology solutions that meet the needs of real people and communities. Prior, I worked as a Loan Officer and then Lending Team Manager at Shared Capital Cooperative for 4 years. I served as President of the Eastside Food Cooperative through General Manager hiring and on the Advisory and Finance Committees for Listen Up! Youth Radio as they considered cooperative conversion.



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

During my time at Shared Capital, I worked with dozens of worker, housing and food cooperatives to structure financing packages that fit their business models and strategic goals. Cooperators know relationships with lenders and other investors are delicate—we partnered to ensure the cooperative maintained autonomy while protecting the financial interests of Shared Capital’s cooperative members. As a Board Member, I will bring a commitment to the both/and, holding the complexity of being a cooperatively owned loan fund that must uphold the needs of individual cooperatives *and* the interest of our collective membership.

In addition to my cooperative experience, I studied finance and local economic development in a dual master’s of business administration and public policy at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. During those three years, I had several opportunities to work with local organizations and develop a practice of “doing finance differently”. I remain deeply committed to continuing and evolving my practice in relationship with colleagues on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board of Directors and our members.

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

Shared Capital, like many organizations with a commitment to racial and economic justice, is in the midst of institutionalizing principles and operating procedures that advance that commitment in a meaningful way. Every single organization I have worked for has been building the bridge from mission to action, and I bring insight from those experiences to the Board. As a former staff member of Shared Capital, I unequivocally believe that the Board can and should provide direction and insights on how to *do* racial and economic justice, which includes an openness to strategic planning processes that challenge us as an organization. Additionally, I am connected to organizations across the US that are in the practice of transparently communicating and evaluating how they are committed to racial and economic justice. We should seek partnership with like minded organizations, both for accountability and to expand our imaginations. I would like to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board to be a contributor to strategic planning, and provide reminders that the work of change is hard but absolutely worth it. We owe it to the cooperative movement and our members.

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?

The demand for Shared Capital’s resources is already high and will continue to grow, particularly as we strengthen relationships with Black, Brown and Indigenous led cooperatives. This is both a challenge and an opportunity, a challenging opportunity, so to speak. Meeting this demand for our resources will be at least a two fold approach as we raise patient and flexible investments *and* craft responsive, creative financing packages for a growing base of borrowers. As a Board member, I will support the investment side by engaging new and existing members around the critical importance of a cooperatively owned loan fund and encouraging members to invest. Additionally, I will leverage relationships in impact investing to support staff in raising capital from new sources.

Kristi Broughten

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member:

Mississippi Market Food Co-op



Candidate Bio

I currently work for Mississippi Market Food Co-op located in St. Paul, MN, as the Director of Finance. Prior to this role, I spent more than 10 years in public accounting, working both as an auditor and a consultant with different types of Co-ops and nonprofits around the Midwest. I received my MBA from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management in 2016 and am a Certified Public Accountant in the state of Minnesota.

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

Having audited Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) in the past, I understand how Shared Capital is financially structured. I can also bring my experience at a current member co-op (Mississippi Market) to the board. I will be able to help Shared Capital focus on strategy and long term goals over the coming years.

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

I think the goals and values of Shared Capital fit well are a great match with my skills, expertise and desires. I believe I can help in many facets with Shared Capital as I have had experience both with co-ops and CDFI funds in the past and am also employed with a current member owner of Shared Capital. I can support a great organization and help continue their cause of building a just, equitable and democratic economy through financing opportunities for co-ops.

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?

Some organizations that Shared Capital works with tend to struggle with profitability due to limited tools and resources. This deters growth opportunities throughout the co-op world. Shared Capital can build a strong foundation with funding sources to help grow co-ops to their full potential. My focus to bring to Shared Capital would be in the finance realm. With changes in standards that occur quite often, I would want to help the finance committee at Shared Capital keep up to date and focus on looking toward how best to direct its attention toward the future of the organization.

Jaymeson Catsouphe

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

Mumble Media, Inc.



Candidate Bio

My colleagues and I co-founded our worker-cooperative before we even really knew what one was. Fortunately, we love pizza and baked goods, and Arizmendi Bakery has lots of prominent “worker-owned cooperative” messaging on their windows and pizza boxes, so the terms were rattling around in our brains as we discussed what entity we wanted our new company to be. And the more we learned, the more we realized that the values and principles of cooperative ownership were exactly the sort of radical alternative to traditional corporate capitalism we had been looking for.

Four years into running our business, we’ve gone from a team of three to a team of six. Last year, we weathered our company’s first Seldon Crisis (thanks to the support of Shared Capital). And this year, we anticipate doubling our yearly revenue. It’s been a whirlwind of learning-by-doing, and I couldn’t be happier with or more proud of our somewhat accidental entrance into the cooperative movement. I wish cooperative business models had been a more central focus of my education at some point, but hey, we’re here now and I can’t wait to learn more and help bring more people into the mix.

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

My cooperative owes its very existence to a rather unique combination of circumstances. We all got laid off from our jobs at the same time, so we were all available and looking for our next opportunity. Layoffs came with some severance, so we all had some personal capital that could provide a little runway for us while we built the business. We also had a partner ready to give us our first contract while the ink was still drying on our articles of incorporation.

In a very real way, that partner served the same role that Shared Capital might for other startup cooperatives. At the time, we were powered primarily by naive optimism. But without that first contract, our entrepreneurial journey probably would have been much shorter.

Which is to say, the memory of being a new, confused company is very fresh. I’ll be able to use that perspective to help guide Shared Capital to make sure we’re meeting prospective members’ needs and supporting them in a way that feels accessible and feasible. And as a member of a worker-owned cooperative, I can speak directly to the needs of those specific types of businesses. I can also testify to how edifying, life-changing, scary, stressful, and rewarding being a founder of a new worker-cooperative can be.

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

When we opened our line of credit, we quickly realized we weren’t just getting access to some much needed working capital, we were also gaining connection to a larger cooperative community, which scratched a big “Principle #6” itch for me that I don’t think I even realized I’d been feeling until we started working with Shared Capital. It gets lonely being a worker

cooperative, especially if your direct industry doesn't have many other examples for you to emulate or compare yourselves to.

So joining Shared Capital's board feels like a great way to continue my learn-by-doing educational experience by encouraging me to think beyond my company's day-to-day challenges, connect with the greater purpose and significance of a cooperative economy, and share that sense of community and connection with others.

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?

Growth feels like the big challenge at the moment. As people get laid off from companies that are also making large profits, I think more and more people will be keen to look for alternatives. Cooperative entrepreneurs will need capital and community, just like we did. But if increasing demand outpaces increasing investment, we'll need to answer tough questions like should we make big loans to a select few cooperatives? Or should we seed a bunch of smaller loans? Or is there a way to do both?

Thinking about insulating against risk, I think education remains a big opportunity as the movement grows. Investing in educational resources for borrowers and partnering with local cooperative networks like NoBAWC could be a great way to help ensure borrowers have the tools they need to build a successful business and pay back their loans.

I know I have a lot to learn about Shared Capital, its achievements, its goals, and the cooperative moment as a whole, but I do know firsthand how vulnerable a small cooperative can feel. I know the questions I had. And I know what resources I needed. I hope to share all that experience with Shared Capital and the larger community.

Richard Dines

Shared Capital Nominating Member

Cooperative Development Services



Candidate Bio

I am currently the Engagement Consultant for America's Credit Unions for the Northeast. In this role, I work with credit unions across 11 states from Maryland to Maine to ensure that they are optimizing their membership with the association. I have been with Credit Union National Association (which merged with NAFCU and became America's Credit Unions beginning in 2024) for 15 years in different roles. Before my time with CUNA, I worked for the National Cooperative Business Association and the National Cooperative Bank. I have a law degree from the University of California College of Law in San Francisco, a Master's in city planning from the University of North Carolina, and a Bachelor's from the University of Michigan. I live in Arlington, Virginia with my wife and two daughters.

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

I have worked for cooperative organizations my entire career spanning almost 30 years: NCBA for 11 years, NCB for three years, and CUNA for 15 years. I have also served on the Board of Directors of the Food Co-op Initiative for the past eight years; six of those years as Chair. I am a champion for co-ops and believe to my core that co-ops are the best form of business and build a more inclusive economy.

I first learned about co-ops in college. At Michigan, I lived in a co-op house and served on the Board of the Inter-Cooperative Council. For my master's degree in city planning, I wrote my thesis on limited-equity housing co-ops in New York City. My law degree has also given me skills and experience that inform my perspective.

While working for NCBA, I managed co-op development programs and helped found the CooperationWorks! network of co-op development centers. I saw the potential of a growing worker co-op movement and assisted with the organization of the first Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy. I had the tremendous honor to testify before a Congressional committee in support of legislation to create an Employee Ownership Bank.

In 2005, NCB was searching for a staff person to manage the new Food Co-op 500 program to spur the development of new food co-ops. I jumped at the opportunity and served in that capacity for three years. We hired Stuart Reid, who became the Executive Director of the Food Co-op Initiative, and distributed funding to support projects. While at NCB, I also coordinated other co-op development efforts, including work to assist housing co-ops and community development credit unions.

While at CUNA, I learned the credit union industry and continued to work in the broader co-op community. I served as a staff liaison to CUNA's Cooperative Alliances Committee, which sought to create ties between credit unions and other types of co-ops. I also served for six years as CUNA's representative to the Cooperative Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

As Chair of FCI, I have learned a great deal about organizational governance and the particular challenges of the start-up food co-op community. I am proud of shepherding the process of hiring Faye Mack, the new Executive Director, when Stuart Reid retired and gaining consensus on a strategic plan that centers equity and justice. I believe the skills and knowledge I gained prepare me well to serve on the Shared Capital Cooperative Board.

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

I have been impressed by the work of Shared Capital Cooperative for many years. I believe it plays a key role in strengthening and growing the cooperative community. I would like to be part of its continued success and contribute in whatever way I can.

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 rapid growth of Shared Capital Cooperative demonstrates that it has already been able to seize opportunities for supporting many types of new cooperative development. I would advocate for building on this and exploring new areas of emerging interest in co-ops and assessing their potential. I think there could also be an opportunity to expand the pool of capital available for new and growing co-ops by partnering with credit unions and other funding sources.

Teia Evans

Shared Capital Nominating Member

ChiFresh Kitchen



Candidate Bio

Teia Evans has been working with nonprofits for most of her career. She has grown within the US cooperative network over the past 7 years and currently leads a project with NCBA CLUSA to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem in the United States. Her background includes working to help farmer's secure resources to maintain and improve their farm operations. Ms.

Evans is a proud graduate of Morgan State University. She earned her Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration degrees at North Carolina Central University.

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

I believe that my work within the community has prepared me to understand the needs in the field for business development and financial support. CDFI's serve as a bridge for many communities to reach and learn from lending institutions and I feel that my work with a number of organizations and sectors will be useful to the board.

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

I'd like to serve on the board as a representative from my community as well as to learn more about how the organization is working to provide funding for cooperatives around the country. I also think that my own background in finance will benefit the board through diversity of thought.

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?

The primary challenges that I see for Shared Capital in the future is capacity and building a grounded institution with the proper support to grow a field that is in critical need of resources. This challenge is also an opportunity for growth for the organization and partnering with stakeholders to strengthen the ecosystem.

Carol Fraser

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

Key Figures

Candidate Bio

My name is Carol Fraser and my pronouns are they/them. I am an urban



planner, sustainable design specialist, and cooperative aficionado. I currently work at Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG), a worker cooperative on a mission to achieve equitable, decarbonized communities for all. At SSG I work as the US Business Development Lead and as a consultant, collaborating with nearly 40 co-owners on climate action plans for cities and regional governments across the Americas. In my role, I am part of a team that secures SSG's ongoing sources of revenue. On a daily basis, I manage client and partner relationships, and identify novel ways for communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that also improve local quality of life.

I strongly believe cooperatives are key to the new economy we must develop to address the root causes of climate change and build a better world for future generations. From 2017-2023, I served on the board of the Austin Cooperative Business Association (ACBA), including one year as President. During my time at ACBA, I helped the organization secure funding, hire staff, and incubate new co-ops. During this time, I also wrote my master's thesis on worker cooperative economic development, where I studied the political contexts of increasing municipal support of cooperatives across the United States.

My passion for cooperatives comes out of my earlier career focused on organic farming. In 2014, I worked for Ferme Cooperative Tournesol, a worker cooperative farm in Quebec. This experience inspired me to start my own market garden (Fraser's Field), which sold produce to local restaurants and farmers markets in Montreal. While in Montreal, I was also the Chair of the Board of Directors of CKUT 90.3 FM, a community radio station that champions progressive, independent music and activism, from 2011-2015. I am excited to bring my experience and passion for cooperatives and community building to Shared Capital Cooperative.

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

My professional experience as both a worker owner and an urban planner have given me a broad perspective on the joys and challenges of building a new economic system. Progress towards goals such as equitable access to business ownership, widespread community wealth, and sustainable, non-extractive economies will take compassion and hard work. I understand the ins and outs of a broad range of cooperative types (worker cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, housing cooperatives) and their capital and organizational needs. I also have a deep working knowledge of community-based solutions to climate change, which will require new financial and social models to be successful. Finally, I have almost a decade of experience of being on boards of community organizations where I have led strategic planning efforts and guided groups towards meeting collective goals.

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

I see serving on the Board as both an opportunity to learn as well as give back. While I have experience working at, studying, and supporting cooperatives, I believe my education is never done. I would be delighted to learn from other Board members, staff, and members on ways the Cooperative can improve its services and expand its positive impact. Serving on Boards is a way that I enjoy giving back to communities that have given so much to me. The cooperative community has provided me with hope, friendship, and empowerment, and I seek to pay this forward.

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?

Through my work and personal experience, I have witnessed that the cooperative economy is expanding, which is an exciting opportunity. The increase in worker cooperative conversions is one example. Another is an increase in support for equitable economic growth and cooperators of color. Cooperatives with missions to address climate change are also on the rise.

However, this growth means that the number of potential borrowers, and their capital needs, is also expanding. SCC must continue to meet the needs of different kinds of cooperatives, in differing cultural and community contexts. In addition, some cooperative projects are particularly capital intensive, such as renewable energy cooperatives. Addressing this diversity of needs will require strategic thinking as well as creativity and humility.

It will be a major challenge for the cooperative now and for the foreseeable future to continue to attract additional investment capital. High interest rates in the banking sector and a relatively strong stock market mean that the cooperative's yields are not as competitive to investors as they might have been previously. It will be up to the Board, staff, and members to promote the cooperative's social returns in addition to capital ones. This means solidifying SCC's place within a growing cooperative economy by creating a strong narrative (brand) and developing new and existing partnerships. I envision contributing to this effort by leveraging my expertise and my networks.

Diane Gloede

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

Viroqua Food Cooperative

Candidate Bio

Diane Gloede, Retired



I worked for Organic Valley Cooperative for 16 years and developed the role of investor relations manager when the cooperative wanted to raise funding to support its growth. We created a preferred stock, wrote the offering circular, and I developed a marketing plan that successfully met or exceeded our goals over the first 6 years of the offering to a total of \$46 million. The program grew to approximately \$80 million through continued dividend reinvestment during my tenure. I also served as staff support for the board of directors for 10 years and researched and helped develop their committee charters and board procedures. My previous experience at American Express Financial Advisors (now Ameriprise) included a wide variety of sales, training, legal and product experience during which I held Series 7 (securities), Series 3 (commodities) and Insurance licensure. My expertise was training and educating clients and representatives on product and investment strategies. I worked with clients of all sophistication levels including average and high net worth individuals, groups, and other investment firms. While at Organic Valley, my strength was also in educating our investors on cooperative and organic principles, and how Organic Valley was unique in the

marketplace. I was delighted with the loyalty of our long-term investors who became the largest source of new investment through their word of mouth. I also worked with Shared Capital in those years supporting and developing continued ways to increase their lending services and have a special appreciation for their long history, expertise, and dedicated staff. I live on a small organic farm with free range chickens, dogs, cats and soon bees! I am passionate about improving our environment and creating better opportunities for communities to access education and funding for cooperative growth.

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

My background in cooperative governance, member engagement, investing and marketing would serve me well on the board. I am familiar with start-up and growing cooperatives and their need to access reliable and affordable funding.

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

I would love to use my expertise to further the development of cooperatives throughout the country and encourage continued education of the power of cooperatives as I believe they have served our country well for decades and now, more than ever, we need equitable sources of lending for individuals and communities to keep our economy strong and viable.

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 believe Shared Capital offers a unique alternative to investors who are looking to make an impact in their communities, while achieving sustainable growth and stability. Shared Capital needs qualified individuals who can promote their strength, vision, and commitment to cooperative principles and continue to educate and capture these investors.

Anthony Goodwin

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

National Co-op Grocers

Candidate Bio

Anthony Goodwin (he/him) serves as the Business Innovation Director for National Co+op Grocers (NCG) where he is focused on the research and development of innovative solutions to grow the size, scope, and diversity of the cooperative grocery sector in low-income, low-access (LILA) communities. His passion is improving food access in under-resourced communities. He has over 17 years of grocery industry experience across various sectors including national chains, non-profits, and cooperatives. Prior to joining NCG, Anthony worked in retail operations and new store development for Meijer and Lucky's Market and led the development of three non-profit grocery stores in Ohio and Michigan. Anthony has a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Toledo and is currently



pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Health with a concentration on food justice and health equity.

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

As a passionate advocate for cooperative principles and community-driven initiatives, I am excited to submit my candidacy for the Shared Capital Board of Directors. My diverse background in corporate, non-profit, and cooperative businesses positions me to contribute in a meaningful way to the board and advance the mission of Shared Capital Cooperative.

I have a deep commitment to the work of cooperatives and a passion for improving health, wealth, and racial equity in underserved communities. In my current role at NCG, I am focused on the research and development of innovative solutions to grow the size, scope, and diversity of the cooperative sector. If elected, my role with NCG offers a direct link to the food co-op community for Shared Capital — both with NCG members and start-up groups working to develop food co-ops across the country. I also have experience writing grants and fundraising (corporate giving and philanthropic/foundation funds). With that in mind, I believe I can contribute to Shared Capital's fundraising strategy — specifically, to raise funds from social investors.

I am also pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Health with a focus on food justice and racial health disparities. Discriminatory policies such as redlining have left a legacy of disinvestment in communities of color and research shows that these historic discriminatory policies have ultimately resulted in poorer health for residents living in previously redlined neighborhoods due to differences in access to essential services such as healthy food, healthcare, and banking. My research illustrates such disparities and offers data to organizations like Shared Capital to strengthen its advocacy efforts and influence organizational policies and practices to promote the cooperative business model as a driver of equitable and community-led development.

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

I feel strongly aligned with the mission of Shared Capital Cooperative. I am passionate about strengthening the cooperative ecosystem while prioritizing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. I believe that every organization must constantly evolve to meet the changing needs of communities and those it serves. I am inspired to assist SCC through its evolution as you strive to build a more just and equitable economy. I am increasingly committed to helping SCC increase its BIPOC lending towards the organization goal of 45%. I am also interested in the opportunity to contribute as a thought partner in the development of innovative lending solutions for cooperative enterprises. Shared Capital can be a solution to repair and reverse the legacy of discriminatory lending practices by prioritizing lending in communities that are too often left behind.

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?

Community interest in developing cooperatives continues to grow. That presents both opportunities but also challenges for Shared Capital. The opportunity is that the pipeline is strong and offers a positive outlook from a business profitability standpoint while also providing the opportunity for SCC to live its mission of building a just, equitable, and democratic economy. Cooperatives are often ineligible for traditional funding which makes it challenging for new co-ops to start or grow. Shared Capital fills that gap — especially with

businesses located in underserved communities. The challenge is that lending to new businesses is inherently risky, and some would argue even more risky for businesses structured as cooperatives. This presents the question of how does Shared Capital strive to serve people excluded from traditional capital while also acting as fiduciary stewards of members' capital and interests?

I consider these same factors in my position as Business Innovation Director at National Co-op Grocers. The latest wave of food co-op startups are primarily located in low-income, low-access communities. While food co-ops have traditionally been located in affluent communities, there is growing recognition of their potential to transform food systems and promote equity in underserved areas. While this provides substantial opportunity to make an impact in LILA communities around the country it is not without challenges. Unfortunately, previous attempts to operate food co-ops in LILA communities have been unsuccessful. In my role, I'm focused on innovative approaches to support food co-op startups in LILA communities to increase their long-term viability (ex. access to mission-driven funding) and grow the size, scope, and diversity of the cooperative sector. I look forward to the opportunity to bring that perspective to the Shared Cooperative Board of Directors.

Cecily Mireles

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

Hasta Muerte Coffee

Candidate Bio

For the past two years, I have proudly served as a worker-owner at Hasta Muerte Coffee, a vibrant seven-member worker-owned cafe nestled in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland, California. Our collective is steadfastly committed to creating an inclusive environment that amplifies the voices of marginalized communities, particularly people of color, queer and transgender individuals. As a transgender woman of color, finding a workplace where my identity is not only acknowledged but valued has been immensely meaningful to me.

Within our collective, every member actively engages in all facets of cafe operations, from barista duties and kitchen management to back-office administration, human resources, and scheduling. I have worked hard to implement and systematize processes for hiring, onboarding, scheduling, and financial management.

My tenure at Hasta Muerte Coffee has provided me with invaluable firsthand experience in collective ownership and operation, fostering a deep understanding of the collaborative efforts required to realize our shared vision. I am eager to further expand my expertise in this realm while also imparting my insights into the power of cooperative work dynamics.

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

I have a unique insight into the operations of not only smaller cooperatives, but those with the explicit focus of uplifting marginalized groups. Our collective aims to provide a community



space that provides high quality, affordable food and beverages and a safe place to relax. Our decision to bar police officers from patronizing our establishment has stirred controversy, particularly in Oakland, yet our community steadfastly supports our vision and business. It is quite challenging to balance being a member-owner working hard to develop a profitable business while also striving to empower your surrounding community. Furthermore, I comprehend the intricate dynamics of operational division within smaller collectives and the profound impact of funding on the daily lives of worker-owners. I believe my experience can help the Board of Directors achieve Shared Capital's goal of generating wealth in low-income and economically disadvantaged communities.

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

My role as a worker-owner at Hasta Muerte Coffee has highlighted the potential to cultivate an equitable environment benefiting both our members and patrons alike. Witnessing firsthand the profound impact our collective has had on the lives of our members, including myself, both in terms of financial stability and emotional fulfillment, has been enlightening. This experience has reinforced the strength derived from our collective unity. I am deeply committed to the prospect of effecting broader societal change and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to share our collective impact with a wider audience.

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 believe the foremost challenges facing the future of Shared Capital revolve around pursuing and managing growth while staying true to the goal of promoting a democratic economy in low-income and marginalized communities. As the fund continues to grow, both in total assets and more staff to manage operations, it can become more difficult to maintain a unified culture committed to that vision. The key opportunities for Shared Capital lie in continuing to identify, fund, and support new cooperatives with similar goals of building up community.

I believe I can contribute effectively to addressing these challenges. My experience navigating the difficulties brought on by the pandemic has equipped me with valuable insights into managing crises within a collective framework. Through dedication and strategic planning, I have helped my collective not only endure but also grow during challenging times.

Furthermore, my commitment to maintaining a collective culture that prioritizes community well-being while ensuring financial viability aligns closely with Shared Capital's objectives. I hope to leverage my expertise and dedication to support Shared Capital in overcoming the obstacles and seizing opportunities for future success.

Darren Mozenter

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

Positively 3rd Street Bakery

Candidate Bio



During my 25 years of experience in the cooperative world, I have served as a member of a worker owned co-op, a member of several consumer cooperatives, a provider of development and support services for worker owned cooperatives, and as an advocate for Employee Ownership of businesses.

As a 20-year member of Arizmendi Bakery Cooperative, a worker owned cooperative in Oakland, CA, one of my primary achievements was the formalization of our processes and policies. To achieve this goal, I served on the Personnel, Evaluations, and Facilitation committees. We co-created numerous structures that streamlined processes and codified policies. We also ensured that meetings were effective, efficient, inclusive and engaging.

I also served 3 terms on the Policy Council (AKA, the board) of the Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives, which is comprised of 8 organizations and exceeds \$10 million in annual income. During my years of service, we co-developed a 3-year plan for stabilization and expansion of The Association. We also oversaw a rescue plan for one of our member cooperatives, bringing them from near closing to profitability.

Currently, I am the Northern Regional Director with the Minnesota Center for Employee Ownership and a freelance meeting process facilitator. For MNCEO, I am raising awareness about worker owned cooperatives as a viable business structure while also developing new cooperatives and supporting existing ones. This is all a part of an effort to expand shared ownership of businesses and spread the benefits that are a part of that ownership with more people.

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

I will bring my 25 years of experience in the cooperative world to the board of Shared Capital. My experience at all levels of worker cooperatives (member, board member, developer and support person, and advocacy) gives me a wide range of experience to draw upon. I am able to view co-ops through many different filters and will be able to apply it to addressing the challenges and opportunities that Shared Capital will be facing over the length of my term.

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

Shared Capital has been an important part of the cooperative ecosystem for decades now. Part of my work with MNCEO is supporting and strengthening the Employee Ownership ecosystem, with a focus on Minnesota. My goal with serving on the board is to ensure that Shared Capital stays strong while continuing to expand its reach, so it can continue to serve the cooperative community. The funding that comes from Shared Capital is crucial to the continuing strength and expansion of all types of cooperatives in the US. I would love to help Shared Capital continue in that role while expanding their reach so that they can create more opportunities for cooperative ownership.

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 that I see Shared Capital facing have to deal with resources and growth. My understanding is that Shared Capital has currently maxed out it's lending potential. While that is a good problem for the cooperative community, it is still an issue that needs to be addressed. Having a long lag time for members to borrow money can drive those

members to more extractive sources of funding, or leave them high and dry in a moment of need. We need to ensure that Shared Capital can secure more funding sources so that it can meet the financial needs of its current and future members.

Secondly, going through this growth phase will require a solid plan and guidance to ensure that the plan is realized. Growth in any organization can be simultaneously difficult and rewarding. As a board member, I will help plan for smoothing out the difficult aspects and ensuring that the rewards are achieved.

Kevin Pestinger

(no picture)

Shared Capital Nominating Member

Working Systems Cooperative

Candidate Bio

Kevin Pestinger

General Manager & CEO, Working Systems Cooperative, Olympia, WA

Kevin Pestinger has, for most of his career, worked in the software and online media industries serving local small businesses, start-ups, and labor unions. He has been professionally focused on cooperatives for the last five years. Since 2019 he has been the General Manager of Working Systems Cooperative, which has been providing custom software exclusively for hundreds of labor unions across the U.S. and Canada for more than 30 years, and which converted into a worker-owned cooperative nearly five years ago with the assistance of the Northwest Cooperative Development Center (NWCDC). Prior to that, Kevin Pestinger has been in executive leadership and consulting roles for software and online media companies like MatchCraft, Yelp, Zagat, OpenTable/Priceline, Angie's List/Angi, ServiceMagic/Home Advisor, Gerson Lehrman Group, YellowPages.com, InterActiveCorp (IAC), Evite, Ticketmaster, and Citysearch. He has provided investment and financial analysis advisement to venture capital firms, private equity funds, and angel investors in the online media industry for more than a decade. Kevin Pestinger is currently serving his second term as a Thurston County Planning Commissioner. He has also served on several boards including as Board Treasurer of Centro Integral Educativo Latino de Olympia (CIELO) from 2021 to 2023, on the Publishing Committee of Works in Progress newspaper (WIP) for five years, and as Community Representative for two terms on the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) Transportation Policy Board. During college he received an Undergraduate Research Grant to study Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). He is committed to advocating for workers, advocating for social/economic/environmental justice, and growing the cooperative movement.

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

If elected, I look forward to bringing my financial analysis, business management, technical background, and Board-level decision making skills and background to Shared Capital (SC).

My financial analysis background is useful in evaluating the best types of loan requests to fund, the best types of Cooperative business models to encourage, and the best way to use the resources of Shared Capital most efficiently for all members. My business management expertise will help Shared Capital to better understand the best ways to evaluate and support member's/SC's own management teams, strategic plans, financial modeling (including projections) and reporting, plus mission/vision/values statements. My Board-level decision making experience and technical background will assist Shared Capital with stability, sustainability, fully representing members, fund-raising, long-term planning, strategic partnerships, and technological innovation.

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

Cooperatives are the most ideal form of employment possible in this current world, and they create so much benefit for society as well. I am lucky enough to have my dream job of being the GM of a worker-owned cooperative, thanks in part to Shared Capital. I want to help expand these opportunities to as many people and communities as possible. Providing my expertise and skills to Shared Capital is one of the best ways I can help accomplish this.

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?

All organizations have challenges with growth that vary depending on size, from operationally improving efficiency through better processes, tools/technology, documentation, and listening to front-line workers, to branding/marketing/awareness for the markets they wish to serve, to evolving within their industry and against their competition, to maintaining good cash-flow and reserves, to recruiting, training, engaging, and retaining talent, to strategically planning for both short-term needs and long-term vision to get all team members working in the same direction. Shared Capital must also deal with complicated and quickly changing regulatory issues at both federal and state levels, plus a very complex diversity of potential cooperatives to consider assisting. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence related tools will have a revolutionary effect on many of the industries where member cooperatives operate and navigating this will be a strength I bring to Shared Capital.

Daniella Preisler

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

ChiFresh Kitchen



Candidate Bio

I'm originally from Chile, with extensive experience as a worker owned cooperative development consultant, certified community coach and trainer. As a consultant, through educational tools and coaching, I advise my clients to develop their capabilities. My passion has become to be a bridge for my community to overcome our barriers in order to become owners of our labor, to have a dignified life where we can provide security for our families and work for the benefit of our community. I have dedicated all my resources to educate myself to help my community to be prepared for the next economy.

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

The moment I moved to the US, my whole life was turned upside down, that's what happens when you migrate and if it is an economic migration not always you leave behind what for you was a safe place. In my case, it was my comfort zone and through my work experience I was forming my professional path but because I was in my comfort zone I couldn't see it and I struggled a lot. Once here, as one of the millions of immigrants, I was forced by the circumstances to think outside of the box, vulnerable but this enabled me to realize about my privileges of being an immigrant with less barriers. Economic and racial justice are the values that have moved me towards my professional path and my experiences in life have provided me the possibility to use the struggle as a strength and motivation to become a worker cooperative development consultant. I see every day in my work how my community struggles in an economic system where they are invisible, so survival mode allows them to get the best out of it. I truly believe a cooperative business model is the right path to solve so many social, racial, and economic inequalities but this model comes with a big barrier for our community which is the access to capital and here is how we can work together learning from each other so that this barrier becomes more and more invisible.

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

Cooperative values are what guide my work, so I feel very connected to the work of Shared Capital Cooperative, I think that my experience working with the underserved communities could be a contribution so that Shared Capital can better support these communities to shorten the economic gap. Because my professional development has not been academic but based on work experience with the community, fulfilling this role would also be a great learning opportunity for me.

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 challenges we face globally as a movement are increasingly difficult, since the global situation of unemployment, climate change and large socio-economic gaps in an increasingly fascist political environment supported by an individualistic and ruthless economic system brings consequences like an uncertain job future. Shared Capital is a fundamental piece in the ecosystem of the cooperative movement and working with the entire community to face these challenges together is a strategy that I consider essential. The poor distribution of wealth is an issue that could only be solved if we work as a community for the common good, therefore, it is necessary to have allies who are a vehicle to strengthen this work towards a social and solidarity economy, where the entire community has a responsibility. I feel that responsibility with my community by participating in this board, working, and learning together with other people who, like me, have privileges that we are willing to share and use for the benefit of all. That is my commitment to the community and to the mission and vision of this board.

Alex Stone

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

Cooperation Works!



Candidate Bio

Alex Stone has been the Executive Director of CW since early 2016. She first became involved with co-ops through student housing co-ops at UC Berkeley, where she lived for three years and participated as a house-level manager and board member. She was deeply involved with the creation of the Berkeley Student Food Collective and served as the store's first Operations Manager through its first two years. Alex co-founded the Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive and coordinated its first training involving over twenty students from seven universities across the west coast. As ED of CW, she has grown the network, undertaken a redesign of our flagship training for cooperative developers, and cultivated deep ties across the cooperative movement in the US. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Management, Cooperatives, and Credit Unions program in the International Centre for Co-operative Management at St. Mary's University (and slated to graduate this fall!). She was a Just Economy Institute fellow for the 2022-2023 cohort.

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

As the Executive Director of CooperationWorks, I work closely with cooperative developers providing technical assistance, business support, education, and training to new and growing cooperatives across co-op sectors and throughout the United States. This perspective provides unique insight into the challenges and needs of cooperatives today. I manage the development and delivery of our training *Finance Fundamentals: Financial Analysis for New Cooperatives*, which provides cooperative developers with the skills and tools to assist new cooperatives in developing pro formas, creating and understanding financial statements, and becoming loan-ready.

As a fellow for the Just Economy Institute 2022-2023 cohort, I developed a deep understanding of how capital, when deployed in intentional and non-extractive ways, can contribute to an equitable and just society built by people creating solutions to the challenges they've encountered. Through JEI, I was also able to build meaningful relationships with financial activists throughout the US and Canada who are committed to redirecting the flow of capital to support a just, regenerative economy.

As a student in the Saint Mary's Management, Cooperatives, and Credit Unions program, I have learned with and from a diverse group of cooperators working on creative, collaborative solutions around the globe.

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

One of the biggest issues cooperatives face is access to capital. This is especially true in the economically disadvantaged communities Shared Capital Cooperative emphasizes serving. Though the cooperative sector in the US grosses north of \$500 billion annually, we lack the

infrastructure that encourages established cooperatives to financially support the development and growth of new cooperatives, as seen in countries with robust cooperative movements. As a cooperative of cooperatives stewarding funds for the growth of new cooperatives and the overall sector, Shared Capital stands as a beacon for how the cooperative movement in the US can thrive.

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 think the biggest challenge for Shared Capital is accessing and deploying needed funds as many cooperative sectors – affordable housing, homecare, worker co-ops, Black-led food cooperatives, to name a few – continue on steep growth trajectories. Though Shared Capital provides a blueprint for how capital can be distributed to equitably support new cooperatives, there is simply more capital needed to support the full potential of the cooperative movement in the US. My participation in multiple overlapping networks – cooperative developers, financial activists, and the International Center for Cooperative Management – provides a unique position to support Shared Capital Cooperative in both accessing capital and supporting new and growing cooperatives.

Saduf Syal

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives

Candidate Bio

Saduf Syal, NYC NOWC, Coordinating Director

Saduf has worked for over two decades within various community-based organizations in New York City as a community organizer, service provider, and cooperative developer. At the NYC Network for Worker Cooperative (NYC NOWC), she has supported efforts to build a strong local network and movement for worker cooperatives through advocacy, leadership development, and educational programming that fosters cooperation amongst cooperatives. Prior to NYC NOWC, she has worked with BIPOC and immigrant communities in the areas of workforce development, cooperative development, workers' rights, housing and environmental organizing, and youth services.

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

I have been involved in the worker cooperative movement in NYC since 2012 and throughout this time I have learned a lot about the dreams and needs of worker cooperatives here and have built relationships with many co-op members and supporting organizations. I also served for some time on the board of the Cooperative Economics Alliance on NYC (CEANYC)



where I gained a lot of insight about the broader SE movement in NYC and its rich history here. My vision for the growth of this movement here and beyond has been shaped by many incredible people who have been working to build it and I hope I can offer any of this collective wisdom to support Shared Capital. Also, I currently manage NYC NOWC's finances and could potentially offer any support on the financial side as well.

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

Access to financing is a major need for worker cooperatives and other cooperative models as well. The existence of cooperative loan funds like Shared Capital is necessary for supporting the people on the ground working to build cooperative models. I like that Shared Capital is cooperatively owned and would love to understand how it works and to bring that information back to those I work with. I also have seen some growing support from Shared Capital here in NYC and hope to support them in expanding their reach even further to all communities. Finally, I hope to learn about the exciting projects and cooperatives they work with across the country.

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 think there's a lot of opportunity to grow and reach more cooperatives /communities across the country as there continues to be growing interest for worker cooperatives and other solidarity economy models. I hope to learn about the challenges Shared Capital has faced in supporting various types and sizes of cooperatives and to support in thinking through solutions to strengthen its reach and accessibility.

Patty Viáfara

Shared Capital Nominating Member:

The Improve Group Cooperative

Candidate Bio

I joined Nexus Community Partners to lead the Worker Owner Initiative (WOI), which is part of the Shared Ownership Center at Nexus. I help companies assess employee ownership as a model for stronger businesses and create employee and community wealth. Our vision is to raise awareness of these models so that business ownership, quality jobs, and community self-determination are accessible to all of us. I've been working with small businesses and non-profits for over 14 years in a variety of roles, primarily focused on the people side of change management. I've worked with dozens of companies at various stages on their journey to employee-ownership, and have directly helped 10 companies become worker-cooperatives. I truly take pride and joy in helping groups envision and implement their future and my favorite part of this work is witnessing the change from employee to owner. In addition, I volunteer my time with the Miami Workers Center as a member of the board where I have gotten to support the organization's commitment to domestic worker cooperative development. I draw from my personal ex-



perience growing up in Miami, Florida where 54% of the population is foreign born, and I have learned that I can find common ground with just about anyone. I was born in Bogota, Colombia and currently reside in Austin, TX.

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

I've been working with Shared Capital since 2018, first helping to structure Accelerate Employee Ownership and then helping my clients navigate the loan process. I have first-hand knowledge of borrower needs and experience that would help inform my decisions.

I also work with cooperative startups in the Twin Cities and Miami, I would bring the perspective of BIPOC and immigrant borrowers to Shared Capital, and often see myself as a liaison between capital and people.

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

I believe in the power of cooperatives to change our relationship to work, to build individual and community wealth, and to create informed and involved citizens. As cooperatives multiply and grow and compete, the need for capital that understands and supports the needs of cooperatives will continue to grow. I think Shared Capital is in a unique position as one of the only national lenders to help grow the field, and the amount and type of capital available. I would like to be a part of that.

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 amount of capital available internally and in the field been a challenge for shared capital as it continues to grow and expand, and it is an opportunity to partner with other capital providers to make our coop dollars stretch. I could see myself supporting a focused effort to educate other capital providers, particularly as it pertains to lending to underserved communities.

There are also opportunities to draw-in BIPOC borrowers by expanding our work in southern states.

Individual Member Candidates

Kevin Edberg

(no picture)

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

Joan Stockinger

Candidate Bio

It all began with rutabagas. I was 12 years old when I sold \$76 worth of rutabagas to the local co-op in Moose Lake, MN in October 1969. (It took me 30 years to figure out that the \$0.76

check I received in March 1970 was a 1% patronage distribution). I have worked in co-op development for over 30 years, beginning with farmer-owned value-added corn processing co-ops, then creating a small grants program at the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture to support co-op startups for non-commodity crops. For the last 24 years, I have been the Executive Director of Cooperative Development Services (CDS). As a co-creator of the Four Cornerstones in Three Stages of Development model, I have been privileged to contribute to the systemic development of over 150 food co-ops nationwide; a key purpose of the model is to wisely access, use and leverage capital for the multi-year process of a startup. During my tenure, CDS has innovated in other ways: we developed a board/manager education program serving over 80 senior housing co-ops; we have begun creating a coherent program for startup/conversion of worker owned co-ops in the Upper Midwest; most recently, we have launched a fiscal sponsorship program that has to date brought over \$3 million in individual charitable contributions and (mostly foundation) grants to co-ops, mostly for food co-ops, some housing co-ops, even some for Shared Capital Co-op.

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

Issues of co-op capitalization have been core to my work for over 30 years, The unique role of co-op friendly capital sits squarely in the middle of our efforts to grow a cooperative economy that equitably rewards participation and use, not simply the deployment of money. In addition to experience in co-op development and finance, I also bring substantial governance experience, including over 34 years as a locally elected public official and service on several co-op boards. These perspectives will be valuable as we have conversations about deploying capital for members, but also the tensions around use/preservation of capital and its availability for the needs of not-yet members. These are weighty but necessary conversations for a growing co-op community; I can thoughtfully contribute to them.

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

For many years, I have been both the representative of a member co-op as well as an individual member. I have valued all opportunities to collaborate with Shared Capital Co-op and to provide technical assistance to its members. While I will be retiring from my role at CDS in latter 2024. I remain deeply committed to cooperation as the basis of a just society and a human-centered economy. I seek to contribute to the work of our co-op as a board member, in service of our mission while representing the interests of individual members.

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?

Our co-op is now a national asset, representing investment from hundreds of co-ops and individuals. Stewarding this asset is a core requirement for the board. Aligning our work with that of other co-op finance entities is a key opportunity in our movement today. A growing co-op economy requires more co-op lending, and accessing new capital is a critical challenge if we are to finance the mission of our co-op, and the missions of dozens of current and future borrowers. My experiences in capitalizing co-ops directly inform my thinking on these issues.

Matthew Epperson

Shared Capital Cooperative Nominating Member

Self-nominated as an individual member candidate



Candidate Bio

Here are some highlights (in roughly chronological order) of my relevant experience:

- Nearly 10 years in grocery co-op leadership, both operations and governance
- Nearly 2 years in front-line cooperative banking (during COVID-19) at one of the largest credit unions by asset size in the US
- Founded Georgia Co-op Development Center as a 501(c)3 in 2017
- Worked 3 years in a platform multistakeholder healthcare research co-op
- Currently consulting as the Employee Ownership Domain Expert for Zolidar, which is building the “easy button” for employee ownership conversions
- Board Secretary with my local Hive Mind Community Investment Co-op
- Committee Member of the Social Economy Coalition (an informal group of myself, Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center, Solidarity Hall, and other partners working to help adapt the social co-op form to the US co-op context).
- Chair of the CooperationWorks! membership committee for 3 years
- Board Member with Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive for 2 years
- Graduate (2015) of the Saint Mary’s Master’s of Management: Co-ops and Credit Unions program

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

I believe my experience in a diverse array of co-op settings (consumer, producer, platform, academic) lends me a certain breadth of understanding of the ecosystem role of Shared Capital. I also believe my racial justice analysis (largely informed by my work with BIPOC co-ops in Georgia, as a technical assistance provider, and as a board member for CoFED during its organizational transformation to center QtBIPOC youth) will help me find a principled balance between the generation of surplus, and creating a more just and free world both for people, and our planet.

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

I believe one of the most radical (and important) contributions of the cooperative movement to a just transition to a place of post-racial capitalism is its orientation toward both labor and capital. Put another way, “own your labor, rent your capital” (or in other types of co-ops, “own your production,” or “own your consumption”) all get at reorienting ourselves to capital, and putting it to work for those who make the economy go – its core stakeholders. I see Shared

Capital on the frontlines of some of the most exciting conversations in the new economy space, where labor, production and consumption are taking back ownership and control from the former owners of capital. I was just reminded of this, hearing Erik from the Driver's Co-op talking about how big of a difference Shared Capital's faith in them, through lending to them, was for what is now poised to be, I believe, a key success story for cooperativism in the United States. I would love to help foster more such success stories, as a board member.

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 a primary challenge in the cooperative movement's prominence (or lack thereof) in the emerging new economy conversation at a national scale. As more VC's and private equity firms like KKR, Ownership Works, and TeamShares move into the employee ownership arena, I think there is a danger that co-ops will largely be ignored, or tokenized as niche, small, and inconsequential, or perhaps even worse, misrepresented and packaged as ownership structures which need not be participatory, democratic, etc. I think a "hollowing" of the "alternative ownership economy" may already be underway, and the cooperative movement can and should stand firm that democracy is not a corner to be cut, and control matters, as well as ownership. I think the opportunity for Shared Capital here is to continue growing its capacity to fuel the co-ops where democracy is thriving, and further to show that our lendees are resilient, and effectively weathering economic and social storms that have yet to come. I see myself contributing here by using my new position at Zolidar to help influence the employee ownership conversation toward the importance of control being paired with ownership, and to help in my board capacity by asking questions about our loan applicants which get at cooperative vitality. Are we, for example, looking to tools like the Cooperative Index, as proxies of co-op health? I think Shared Capital is one of the pillars of our movement, and will continue to sustain our movement, even if there is an "EO moment" happening simultaneously.

~ End list of candidates