



## **Board Biographical Information**

June 2024

### **Samantha Bailey**

#### **Senior Product Strategist, Software for Good, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

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.

### **Enrique Blanco**

#### **Director of Operations, Latino Economic Development Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Originally from the Texas/Mexico Borderland, Enrique Blanco has called Minnesota home since 2012, when he moved from his hometowns of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. Enrique joined the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) loan fund in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in 2020 as the Director of Operations. During his tenure at LEDC, Enrique has led a comprehensive strategy and operations transformation project while concurrently providing technical assistance, business training services, and loans to the Latinx entrepreneurs of Minnesota. Enrique actively works on the advocacy efforts of LEDC at the state of Minnesota's legislature, which has secured \$8 million in funding for the Plaza del Sol revitalization project on the East side of Saint Paul. Enrique represented LEDC at the Catalyst Coalition and contributed to designing and launching the Minnesota Inclusive Growth Fund (MIGF), which focuses on the long-term recovery and growth of BIPOC businesses by increasing access to flexible and affordable capital and support services across the State of Minnesota. Enrique is a We Love Lake Street Acquisition & Predevelopment Fund committee member, a \$3 million grant program to support the community-led recovery and rebuilding of businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Lake Street corridor. Enrique holds an MSc in Security Technologies with a Minor in Cybersecurity from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and three sons.

### **Anna Boyer**

#### **Bookkeeper C4 Tech & Design, New Orleans, Louisiana**

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Anna Boyer moved to New Orleans, Louisiana in 2008 to join C4 Tech & Design, a worker-owned IT Services cooperative, as their bookkeeper and a cooperative member. It was here where she developed her love for cooperative ownership, small business strategy, and numbers. Anna has served on the board of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives since 2012 as the Southern Regional Representative, and served as Treasurer for five years.

Anna has a B.S. in Biology from Arizona State University and recently received a B.S. in Accounting from the University of New Orleans. She is currently pursuing CPA candidacy in Louisiana, where she plans to grow her work with cooperatives and individuals to improve financial literacy and lessen their burden of financial bureaucracy.

### **Kristi Broughten**

#### **Director of Finance, Mississippi Market, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

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.

**Terence Courtney, President**

**Director, Co-op Development & Strategic Partnership, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Epes, Alabama**

Terence Courtney has been involved in Cooperative Development for the last 6 years. In that time, he has worked in the South to create food buying, fisherman, health/wellness, childcare, housing, farm/rancher and worker owned cooperatives. Since 2018, Courtney has served as the Director of Cooperative Development & Strategic Initiatives for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. In this role, he coordinates with State Directors on Regional Cooperative Development Strategy. At the grassroots level, support local development in States where the Federation does not have regular staff. Internationally, Courtney led the Federation's effort to create multi-lateral partnerships based in Cooperative Economics. Courtney was elected to the Shared Capital Board of Directors in 2020 and serves on the Loan Committee. He was nominated by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

**Richard Dines**

**Engagement Consultant, America's Credit Unions, Arlington, Virginia**

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.

**Matthew Epperson**

**Consultant, Own Labor, Rent Capital, LLC, Athens, Georgia**

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.

**Anthony Goodwin**

**Business Innovation Director, National Cooperative Grocers, Saint Paul, Minnesota**

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.

### **Cecily Mireles**

#### **Worker Member, Hasta Muertes Coffee, Oakland, California**

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.

### **Charity Schmidt, Secretary**

#### **Staff, Madison Cooperative Development Coalition, Madison, Wisconsin**

I take pride in creating spaces for co-op education and coordination, building relationships between entrepreneurs and community organizations, and contributing to community-driven economic development in Madison. As a cooperative development specialist at the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, I provide technical assistance to start-up co-ops and facilitate outreach efforts to cooperators and community-based organizations. I coordinate the work of the [Madison Cooperative Development Coalition](#) (MCDC), the City of Madison-funded initiative to form worker cooperatives that address income inequality and racial disparities by creating living-wage and sustainable jobs.

I have served in this role for over four years and am an active Board member of [MadWorC](#), the peer-to-peer network of Madison worker cooperatives. We work together to strengthen the local and regional cooperative ecosystem. I also serve on the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) Board of Directors to support co-op education initiatives. I served on the initial steering committee creating the vision for MCDC while working as Lead Organizer for the South Central Federation of Labor.

I earned master's degrees in Sociology and Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I've taught classes on social theory, sociology of race and ethnicity, and American contemporary society at Madison College and UW-Madison. I have published work in topics ranging from diversity in and access to service learning, sociology in action beyond the university, and the crisis facing bee colonies. I was in the leadership of my graduate student union and a community organizer around many issues including U.S.-Latin American solidarity, fair trade, and worker's rights. For many years, I have served on the Board of [Worker Justice WI](#), which builds collective worker power through training, labor rights education, collective action, and community engagement with an emphasis on interfaith involvement.

### **Holly Jo Sparks, Treasurer**

#### **Executive Director, Spartan Housing Cooperative, East Lansing, Michigan and Director, Oryana Community Co-op, Traverse City, Michigan**

Holly Jo Sparks is Executive Director of Spartan Housing Cooperative, in addition to being a cooperative, community, and housing development consultant. Through Collective Seeds Consulting Co-op, she has assisted clients nationally with shared-equity homeownership and financing, strategic research and nonprofit financial management. Since 2001, Sparks has held the position of Executive Director for three cooperative housing organizations, including the North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO),

where she served from 2003–2009. She has volunteered for the boards of the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO), and National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC) and Oryana Community Co-op. Prior to this, Sparks studied housing, community, and economic development at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and at MIT, from which she holds a Master in City Planning. Sparks was nominated by Oryana Community Co-op. She was elected to the Shared Capital Board in 2017 and serves on the Finance and Loan Committees.