

Syracuse Cooperative Market Board of Directors CANDIDATE APPLICATION

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| Name | Katie McQuaide |
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Candidate Statement

1. Describe your involvement with the Co-op. Include amount of time spent and specific activities, if appropriate.

I have been a longtime supporter of food cooperatives and have patronized various co-ops in places I have lived, including the East End Food Co-op in Pittsburgh, PA and Greenstar Food Co-op in Ithaca, NY. I have been a regular shopper at the Syracuse Cooperative Market since moving to the area in 2010 and became a member in 2014. I have attended multiple annual member meetings and recently participated in a bylaws committee meeting.

2. Describe any volunteer or paid experience relevant to serving as a Co-op Board member.

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and currently work as a Clinical Supervisor at an outpatient mental health clinic. I have worked in the nonprofit sector for many years. In addition to providing direct clinical service to individuals and families, I have experience in community engagement, policy development, program oversight, and strategic planning.

3. What do you see as our Co-op's role in the broader community?

I feel the Co-op serves a role to allow people to develop a closer connection to their food as well as a closer connection to their community. In my time spent in the aisles of the Co-op, I have seen more than just consumers shopping for products. I have seen neighbors sharing stories, kids learning how to select produce, and staff members helping a stray cat. It is these experiences that foster a strong community and healthy relationships with our food systems, and the Co-op provides a welcoming and inviting space for this to occur.

4. Please provide a personal statement, including anything you feel is relevant to your candidacy.

I have a strong commitment to supporting our local community, strengthening our local economy, and fighting for a just food system. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board to work towards these goals and see our Co-op continue to thrive and remain that link between the food and the people that nourish our community.



Katie McQuaide