

# CPC Board of Director Election 2024

## Statements of Candidacy

Board Applicants were asked the following questions:

- **What should we know about you? Why do you want to be on the CPC Board? What do you view its role is?**
- **What would you do to foster diversity, equity and inclusion at CPC?**
- **Briefly explain your skills/experiences:**

### Caleb Carpenter

Brooklyn, New York

Hi, fellow Piners,

I am a lifelong Circle Piner, previously a summer camper, counselor, volunteer, and camp director, currently training up the next gen of camp leadership. I want to stay involved with CPC despite my impending distance (2k miles), so this is a perfect opportunity to continue working toward our shared goals despite my limitations. My immediate goals for this position will be acclimating to board work, joining the accounting committee, and lending a hand where needed, as I am unfamiliar with the current challenges faced by this body. The board is a group of lifer CPC people dedicated to handling the many official tasks that would distract the ground staff from their invaluable work. Honestly, my view of the board is from the outside looking in, and I am excited to begin learning how it functions.

I advocate hiring more people of color and queer people, seeking out local organizations with similar ideals, and establishing relationships with them. We need to identify how and why CPC struggles to retain people of color and queer people and make the moves necessary to reverse this trend. We need to find the walk to match our talk.

I was a resident advisor for two years for a community of 400 people and worked at a small business facing radical, consistent product devaluation.

My experience includes building/construction, summer camp programming, strategic management, public relations/outreach experience, volunteer management, fiscal management experience, and other cooperative membership/experience, and I HAVE ENTHUSIASM! :)

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## Linda Gellasch

Belmont, MI

My interest in caring for the land and providing welcoming experiences for marginalized communities draws me to Circle Pines Center.

I would consider it a worthy purpose to work in cooperation as a part of a board of directors for such a valuable and unique organization. As a trustee of CPC, I would work to help assure its health and effectiveness.

I'd use my work and connections in the Black, Latina, and LGBTQ communities to further expand CPC's outreach. I would work to help elevate people from these communities to positions of leadership, to additionally broaden the voices "around the table" as cooperative decisions are made.

I bring experience in the nonprofit sector, having served as an executive director, chief operations officer, and finance & operations director at other NPOs. I have previously served on the CPC board of directors and finance committee.

My experience includes nonprofit management, fiscal management experience, and other nonprofit board experience.

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## Baby Dubose-Carlson

Chicago, Illinois

I am an active member of CPC and have been involved in its various programs since childhood. As a young adult, I have been working to take a more active role in the space that shaped my values as a child. Professionally, I work in sustainable urban agriculture.

I want to bring more Black folks to CPC membership by partnering with organizations I build connections with in Chicago. Many black folks do not have access to safe opportunities to connect with nature, and I believe CPC could offer that chance to people, especially those living in urban areas. For Black and Brown individuals to feel more welcome at CPC, we need to create programs tailored to their cultures by people from their cultures and provide a space in which they can see themselves.

I have become familiar with communication/marketing, public relations, and fiscal management through running my own business for the past five years. As a tattoo artist, I was solely

responsible for managing my inventory, clientele, social media, and finances. I also gained fundraising expertise by opening and running my shop in 2020. As for educational and summer camp programming, I currently work as a Youth Farming Instructor for Urban Growers Collective. I create and implement curriculum for youth ages 14-19 year-round in this role. Also, I have always been enthusiastic about CPC!

My experience includes summer camp programming, educational programming, communication/marketing experience, fundraising expertise, public relations/outreach experience, fiscal management experience, and I HAVE ENTHUSIASM! :)

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## Deborah Olson

Elected Incumbent: 2010-2012, 2012-2015, 2015-2018, 2019-2023, 2023-24

Hanover, New Hampshire

I have been involved with CPC since 1963 as a camper, Central States Youth Coop (CSYC) member, parent and grandparent of campers, parent of staff, endowment fund trustee, board member, board secretary, and fundraising committee chair. The CPC community has always been an essential part of my life, and I have worked to help it grow, thrive, and serve all its members and mission(s). I am a lawyer specializing in worker ownership and cooperatives. I'm also a singer-songwriter. I wrote many songs at CPC, and several are about CPC.

I am pleased we now have Native American programming and Spanish Culture weekends. I am working with Eddie DeGraw to find local BIPOC organizations for whom we can provide programming and with whom we can raise funds to pay for that programming. When I worked in Detroit, I brought several BIPOC colleagues, friends, and clients to CPC and obtained scholarship funds for many of these visits. Active outreach to BIPOC and LGBTQ organizations in W. Michigan seems the best route. We also need to be allies to such organizations and respond to their requests for support, reaching out beyond our agenda to help with theirs.

I have founded and managed six nonprofit organizations. I am CPC's current fundraising chair and have raised money for CPC and other nonprofits involved in social and economic justice work. I am a member of several co-ops and am a lawyer for cooperatives and other community and employee-empowered organizations. I was board chair of an 80-person employee-owned company for 10 years. I help unions and employee committees become organizations that negotiate for, purchase, and run the companies they work for.

My experience includes educational programming, nonprofit management, fundraising expertise, social justice organizing, legal expertise, other cooperative membership experience, and other nonprofit board experience, and I HAVE ENTHUSIASM! :)

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## Gala Orba

Chicago, Illinois

I want to work with other board members to achieve alignment and further CPC's mission. I am great at utilizing strategic thinking and cooperative teamwork as part of a governance team. I look forward to creating the yearly budget. I'm happy to meet once a month and put in the time needed for training and subcommittees. As a veteran summer camper, I hope to help ensure the camp continues and regains its prior glory.

I will continue to help ensure that all are welcome at CPC. I wonder if we can host special gatherings for people in the Black Lives Matter movement and those currently working on Women's Rights.

I worked at CPC as a lifeguard in the summer of 2000. From 2014 to 2018, I taught High School Math in Boulder and mapped the curriculum. I was also one of the founding board members of the Dill Pickle Food Coop in Chicago.

I also worked for Genewise from 2003 to 2007, managing volunteers and organizing epic fundraisers. Genewise is an anti-GMO and biotechnology activism group.

More recently, I managed volunteers for the Our Mayor Our Choice campaign, a directly elected mayoral campaign in Boulder, CO, in 2021. I also created the electronic newsletter for this campaign. I ran for office twice. Once was an exploratory campaign for City Council in Boulder, and then I tried again in Lafayette in '23 but lost due to a family emergency this past fall.

I am passionate about Women's Rights and Black Lives Matter and want to help CPC regain its former glory, help our nation bounce back post-Pandy, and curb what I see as society's regression.

My experience includes summer camp programming, educational programming, fundraising expertise, volunteer management, and other cooperative membership/experience.

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# Heather Turner

Elected Incumbent 2023-2024

Kalamazoo, MI

I love CPC and have no personal agenda beyond doing what's best for the co-op. I bring my energy, openness, and willingness to collaborate. I lead intentional culture work in my day job and work hard to cast a positive shadow on my team.

I actively listen to viewpoints different than my own. I assume positive intent, and I value diversity.

I bring an authentic energy and passion to the teams I join. I care about what I do, and I care about the impact I make.

My experience includes communication and marketing experience, strategic management, and other nonprofit board experience, and I HAVE ENTHUSIASM! :)