

CPC Board of Director Election 2025

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:**

Karolyn Sudler

Chicago, Illinois

What should we know about you? Why do you want to be on the CPC Board? What do you view its role is?

I was introduced to CPC in 2009 and became a member shortly thereafter. My youngest son participated in the Summer Camp program which offered him much needed time away to gain independence and develop an appreciation for cooperation and collaboration with others. Over the course of the many years that followed, I continued to bring my son and his best friends to CPC to work together and enjoy traditional events such as Maple Syrup, Cider Weekend, and Workbees. During earlier years, I spent time participating in Workbees and volunteering for our first few Buttermilk Jamborees. Most recently I volunteered on the planning committee for our 85th anniversary and participated in the Election Committee last year. After moving to the mountains of Vermont in 2020, I've successfully completed that transition and have settled into more familiar routines, frequently traveling between Vermont and my hometown - Chicago. I've been able to spend more time at CPC recently and feel called to serve on our Board. I view CPC as a haven to many and believe our Board plays a vital role to preserve CPC's core values of cooperation and inclusion, and to protect our programs, land and buildings, and the integrity of our mission, our members, and our guests. Given my depth of experience as a Senior Director of Solutions for a global company and my deep understanding of what it takes to be an agent of change encompassing current state assessments, strategic planning, and oversight of the successful implementation of process improvements, I believe I can offer a unique and objective perspective on the opportunities and challenges which CPC Board members manage. I desire



to take an active role in helping CPC to transparently assess and discuss current issues, determine strategies to manage issues and opportunities, and foster an environment of managing and communicating with greater ease and fluidity. Execution and delivery of key initiatives using a collaborative approach is how I have spent the past 25+ years in my professional career, and I believe my skillset would be helpful to aid CPC's mission.

What would you do to foster diversity, equity and inclusion at CPC?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion at CPC are even more crucial in today's climate than ever before. Having worked in a professional setting which demands the ability to work collaboratively with individuals, no matter their race, religion, gender, orientation, or other ways people identify, I have years of experience bringing people together and leading them to success. I have a proven track record of creating organizations and processes from the ground up and completing complex projects on time and within budget. The diverse team of people I lead and manage are the cornerstone of our success. Each individual has a "seat at the table", and I encourage my team members to bring their expertise and unique experiences together to create successful strategies. It is crucial to create a safe space where people are respected and heard. At CPC specifically, I believe we have more work ahead of us to ensure our membership is strengthened by diversity. Community outreach projects, reaching out to schools, and creating relationships with other organizations that work directly with a diverse population may be helpful to grow our membership base. Ensuring we offer vibrant programming that will appeal to a broader audience may provide new opportunities for many. Expanding upon the Spanish Immersion theme, CPC could offer similar programming to other groups of people and we should also consider a "One World" type of event or program as we are "all in this together". Securing grants, sponsorships, or other partnering opportunities may also provide additional avenues to create affordable programming and/or transportation to our location. I believe it is crucial to enable people of all walks of life to experience CPC events firsthand to strengthen their interest and commitment to our mission. In the spirit of offering my time and service to CPC, I would strongly recommend we look first within our own community to discuss and assess why there may be inconsistencies between our stated values and the reality of our member population. Transparent, meaningful communication handled with both compassion and respect are crucial to help identify areas that need improvement, determine where we are already successful, and create and execute plans to strengthen the diversity of our membership. Given we have many members in the Chicagoland area, along with folks in the Grand Rapids and surrounding areas of CPC, we should also consider "satellite" locations, Zoom events and workshops, and other non-traditional approaches which will aid in fostering outreach and inclusion.

Briefly explain your skills/experiences:

Communication and/or Marketing Experience, Social Justice Organizing, Strategic Management, Volunteer Management, I Can Commit to Regularly Attend Board Meetings

During the 2016 election cycle, I was a member of the national volunteer team for Bernie Sanders. I led and organized other volunteers and volunteer events including debate watch

parties, door-to-door and other event outreach initiatives, and helped to lead national call-in meetings to coordinate volunteers from across the country for similar events. I was responsible for attending standing update meetings with other national level coordinators to report progress and address challenges. I also volunteered with MoveOn and the Democratic Party of DuPage County, calling upon registered participants to secure their support for various initiatives, and securing signatures of registered voters to ensure candidates made it to the ballot.

Aidan Albano-Bachtell

Yucca Valley, California

What should we know about you? Why do you want to be on the CPC Board? What do you view its role is?

I've been a part of Circle Pines for 18 years and have been on the Board for the past three years. During that time I've held the position of Vice Chair and now Secretary. I've also worked and volunteered in various capacities during summer camp and Buttermilk Jamboree. When I first ran for the Board, I

promised to attend every meeting. I regret to report I have fallen short. By my count, I have missed 4/53 meetings giving me an attendance rate of 92%. Sorry! While I may not always have the right answers or perfect attendance, I truly care for this organization, its mission, and the people involved. I would love to continue supporting everyone with another term. The CPC Board is responsible for the oversight of and policy creation for Circle Pines Center. A lot of the work done by the board is a formality, as the real work is completed by the various volunteer committees. This always seems to surprise people, so if you want to make an impact, please join a committee!

What would you do to foster diversity, equity and inclusion at CPC?

Calling out microaggressions, fostering an open spirit, and most importantly, recruiting people who have different viewpoints.



Briefly explain your skills/experiences:

Summer Camp Programming, Educational Programming, I Can Commit to Regularly Attend Board Meetings

Maya Gomberg

Chicago, Illinois

**What should we know about you?
Why do you want to be on the CPC
Board? What do you view its role is?**

The first thing you should know about me is that CPC has been an important part of my life for over twenty years. I first came for Spanish Language and Culture Weekend. I loved CPC then at the age of three and I love it now at the age of twenty-four. Since then I've ventured out and attended other programs such as Apple Cider, Maple Syrup, Buttermilk Jamboree, Work Bees, Cabin fever, New Years and Membership Weekend. I've hiked, fished, canoed, chopped wood, danced and worked in the kitchen. For the last several months, I've been completing another board member's term. I'd like to continue as a board member to further the CPC mission, serve the CPC community and welcome new people to participate in everything CPC has to offer.



What would you do to foster diversity, equity and inclusion at CPC?

I'd help to imagine, develop, plan and grow programs that will draw new people to CPC.

Briefly explain your skills/experiences:

Building/Construction, Land Management, Educational Programming, Communication and/or Marketing Experience, Fundraising Expertise, Volunteer Management, I Can Commit to Regularly Attend Board Meetings