

Voter Guide

Please use this guide to aid your decision in casting this year's ballot. The board's hope is to provide additional, transparent information about candidates.

	ANTHONY CEBALLOS Bookseller	TK MARX Produce Buyer	CASSANDRA MEYER (INCUMBENT) Engineer	SALLY NIXON (INCUMBENT) Social Work	KATE SEYBOLD (INCUMBENT) Farm to School Coordinator	DONTARRIOUS THOMAS Self Employed
How many hours/month are you able to commit to BOD duties?	The maximum asked if not more	8-15	20+	3 hours per week for an average of 12 hours per month.	As much time as needed to fully prepare for and execute board duties.	20 hours per month. I am willing to be flexible when demands of the organization may require me to adjust my availability.
In a sentence, what do you think is the most important role of the board?	To ensure Seward Co-op remains a diverse, nurturing, and active member and reflection of the community both locations serve.	As a group, we must challenge systems of oppression while making sure we are financially and environmentally sustainable as an organization.	Being accountable to the owners and in turn holding the GM accountable, to see our co-op fulfill our Ends Statement and benefit our communities into the future.	To keep an eye on the overall wellbeing of the co-op - primarily making sure the co-op is fiscally stable, and to monitor compliance with the policies.	To unify in unflinching commitment to achieving the co-op's Ends Statement, while prioritizing equitable outcomes for all Seward stakeholders and the financial wellbeing of the co-op.	To understand the Ends Statement and ensure Seward is meeting them, by working alongside the General Manager.
In a sentence, what do you think is the most important role of individual directors?	To bring our varied diverse life experiences to an important conversation around being a continued source of healthy food in a former food desert, while maintaining the integrity and reputation of Seward Co-op.	Each of us should connect with people who are most impacted by our decisions, listen to their concerns and ideas, and be accountable to the membership and the neighborhoods that we're a part of.	Bringing all your expertise to help the co-op thrive, and engaging in policy analysis and monitoring.	To be in touch with the Seward Co-op community and utilize those connections to inform decision making in regards to policy governance.	To serve as compasses – providing leadership, insight, and accountability for how the co-op pursues its Ends Statement and serves the community.	Directors are responsible for long-term visioning, defining strategies and measuring key performance indicators. In addition, they play a fiduciary role to ensure Seward is profitable while meeting its Ends.
What top two skills, qualities, or expertise would you bring to the board?	Knowing the importance of working at a small business rooted in community. Birchbark Books depends so much on its relationship with its customer base, much like Seward Co-op, and every staff member has a say in what happens at the store. I also do my best to be thoughtful and precise in all my communication, both written and verbal. In January, I received my Master of Fine Arts in creative writing, so words and language are important to me.	Over a decade of experience in restorative justice, consensus decision-making, and circle process Skilled in budgeting and financial planning	Thoughtful attention to detail, and focus on equitable community-based solutions.	A deep connection to many people and neighborhoods surrounding the co-op locations, and a willingness to ask questions or speak up when it feels important to do so.	I have strong ties to our community and local food system; I will help the board identify strategies for how to keep our work connected to and grounded in community. I understand how to translate ideas into action; I will help the board develop and implement plans for how to embody and operationalize our shared goals, values, and vision for the co-op.	Two skills that I bring are my ability to build rapport and engage with fellow board members and the General Manager. Having these skills will allow me to have a clear understanding of my board of directors' role, historical information and assist me in assessing where my skills can be most utilized.
In a sentence, what is your vision for Seward Co-op?	My hope is that the co-op continues to deepen it's already strong roots in our communities by continuing to strive for growth through quality groceries, commitment to good health, social justice, environmental justice and equality.	I believe that the creativity and future-building that Seward needs can be found in the membership as a whole, and I dream of a co-op where members' needs are met and whose visions are made real.	Staying rooted in cooperative values while evolving to meet market challenges, equitably supporting local economies, and uplifting new co-operators and communities with healthy food and relationships.	That we continue our work to make healthy food and education accessible for people in equitable ways, focusing on reaching even further to communities who have not been traditionally included in the modern food cooperative atmosphere.	A thriving and inclusive community grounded in equity and shared values—where all stakeholders feel their bodies nourished, their principles and values represented, and their community sustained.	For Seward Co-op to continue to ensure we provide food access and jobs for our communities. There is a lot of grocery competition in the market so we must determine how Seward will stay relevant and financially strong. Deepening the Seward brand is going to be key to that. Building shopper loyalty, having happy and engaged staff and supportive communities are the first steps.
How long have you been an owner of Seward Co-op?	Since 2018	Three and a half years	Shopper since the '90's, owner since ~2006	Almost 6 years personally, but lived in a household that had a common membership for many more years before that.	After being a long-time shopper at Seward Co-op, I became an owner in June 2020.	I became an owner in July 2021.
Have you ever served on a board before? If so, where? What boards do you currently serve on?	I have not served on a board before. However, the collaborative nature of Birchbark Books is very reminiscent of what is asked of a co-op board member.	Previously: Vice-President of Madison Community Cooperative; Board Member of Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative Currently: Board Member of Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice; Chair of Mutual Aid Twin Cities Housing Cooperative; Board Member of Boneshaker Books	I am currently on Seward Co-op's board.	I have served on two founding boards for a healing arts organization and a community education organization. I currently serve on Seward Co-op's Board of Directors. I also currently serve on the board for Family Tree Clinic.	I currently serve on Seward Co-op's Board of Directors. I am also the Co-Chair for Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, a community advisory board for the City of Minneapolis that seeks to build and foster a healthy, sustainable, local food system.	I am an active member of my Home Owner Association board since June 2016.
Do you have any potential or perceived conflicts of interest serving on Seward Co-op's board?	No	I'm currently a union steward for UFCW Local 663.	No	No	No	No