

Purple Carrot Market 2023 Board Candidates



Darlene Brand, owner #96

I am a retired school teacher who has made the Purple Carrot Market my mission. I have been on the board for two terms (6 years) and would like to be reelected to my third and final term. I have served on the Executive Board as President and Vice President. I have also served on several committees, the Marketing & Communication and Ownership Engagement where I am currently the chair. I am a hardworking, reliable, get things done kind of person.

I want to continue on the board to see the fruits of my labor become a reality as we get closer and closer to the final stage- construction. I have worked hard at connecting the Purple Carrot Market with people in the community. Access to healthy food has always been important to me. I want to help the local farmers have a marketplace for their produce/product so profits circulate locally instead of being extracted out of the community.

Eileen Brinkman, owner #530

I am an avid gardener, an enthusiast of fresh healthy food, and a scientist at heart. I give a lot of thought as to where to source good healthy food in order to ingest the least amount of harmful chemicals that have become commonplace in our food production here in the United States.

I believe in supporting local food production. Not everyone can or wants to grow their own food, so the next best thing is supporting our neighboring farmers/food growers to provide us with healthy local vegetables/fruits/meats.

I became a master gardener in 2021 because I believe in eating local, and I wanted to be part of a group that encourages that principle. I have been growing vegetables since I was a kid growing up on a farm near Melrose, Minnesota. I want to share my knowledge of growing and healthy food. I think being a member of a co-op and actively participating in its success fits well with my basic food ideas.

Leisha Vance, owner #680

The Purple Carrot Market is an exciting endeavor, and the folks of Little Falls (and surrounding communities) are ready for it! Don't get me wrong—the options for food shopping in this location is more than sufficient, but a local food cooperative could do so much more. For a substantial part of the population, there's a disconnect between people and food in terms of where it comes from, how it's produced, nutritional differences of seasonal and locally produced food, and so on... I think I could help, in that I bring an applicable skillset to the table. I have degrees in Computer Science, Marketing, Horticulture and Sustainability. At one time, I was LEED accredited and could assist in the LEED certification process. So, I could contribute quite a bit in terms of education and information dissemination. Currently, I manage the Facebook page of One Vegetable One Community of Morrison County, and it's been fun sharing information about gardening, seed starting and anything related to processing and cooking real food.

Purple Carrot Market 2023 Board Candidates



As for a particular committee, I'm open. I have participated in writing grant proposals, but sales and recruitment are not my strong suit. I also have a fair amount of Graphic Design and Art classes under my belt, so those skills might come in handy as well. At any rate, I'm happy to help where I can and would really like to facilitate bringing the Food Cooperative into fruition.

Stephen Jones, owner #18

I have been a supporter of the Purple Carrot Market concept since its inception (actually, before it even had a name!!). I enjoyed my time as a Board member during the ideation and formative years; unfortunately, my professional life necessitated that I step away from the Board after my first term. Once again I feel that I have the time and energy to commit to a role on the Board and ultimately to a store opening of the Purple Carrot Market for our community.

That's what excites me the most... to vision the store opening to the public and realizing the years of work and dedication to get to that point. I have lived and worked in Little Falls for the past eleven years and feel that people in the community would view my role on the Board as a positive for the Purple Carrot Market. I feel that my experience as a school administrator would play well as the Purple Carrot Market gets closer and closer to opening; there is certainly a skill set that I possess that would transfer to the necessary work of the Board in managing finances, logistics, and people.

I'm excited to see PCM continue to add members. As member #18, I was onboard early... and am happy to see the membership exceeding 700. However, garnering more commitments from community members is vital if PCM is to be successful once it opens. In addition, finding "creative" funding sources (grants, endowments, etc.) is a continuous process as PCM seeks financial sustainability in the short and long term.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my name as a prospective Board member for the Purple Carrot Market. Regardless of how the election turns out, please know that my family and I will continue to be avid supporters of the food co-op model in general and Purple Carrot Market specifically.

Myra Person, owner #715

Hello Purple Carrot Market Owners! I am very excited to be seeking a seat to serve on the Board of Directors. While I am a recent resident of Little Falls, my roots run deep as I was born at St. Gabriel's and lived here until 1974. I have often said I never recovered from that move, as I always considered Little Falls my home. In 2021, while going through my divorce, I had the opportunity to make our then rental my home, and I have loved every minute of being back.

As member #715 (the first of 20 in 20 days!), I believe this is a great time to become part of the Purple Carrot Market's journey as we move closer to opening the doors. The opportunity of having access to

Purple Carrot Market 2023 Board Candidates



fresh food and being able to support our community and locally sourced producers is a win-win in my book. It is exciting to be part of something that benefits so many!

Involvement in my community is not new to me as I have volunteered numerous times in my past including serving as a church board member, Girl Scout troop leader, youth coach, as well as a member of the Central Lakes Search & Rescue unit as a K9 handler. I currently work at Bank of the West, soon to be BMP, where each employee is encouraged to become involved within their community by receiving hours each month for that very act. Throughout my work career I have developed many skills including building websites, editing photos, creating e-newsletters, maintaining social media accounts, Microsoft Office, not to mention building relationships and customer service. Earlier this year I did offer to serve as a volunteer on the Finance Committee for the Purple Carrot Market, and I have enjoyed that so much it led to tossing my name in the hat for the Board of Directors.

Current Co-op issues that are important to me include continuing the work that so many others have completed before me and making sure the goal they started reaches completion. I also have an interest in making sure that sustainability is achievable including the maintenance and upkeep of the building to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for years to come.

Thank you for this opportunity and your consideration. I look forward to attending events and having the opportunity to meet and get to know you all.

Julie Lambert, owner #422

I'm married with 6 adult children and 13 grandchildren. We have lived in the Little Falls area for about 18 years. Originally we are from Duluth. We visit about once a month as our extended family still lives in the area. I work part-time in retail and enjoy visiting and helping our guests. I am disabled and use a wheelchair when out in the community. I've been a Purple Carrot Market owner for a couple of years and am looking forward to our store opening. I believe in good local food and supporting our neighbors. Quality food can make such a difference in our health. Having an alternative source can make all the difference.

As someone who is disabled and works in the industry I bring a different perspective. I understand the challenges of the disabled and how our store can be inclusive and diverse for both guests and employees. I look forward to serving and being a part of bringing the Purple Carrot Market to the community.