

AMY CAO: BOARD CANDIDATE STATEMENT

March 8, 2022



Fellow members-owners, my name is Amy Cao, and I humbly submit my candidacy to the Coop's Board of Directors. My growing passion for good food—its origins, its impact, its accessibility—I owe to the Food Coop. I was drawn to the Coop for the promise of delicious, affordable food, and over the years, I find myself becoming more and more attached to the less tangible aspects of what makes our community a true

collective—and how to nurture this spirit to help ensure its lasting success.

In my professional life, I am a communications strategist for nonprofits, schools, professional organizations and public and private companies. This often positions me as an advisor to executives, faculty administration, public officials, and even board directors, to help them plan for growth opportunities, manage crises and minimize risks. Previously, the City contracted me to work alongside social workers as a financial empowerment counselor. This brought me face to face with struggling New Yorkers, as I helped them navigate scarce resources in unforgiving situations.

These experiences have exposed me to unique and diverse challenges at all levels of an institution. This formed an inclusionary perspective that informs my daily life. As a liaison to stakeholders at many levels, I am a good listener. I do my best to understand differing points of view, encourage dialogue to solve problems, and respond thoughtfully and decisively when the situation commands it. As a Board Member, I would do this by leaning heavily on my member community.

I believe an elected Board Member has a duty of responsibility to the membership. Over the years, I've had the privilege to speak with many of you over the course of countless shops, while stocking shelves, scanning your IDs and walking your groceries home with you. I am immensely proud of the Coop community, and I am committed to working together with you to secure its financial health and future sustainability, in service to our founding Cooperative principles. With your confidence in my ability to take your lead by heeding the advice of the membership to act in the best interest of the Coop, I hope to earn your vote.

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

March 8, 2022

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,

Welcome to the third issue of the digital Gazette. Going digital has long been of interest to the Editorial Team, and the changes wrought by Covid-19 led to a quick creation and launch. We saw an urgency to maintain the community ties that the *Gazette* endeavors to achieve, and erred on the side of expediency rather than perfection. This is very much an evolving enterprise, created and assembled by *Gazette* team members who volunteered to work even at this time when member labor inside the Coop is not allowed. We ask for your patience and flexibility with this new format, as well as to help us spread the word that we are still publishing – and with the longer-than-usual lines at the Coop, we hope you enjoy.

We would like to acknowledge the many people who made this creation possible, including: Carey Meyers and Nancy Rosenberg, who dreamed of a digital *Gazette*, editors Dan Jacobson, Peter Grant, Petra Lewis, Wally Konrad, Ed Levy, and Tom Moore who eagerly supported that vision, Matthew Landfield, who turned the dream into vibrant reality, Rod Morrison, who seized the opportunity to showcase the *Gazette*'s talented artists and illustrators, Erin Sparling, who provided a major lift with coding and design, and Helena Boskovic who instructed us all on how to work with WordPress. We owe a big thanks to Coop staff Annette Laskaris, Camille Scuria, and Karen Mancuso—without them, this would all have been for naught.

This issue of the all-volunteer *Gazette* is brought to you by Ed Levy, Hayley Eva Schicker, Mia Tran, Adam Segal-Isaacson, Dilhan Kushan, Erin Sparling, Helena Boskovic, Lisa Schorr and Nancy Rosenberg.

A big shoutout to the pioneers who assembled our first issue: Peter Grant, Dan Jacobson, Leila Darabi, Rachel Blatt, Judy Antell, Rod Morrison, John Donohue, Tommy Kane, Zachary Schulman, John Midgley, Becky Cassidy, Fanny Gotschall, Matthew Landfield, Erik Schurink, David Mandl and Jean Gazis.

We value your feedback. The process for submitting Letters to the Editors has not

changed; details can still be found at foodcoop.com/lwgletters.

In Cooperation,

Editors

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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Welcome to the second digital Gazette. Going digital has long been of interest to the Editorial Team, and the changes wrought by Covid-19 led to a quick creation and launch. We saw an urgency to maintain the community ties that the *Gazette* endeavors to achieve, and erred on the side of expediency rather than perfection. This is very much an evolving enterprise, created and assembled by *Gazette* team members who volunteered to work even at this time when member labor inside the Coop is not allowed. We ask for your patience and flexibility with this new format, as well as to help us spread the word that we are still publishing – and with the longer-than-usual lines at the Coop, we hope you enjoy.

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