



Board of Directors Call for Nominations 2023

Grow Food Northampton, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is seeking new board members with the vision, energy, skills, life experience, and connections to advance our mission. Grow Food Northampton is committed to identifying and dismantling systemic forms of oppression in the food system. Racialized people and others from equity-seeking groups experience food insecurity in disproportionate numbers, but are significantly under-represented in food system organizations. We believe that those most affected by an issue must have access to leadership positions in organizations tasked with challenging food insecurity. We particularly encourage nominations of people who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color, and people who are, or have been, marginalized by the conventional food system.

About Grow Food Northampton

Grow Food Northampton is a food and farming justice organization that envisions equitable access to land and food for everyone. Our mission is to create a just and resilient local food system that nourishes our community and protects and enriches the earth. The core components of our work are land access and stewardship, food access, and education. Our goals are to shift power to those most affected by food insecurity and help to actualize the power of members of our community; to increase collaboration with partners throughout the community; to grow a culture of care within our organization and community; to increase the climate resiliency of the land we steward; and to strengthen our organization financially.

Our Programs

We:

- Own and steward the 120-acre organic Grow Food Northampton Community Farm, the largest community farm in the state, where we
 - o lease land to farmers who grow food and herbs to feed and heal our community, and
 - o manage a 320+ plot community garden;
- Run youth and adult education programming including farm field trips, cooking workshops, and classes on regenerative farming and gardening techniques, and more;
- Operate the vibrant downtown farmers markets, Northampton Tuesday Market and Winter Market; and



- Manage an array of food access programs that ensure that thousands of community members who struggle economically have no-cost or affordable access to healthy, culturally-relevant local farm foods.

About Board Service

Board members work closely with each other and executive staff. Board members serve renewable three-year terms. Full board meetings are typically held eight times per year. Each Board member also sits on one or two standing committees, which include Development, Finance, Governance, and Executive Committee. Committees determine their own meeting schedules and generally meet monthly.

Expectations of Board Members include:

- Represent Grow Food Northampton in a positive manner
- Attend and participate fully in board meetings and occasional retreats
- Serve on at least one committee and fully participate in its activities
- Contribute time and skills
- Help to raise funds for the organization by actively participating in donor cultivation, solicitation, and/or appreciation
- Make a personally meaningful annual donation
- Help the organization refine and adhere to its mission, values, and strategic plan
- Participate in performance reviews of the Executive Director and Board
- Approve and monitor annual budget
- Support GFN's commitment to social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Participate in discussions and training around specific aspects of the work of GFN and the Board
- Help with board recruitment

The main qualification for Board service is a passion for and capacity to advance Grow Food Northampton's mission. Priority will be given to nominees with knowledge and experience in any of the following areas:

- Lived experience of marginalization by the conventional food system (such as food insecurity, food apartheid, hunger, land theft, barriers to growing food, and other similar experiences)



- Fundraising
- Prior board service
- Public, nonprofit, or community leadership
- Community organizing
- Fiscal management experience
- The Northampton business community
- Farmers, food retailers, and restaurant owners

Nomination Guidelines

Self-nominations: Accepted and encouraged.

Deadline: Rolling. Nominations are accepted until all positions are filled.

Submission: Submit a statement of nominee’s qualifications and a brief biography or résumé with contact information for the nominee to Caitlin Marquis, Board President via email with “Board nomination” in the subject line at president@growfoodnorthampton.org. Nominations may also be mailed to Board President, Grow Food Northampton, 221 Pine St., Suite 349, Florence, MA 01062.

Assistance and Support

Grow Food Northampton welcomes nominations by and of people who are less familiar with board service and/or nomination and application processes. We would be glad to guide and assist nominators in pulling their nomination materials together. Once selected for board service, each new board member will be paired with a current board member who will provide guidance about the role and responsibilities of a GFN board member and will introduce them to materials about the organization, the Board, important activities, and current policies. If other accommodations—such as transportation or technology—are needed for board service, we are happy to explore the provision of these resources. For assistance, email president@growfoodnorthampton.org.