



2022 BOARD MEMBER ELECTION CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACKET

**VOTE APRIL 18 - 28 | BALLOTS AVAILABLE AT DNF OR VOTE
ONLINE AT [DURANGONATURALFOODS.COOP/ELECTION-2022](https://durangonaturalfoods.coop/election-2022)**



LET'S MEET THE CANDIDATES!



Elise Boulanger

Occupation: Curatorial Fellow, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College

Education: Bachelor of Art in Studio Art from Fort Lewis College

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: Produce Assistant /
Produce Lead at DNF August 2019 - January 2021

Dear Durango Natural Foods Board of Directors,

I would love to represent owners by bringing my interpersonal skills of empathy, motivation, and gratitude; and professional abilities of organization, creativity, and adaptability to the Board. I am a passionate advocate of equitable public systems, and so I would first and foremost provide my expertise in collaboration for fair decision-making. As a former employee of DNF, I am knowledgeable of its inner workings and have deep care for the team. I strive to maintain relationships with employees and come to DNF with enthusiasm for positive growth and change. Since I first moved to Durango in 2017, I have been fierce about being involved in many parts of the community so that I can understand the people, lifestyles, and landscape that make up this community – my home. Since I left DNF, I have served on two Boards: the Animas City Night Bazaar, where I became Market Manager for the 2021 season, and the Collections Ambassador on the Leadership Team for Sustainability at the Center of Southwest Studies Museum. I also have volunteered for the Durango Arts Center and The Hive. I believe my community connections could be of benefit for the Board and I could help strengthen neighborhood bonds.

DNF is bursting out of its tiny building. I think over the next 3 to 5 years, the Board should focus on a few things: creating innovative solutions for new locations or community partnership for satellite locations, initiate more consistent staff-appreciation programs, and dedicate more funds / resources to bear greater incentives to the community such as returning and promoting a student discount.

It would be an honor to serve on the DNF Board and to become a part of the team again. I greatly appreciate your time in reviewing my application and considering me for an open seat.

Elise Boulanger



Isa Vasanti

Occupation: Healing and awakening facilitator and teacher

Education: Belgian equivalent of a Master degree in Science of Psychology,
University of Liege, Belgium

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: No board experience, but 12
years of experience in team work (heartwood co-housing)

Vasanti continued.

I lived at Heartwood community until two years ago, in Bayfield, where I acquired 12 years of experience in working with others. Team work, collaboration, and participation to a greater good are the skills I bring as well as the vision I hold for the betterment of the world.

To elevate consciousness is my passion. In regards to the food-coop, I believe increasing awareness in our community for local food is important as we see the quality of "organic" food decreasing greatly in our profit oriented society.

Over the last two years, since I moved to Durango, I have been impressed by the shopping experience the food co-op offers: a very friendly and pleasant store with "real" people rather than employees doing their job. I am very grateful for the food co-op and wish to participate in its life in a more extended way. I will always serve with an open heart, which is already, I believe, the philosophy of DNF!

Kindly,
Isa



Hadley Bevill

Occupation: District-Wide Substitute Teacher for Durango 9-R in pursuit of teacher's license (2022)

Education: B.A. in Mass Communications - Public Relations from Louisiana State University

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: No board experience, however,

I was the previous Marketing Manager for DNF and one of my roles was to act as the liaison for the board of directors.

The Co-op is a place that I will always hold close. When I first moved to Durango about three years ago, I was curious about what the (then red) metal building on the corner down from my current home was. I didn't have a job, didn't know more than a handful of people in town, and definitely didn't know I would be walking into what my life would consist of for the next two and a half years. After having many chats and coffees with the, then new, GM, Joe, I started working as the Marketing Manager for DNF. This began my understanding of the world of Co-ops and my love for what they stand for, not to mention the amazing people I was introduced to through working/living there.

No longer as a DNF employee, I want to continue to aid in the Co-op's success and have many skills I believe would assist me in doing so. I have extensive knowledge of the ins and outs of the Co-op from having previously worked there. I am a great team player, communicator, and have a love and background for sustainable and organic foods (Previously to the Co-op, I produced all of the public relations work for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens - events, education, community outreach, etc.)

A few areas I think the board should be focusing on over the next 3-5 years include growth/expansion, fundraising, community outreach, education, and more customer/Co-op interaction. I think these some of the core values of a Co-op and only lead to continued success. I would love to be a part of the planning and implementation of these focuses.

I want to help Durango Natural Foods Co-op thrive, gain more success, and grow its community for many more years to come!

Sincerely,
Hadley



Megan Gavin

Occupation: Director - Strategic Partnerships

Education: B.A., Texas A&M

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: Currently work closely with the BOD and board level committees at the non-profit/trade association I work with and have regularly volunteered for non-profits like the SPCA.

Gavin continued.

I recently moved to Durango and happy to have found a place to put down roots and enjoy a beautiful community. It was actually a shooting star with a green tail that brought me to this unique town and as I've settled in, it will be the people and lifestyle that will keep me here. Currently, I work for a nonprofit/trade association and my role is to work with all our members, grow membership and work directly with our BOD. I've worked in the finance world for 18 years, lived in NYC for 8 of those. My career focused on raising capital and managing strategic relationships. I have a knack for engaging members and a decent business acumen that would be helpful in this role as a board member.

Another part of my life is less of a suit and tie situation and more backpack and sandals. I spent 4 years as a nomad traveling and surfing around the world. Saw a lot, learned a lot and realized how fragile yet powerful this planet is. That time exploring made me become more socially and environmentally conscious and I try to live that everyday. I've seen the importance of healthy food for a community and for one's own well-being and also what it looks like when that is not available or valued. That is why I support local, eat natural, try to minimize my footprint and why I love this CO-OP.

CO-OP in 3-5 years... focus on stability of business in all market conditions, community engagement, continue to bring the best and diverse food options and make the CO-OP a happy choice for people.

I'm excited to roll up my sleeves and get involved with something I am passionate about.

Ps one of my favorite items is the "Phat Nettle Refuge" by Turtle Lake Refuge.



Kate Randall

Occupation: Part-time bookkeeping/data entry at Dietz Market

Education: B.A. in Comparative Literature

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: Served on the Board for FAIR, an animal rescue organization in Tucson, AZ for two years. Owned and ran a bookstore in Tucson, AZ for 28 years.

Hello! I'm running for the board because I am a huge fan of Co-ops in general and DNF Co-op in particular, and because now that I'm semi-retired, I have time and energy to dedicate to something I care about. I was a business owner for 28 years, running a bookstore in Tucson, AZ. In terms of Food Co-ops, I've been involved in them since my early 20's, when I co-managed a tiny one in the basement of a house in Washington D.C. Since that time, I have been a Co-op member (and sometimes volunteer) wherever I've lived. I joined DNF when I moved here to Durango three years ago.

My career at the bookstore gave me experience in a variety of areas including managing staff and money flow, handling day to day business, and working towards long term goals. As the business grew, we moved and expanded it three-fold, purchasing and eventually paying off a building. Hopefully my experience at the bookstore will be helpful when considering the various issues that DNF might encounter.

In answer to the question "What should the board focus on," I would need to listen carefully and learn what issues the current board and management team are looking at. I have no particular agenda other than doing my best to make sure the Co-op stays as vibrant as it currently is, and that it continues to be both a profitable business and a healthy, happy environment for staff and customers.



Chrissy Mosier

Occupation: Youth Mentor, Dance Instructor, Caretaker of homes/animals

Education: Bachelor of Arts: University of Georgia & Fort Lewis College - Spanish Major

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: SOS Outreach Advisory Board Member

My first Co-op experience was in college in Athens, Georgia. Buying a variety of dried fruit from bulk bins in a paper bag revolutionized my understanding of food choices. Since arriving in Durango on the National Student Exchange in 1999, I have trusted DNF as the best shopping experience around. When conversations come up about grocery stores, I can't

Mosier continued.

help but advocate for DNF. "It's the best." Even better is that I used to split my shopping among 3 stores, but after the changes DNF has made over the last few years, I can safely do big shops at the Co-op.

I have collected an array of professional experiences that I hope will make me an asset to the Board. Working at Banga's Farm and the Farmer's Market allowed me to see all that is required for farmers to take produce from seed to sale, and how the food is distributed to the Farmer's Market, restaurants, the Co-op, and Manna Soup Kitchen. The 3 years I spent as a Residential Advocate at the Durango Community Shelter provided a download of the human condition, listening skills, and an ability to relate with anyone. Youth mentoring has connected me with a diverse range of community members and ignited a passion for equitable access to good clean food. I am a lifelong student of Spanish and I dig Mathematics.

After witnessing the recovery DNF has made, I am committed to aiding in the sustainability of that shift, and the expansion necessary to accommodate our growing community. I hold DNF close to my heart and would be honored to represent your voices with honesty and integrity. Cheers to our Co-op!

THERE ARE FOUR OPEN SEATS AND SIX CANDIDATES. PLEASE CHOOSE WHICH FOUR CANDIDATES YOU BELIEVE WOULD BEST REPRESENT DURANGO NATURAL FOODS CO-OP.

VISIT DURANGONATURALFOODS.COOP/ELECTION-2022 TO STAY UP TO DATE ON THIS YEAR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION.



**DON'T FORGET! VOTING BEGINS
MONDAY, APRIL 18TH!**

**CO-OP PRINCIPLE #2:
DEMOCRATIC OWNER CONTROL
ONE MEMBER-OWNER, ONE VOTE. YOUR VOICE WILL BE HEARD.**



**575 E 8TH AVE | DURANGO, CO | (970) 247-8129
OPEN MONDAY - SUNDAY 8 AM - 9 PM**