



Board of Directors Call for Nominations 2021

[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. 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 in the process of updating our strategic plan and mission statement. Our mission (in draft format) is to nourish our community and the earth by building a vibrant and just local food system.

Our Programs

We:

- Own and steward the 120-acre organic Grow Food Northampton Community Farm where we
 - lease land to eight farms that grow food and herbs to feed and heal our community, and
 - manage a 320-plot community garden;
- Run no-cost 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 Northampton Tuesday Market; and
- Manage an array of food access programs that ensure that thousands of community members who struggle economically have affordable and convenient access to healthy local food.

About Board Service

Board members work closely with other board members and the Executive Director. Board members serve renewable three-year terms. Full board meetings are typically held eight – ten times per year with committees meeting monthly. Committees include Development, Finance, Governance, and Program and Site Advisory. The main qualification for board service is a passion and capacity to advance Grow Food Northampton's mission.

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 through event volunteering and special projects
- Participate in fundraising activities and make a personally meaningful annual donation
- Help the organization refine and adhere to its mission, values, and strategic plan
- Participate in reviews of the Executive Director and Board
- Approve and monitor annual budget
- Participate in discussions, trainings, and goal-setting around the topics of social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion

Priority will be given to nominees with knowledge and experience in any of the following areas:

- Lived experience of food insecurity
- Legal background, especially in conservation law, agricultural law, or other related areas
- Agriculture and land management
- Public/private partnerships
- Fundraising
- Nonprofit management
- Healthcare systems
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Elementary and secondary education
- Board service and leadership
- Finance
- Depth and breadth of ties to the Northampton community

Nomination Guidelines

Self-nominations: Accepted and encouraged.

Deadline: July 9, 2021. Nominations are accepted until all positions are filled.

Contents: A statement of nominee's qualifications, and a brief biography or résumé with contact information for the nominee.

Submission: Submit to Hope Guardenier, Board President via email with "Board nomination" in the subject line at president@growfoodnorthampton.org. Nominations may also be mailed to 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.