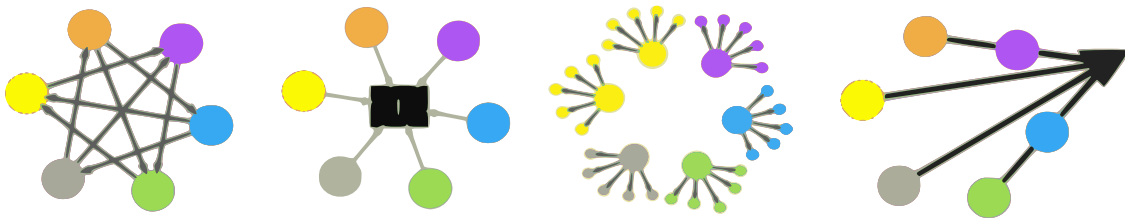


Data Commons Cooperative



Election 2013

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Section 1

About the election

On June 14th 2013 the co-op will be electing its board of directors. The voting mechanism will be posted prominently on <http://datacommons.find.coop>, and emailed in advance to all members.

This election is an important step in the formation of the Data Commons Co-op. Since its incorporation in July 2012, the co-op has been bootstrapping itself into a properly member-controlled form. Following the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the initial members of the co-op were seven individuals¹ living in that state. They elected an initial board of directors drawn from the steering committee of the Data Commons Project, an informal precursor to the co-op, and then withdrew. Next, the board proceeded to accept members along the lines envisaged in the co-op's bylaws, of all organizational types (not limited to individuals). Once a broad enough membership was in place, the board took steps to put that membership firmly in charge of the co-op as follows:

- ▷ A vote was scheduled for electing directors (for June 14th 2013).
- ▷ All existing directors agreed to yield their seats.
- ▷ All members of the co-op were given the opportunity to nominate up to two individuals to run for election.
- ▷ Exercising its discretion under the bylaws, the existing board has decided in this initial year to make seats available in the same number as the number of candidates nominated by the membership.

A total of seven candidates willing to serve this year stepped forward. Four existing directors have been nominated by members and are running for re-election. The names and biographies of all candidates are given in Section 3. Some considerations when voting:

- ▷ You will be asked, for each candidate, whether you wish that candidate to serve on the board or not. You can answer positively for as many or as few candidates as you wish.
- ▷ Our bylaws require the co-op to have no less than 5 directors (see [Article VI Section 1](#)).
- ▷ In this election, every candidate who receives at least 75% or more of the votes cast will be offered a seat on the board.

¹Micha Josephy (of the [Cooperative Fund of New England](#)), Andrew Danforth (of the [Cooperative Development Institute](#)), Kathleen Fekete Bauerlein (likewise), Jeremiah Ward (likewise), Brian Van Slyke (of [Cultivate.Coop](#) and [TESA](#)), Ben Mauer (of [Quilted](#)), and Steve Backman (of [Database Designs](#)). Thank you all!

Section 2

The importance of your vote

Before you even vote, you have shaped the pool of candidates who have stepped forward. The Data Commons Co-op is in the happy position of having savvy, politically-engaged organizations as its members, so it would be unreasonable for a candidate who couldn't stand up to their scrutiny to put themselves forward.

When you vote, you act as a safeguard on the co-op's values and direction. The safeguard lies both in the vote you cast, and the signal you send when you take the time to scrutinize the candidates.

The co-op as conceived by its founders has a broad vision of an "ethical" economy, so broad that it will inevitably include contradictory forces and radical differences of priorities. Again, your vote helps draw the line here. We hope that members will be broad-minded but vigilant when considering candidates representing parts of the economy outside of their main interest.

Section 3

The candidates

This year there are seven candidates running for the board, and seven seats available. They are:

- ▷ Jamie Campbell
- ▷ Emily Lippold Cheney
- ▷ Paul Fitzpatrick
- ▷ Lauren Hudson
- ▷ Jim Johnson
- ▷ Ethan Miller
- ▷ David Morgan

3.1 Jamie Campbell

Jamie Campbell has been a member of Manitoba’s co-op community since his arrival in the spring of 2005. He works for two worker co-ops, ParIT Worker Co-operative (www.parity.ca) and Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse (www.mondragon.ca). He joined both the CWCF (www.canadian-worker.coop) Board and the Manitoba Community Co-operative Strategy’s (<http://www.manitoba.coop/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Complete-Strategy-Jan-2010.pdf>) “Supports and Services” working group in 2010. He currently sits on the board of the Albert Street Autonomous Zone Co-op (a-zone.org), is ParIT’s liason to the Winnipeg Parecon Worker Council (a local organization facilitating co-operation between local worker-owned and run enterprises), and is a founding board member with Data Commons. He is currently working on becoming trilingual (English, French, and Spanish) to be able to serve members of all three communities, which each have substantial presence in co-op communities both locally and globally. The upcoming feature that Jamie is most interested in is the Marketplace, to enable co-ops to not only find each other but also directly engage in commerce with each other. This interest is rooted in Jamie’s “keeping an eye on the bottom line” worker co-op sensibilities.

Nominated by: Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation.

Current role in co-op: Director, former treasurer, former steering committee member.

3.2 Emily Lippold Cheney

Emily M Lippold Cheney began her work in the cooperative movement with the founding of a community cooperative housing network, followed by years of managing and developing others at a local and national scale, and further service as the Executive Director of NASCO (www.nasco.coop), a North

American federation of common equity cooperatives rooted in social justice and anti-oppression. Currently, Emily is active with the development of the new USA Cooperative Youth Council (www.facebook.com/usacyc), a cross-sector organization for cooperative youth, as a Founder and Co-chair, while also sitting on the Board of Directors for CooperationWorks! (www.cooperationworks.coop), a national network of cooperative developers, and serving as the Board Treasurer for Aynah (www.aynah.org), an international cooperative development organization for university students. Emily also spends her time as a cooperative educator and trainer, provides development consultation, and serves on various national and international working groups and initiatives in a range of fields — among them, and in complement to her service on the Data Commons Board, open source philosophy and technology (opensource.org), in which she is currently exploring opportunities for collaboration with the cooperative movement.

Nominated by: CooperationWorks!.

3.3 Paul Fitzpatrick

Paul's day job is developing free and open-source software for the iCub robot (icub.org), which is itself free and open-source hardware. He has contributed to the development of find.coop and the [Coopy Toolbox](#). Paul grew up on a small farm in Ireland. There were goats involved. He now lives in Montclair, New Jersey. There are fewer goats involved.

Nominated by: Cooperative Development Institute.

Current role in co-op: Director, secretary, membership committee member, operations team member, former steering committee member.

Disclosures: Paul is married to Noémi Giszpenc, the executive director of the Cooperative Development Institute.

3.4 Lauren Hudson

Lauren Hudson is a recent graduate from Sarah Lawrence College, where she concentrated in studio art and human geography. She is one of the founding members of the college's first food co-op. Her interests include solidarity economics, feminist geography, and participatory action research. Ms. Hudson is currently a New York City Civic Corps member (http://www.nycservice.org/initiatives/index.php?bitinitiative_id=3) serving at New York Writers Coalition and is a member of Solidarity NYC (solidaritynyc.org). She lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Nominated by: SolidarityNYC.

3.5 Jim Johnson

Jim is a co-founder of the Data Commons Cooperative, and currently serves on the DCC board as interim Treasurer. He is also a member of the [Grassroots Economic Organizing media collective](#), which has been chronicling the worker co-op and solidarity economics movements in the US and around the world for over thirty years, and which also provided much of the initial spark for the Data Commons Cooperative back in 2005.

Jim has been in small business and free-lancing for over thirty-five years, and has spent over twenty of those years working with and for co-ops. He is a software engineer by profession, specializing in statistical analysis websites, and is currently on sabbatical from his own worker co-op after serving ten years there, including three years as President. He has also spent several years consulting to, and serving on the board of, his local food co-op, including two years as President. He is also a member of the development team for the [Co-op Index](#), a diagnostic tool developed by worker co-op members

and developers as a way of helping worker co-ops grow closer to an “ideal cooperative” organization, as guided by cooperative values.

Jim is a co-founder of the [Democracy At Work Network](#), the technical assistance service of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, and he currently serves on DAWN’s Board of Governors and its Training and Certification committee. He is also currently serving DAWN as a certified Peer Advisor, actively providing technical assistance to worker co-ops, start-ups, and conversions. He is also a graduate of the [CooperationWorks!](#) Training for Cooperative Development Practitioners, and served several years in the CW leadership as Chair of CW’s Networking Circle. He is also a current member of the [US Federation of Worker Cooperatives](#).

Nominated by: CooperationWorks!.

Current role in co-op: Director, interim treasurer, former steering committee member.

3.6 Ethan Miller

Ethan Miller is a writer, researcher, educator, and organizer whose primary work focuses on imagining and cultivating democratic, equitable and ecological forms of livelihood. As one of the co-founders of the Data Commons, Ethan is excited about building practical tools (both conceptual and physical) that can help us to create and sustain solidarity-based economies. He has written and led many workshops on solidarity economics, and is a long-time member of the Grassroots Economic Organizing media collective (www.geo.coop) and, more recently, the Community Economies Collective (www.communityeconomies.org). Ethan has a Master’s degree in geography from Umass Amherst, where he studied alternative concepts of regional economic development, and is currently working on a PhD dissertation as a student in Social and Political Thought at the University of Western Sydney (in Australia). His research focuses on rethinking the concepts of “economy, ecology and society” in ways that challenge problematic distinctions between nature and culture, and open up more space to think and act ethically in the face of interdependence, injustice and uncertainty. This sounds really theoretical, and it is, but the work itself is grounded in extensive conversations with economic developers and ecological defenders in Maine regarding the practical possibilities for developing new shared stories about what it means to live together in this wild and challenging world. When not in Oz (like right now, doing fieldwork back home), Ethan lives, works, plays and tends the orchard with his partner Kate, his 5-month-old son Loren, and a bunch of other great people at the JED Collective, a cooperative homestead in Greene, Maine.

Nominated by: Grassroots Economic Organizing.

Current role in co-op: Director, president, membership committee member, former steering committee member.

3.7 David Morgan

David Morgan is a worker-owner of the Toolbox for Education and Social Action (TESA, www.toolboxford.org), the organization behind Cultivate.coop. David has long been involved with social movements — from public space activism to anti-poverty work — that make use of the kind of everyday democracy that is at the core of his work at the Toolbox for Education and Social Action. His background is in cultural organizing, as co-founder of the Groundswell Collective, a group of artists/activists who produce and research critical cultural works, and as a committee member the HONK! Festival of activist street bands for more than five years. After graduating from Hampshire College, he focused on nonprofit communications work with such groups as the Boston-based housing rights organization City Life/Vida Urbana.

Nominated by: Cultivate.Coop.