

CANDIDATE NAME: Davin Stedman

Candidate Questionnaire

The following questionnaire is intended to help voters learn a little about our candidates: their interest in holding office, background, skills, experience, and any vision for the future of the Market. The Constituency values diversity of opinion.

All timely responses will be circulated directly to Constituency members and may also appear on our website and via other news media that is available to the public.

1. What is your connection to the Market? Why are you a member of the Constituency?

I am an agent for Jeremy & Kattie's Glass Straws in the North Arcade. I have been helping Dave Ryan since 2022 in the Down Under and I am doing everything I can to help him keep that Pop Art shop going as he continues his cancer fight.

I am even planning an art show and acapella night in The Down Under to help him sell original paintings and highlight what an incredible and underappreciated place the Down Under is in terms of vibe, acoustics, and history.

I have always had a certain knack for helping unlock the potential of good people and special places.

A little love goes a long way.

I love singing the Bill Withers' "Lean on Me" here at the Market, because everybody knows the tune and hears it so true. I want to embody that message, and be someone you can count on in those moments when you need a hand.

I want to see everyone here reach their full potential. Sincerely. I hope you surprise yourself.

I may sell out shows around town as a singer, but I have hundreds of hours ahead of me before I reach anywhere near where I want to be as a street performer.

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Part of what I get served here as salesman and singer on these street corners is humble pie.

But it is why the Market has made me better. I came here to try new things. I never thought I would run for office, even when someone handed me a strange little piece of paper and told me it would only cost a dollar.

I officially started out as a licensed Busker at Pike Place towards the end of The Pandemic. But I came here with optimism and dreams of becoming a licensed tour guide.

I love sharing the history of The Market and The greater Northwest, so to make a career out of telling visitors where Princess Angeline worked and lived and how Madame Nellie gave the LaSalle Hotel got a fake New Orleans name, would be an honor.

I am hopefully going to be leading a few Friends of The Market tours for free before the year's end, provided I pass the test.

Many of my teachers are no longer here except in legend. But the words of the late Victor Steinbruck, Emmett Watson, and Michael Yeager still ring in my ear. Yet wisdom and memory are everywhere here. I have learned more in 5 minutes chatting with some of you, than I will ever glean from my library of books about Pike Place.

I recently spoke with Beverly and she shared her experience visiting Emmett in the hospital in his final days, and she spoke of the energy that was here in the early 70s.

Louis inspired me with tales as he crafted jewelry about what the Market was like when my mentors such as Jim Page and James Young were drawing crowds here in the 90s. Back then the Market was a back drop for motion pictures as the city of Seattle was romanticized by a billions souls around the world.

It can happen here again...and again.

It is with those visions of how wonderful this place can be, that I signed up with Bruce at Chin Music Press to see if I could be a part of the solution. Not the pollution.

In my first year as a member I co-founded BUSKARAMA here last Father's Day weekend with our 501(c)(3) non profit Veterans of The Arts.

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We created a special kind of Busker festival. We are producing more BUSKARAMAS in exotic places such as Southern Italy and Kingston Jamaica. But also some little places like Pateros, Washington on Sept 20 & 21st that booked the next Buskarama, because they want more culture and recognition for local musicians.

Nearby towns are banning Busking but through BUSKARAMA and memories of Pike Place in the late 20th century, they know this folk art equals opportunity...for all.

The vision I shared with every Busker that would listen was that I dreamed of helping to bring Pike Place buskers around the world, and the world's great buskers here.

I am a member of The Constituency because I want to help people. I am running because I was asked to run for an At Large position which was one of the sweetest and kindest requests I have ever received.

I accepted and immediately called my Mother and Father and shared with them how wonderful it felt to be accepted and have a small role here in helping Pike Place for maybe the next 50 years.

But I am also running because I have been threatened with violence and voter intimidation if I chose to run. If you have questions about this, just ask me.

Whether I win or lose, I want to make it known that such behavior, whether allowed in by laws or not, are not acceptable in The Pike Place Market or anywhere for that matter.

If you want an honest man who works well with others and gets the job done against the heaviest of odds, I am a good option.

2. Have you attended Constituency meetings and if so, how many in the past year?

I was present at the Constituency meeting when the 50 year plan was approved to move forward.

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3. In your view, what are the biggest issues facing the Market now and in the near future? Do you champion any special issue?

I talk to a lot of my friends and family about why they don't spend more time at The Market and in the general vicinity from 3rd and Pike to the Waterfront.

While some elements of the reputation of downtown Seattle is exaggerated and more political cartoon than fact, there are valid issues of safety beyond the secure enclave of the Market.

Catching the light rail and a bus home at night has been heart breaking. Some of us are becoming desensitized. But beyond the inevitable cruise ship traffic, a lot great people that would have chosen Seattle are not going to come this year.

We get the World Cup and the Waterfront. Maybe that's enough. Then again if that works the city is going to be even more unaffordable for those that live and work here.

I can't fix fentanyl and affordability or bad air quality.

But there are some dark clouds that can be dispersed with the arts and opportunity that this historic district once provided the city in better days.

I don't believe I will ever have the power of authority to fix structural or systematic issues many of us contend with in the Emerald City. I don't even want that power. But as an artist and organizer I can help create better days here.

Whether I am championing new artists busking here and honoring the ones that show up every week or even every day, or refuse to turn away when I witness anyone of us being bullied, I chose to make what time we all have left here, a more beautiful experience.

Pike Place is a jewel.

If this is the Soul of The City, these acres must not be neglected. We talk a lot about the architecture. This six story building is pretty cool and all but this place is about people making stuff.

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Let's make stuff happen.

With a little support I can champion a dozen new buskers and a dozen here right now like Bob Goldstick. I just watched him play all day from my table in 90 degree scorching heat. Get that man a gold medal.

I'll champion truth, and kinder people, and free tacos when ever possible...whether you elect me or not.

4. What can we do to increase public participation in Market advocacy, especially by those who live and work in the Market?

It's pretty easy actually. I threw Buskarama for \$500. If I had \$300 and the flatbed truck stage I could have made the festival ten times better.

Keep the money. Give me opportunity.

This place is the pinnacle of making a lot of quality out of what others will abandon.

Things can be so much better even a week from now. Give us a year and we can change the world.

Give us wood or glass we will make crafts.

We need to give the right people the right resources. Then help those people just a little bit. Many hands make light work.

We just need to be creative and thankfully this Market is built on dreams and creativity.

We need more events that revolve around getting more people truly engaged. At such events part of entry and duty is staying signed up with these little paper ballots.

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Let's get everyone signed up for 5 years. \$1 in 1971 was \$7.89 in today's dollars. A dollar then is today just a dime.

Let's shift energy towards building community instead of the hamster wheel of retaining voters.

Also let me cook up some more amazing events. Help me get us the Showbox for a night and I can raise a million dollars for the Market. Bet.

If you have been to my Staxx Brothers shows you know we're already half way there. Together we can do anything.

I am going to do my thing whether you elect me or not. But it would be cooler if you did 😊 .