

Candidate: Jonathan Berner for Vice-Chair

Pike Place Market Constituency

2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Note: ALL positions require a familiarization with or willingness to learn Robert's Rules of Order, the PDA Charter, and the Constituency Bylaws.

[X] Vice-Chair * **

Duties: The Vice-Chair chairs meetings of the Constituency in the absence of or at the request of the Chair and serves as Election Officer in odd-numbered years.

Time commitment: The term length is two (2) years. Must attend a minimum of eight (8) General Assembly or Special Meeting(s) per year and eight (8) Executive Committee Meetings per year. May serve on a subcommittee.

*No employee, officer, or Council member of the PDA, or member of the Pike Place Market Historical Commission, shall be eligible to serve as Chair or Vice Chair.

**Chair, Vice Chair and PDA Council Representative candidates are required to have been a member of the Constituency for the entire preceding year to be eligible to stand for election to the position.

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.

Candidate: Jonathan Berner for Vice-Chair

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

I've been coming to the market since I was a fetus and have sold my yarn and knitwear in the daystalls since 2018. I've also just opened a commercial storefront in the underground. I became active in the constituency in 2023 at the behest of Sharron Shaw who convinced me it was the best way to magnify the voices of the people who make the market. Over the past year, I've come to believe that she was right.

Today, I'm a part of the constituency because I stand committed to supporting an exciting and vibrant organization that tirelessly works to strengthen our community. I am dedicated to fostering unity, creating opportunities, and addressing the challenges facing our market. I believe in the power of collaboration and inclusivity to drive positive change, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued in our collective efforts towards maintaining our history and building our future.

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

In my role as officer-at-large, I have attended all constituency and executive committee meetings over the past year. I've also had the wonderful privilege to attend many meetings with my listening committee volunteers as we worked to educate others about the constituency and to learn about our community.

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

For me, the biggest challenge we face in this moment is rebuilding a sense of community. After months of closures, restricted hours and spacing, and a new cultural norm of remote work, the gulf between the people of the market and our governance has widened. I believe the constituency is a natural bridge between the two. We've shown some fantastic ways that we can begin to close that gap through the listening committee, outreach, special guest speakers, and even studying our own bylaws.

While the market faces various urgent issues that we should and must address, I believe that our first thought should be on fostering community and the open discussion that comes with it. By cultivating these relationships, we ensure that when significant challenges arise, we are well-equipped to understand and address the needs of those directly affected, thereby creating a stronger, more resilient community that is ready to advocate for its members.

Candidate: Jonathan Berner for Vice-Chair

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

I am particularly passionate about building public participation in Market advocacy. I've had the great privilege of chairing the listening committee over the last year in the hopes of increasing engagement. I think we've started a really great thing and would love to see our work expand to commercial tenants, farmers, residents, and our surrounding community. I'm currently working with the PDA to bring them onboard with our efforts as well. As Vice-Chair I will ensure that this work will continue.

In addition, there are many exciting things that are just beginning, especially the outreach committee. I'm excited to continue to support the work of outreach and advocacy to everyone who lives and works in the market. They are our reason for being and I'm so excited to be a part of all of it! Magnifying the voices of the market is why I'm here!