

Vote to elect The Midway Investment Cooperative's Board of Directors!

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Archie Barbier

Archie Barbier (he/they) is the Founder/Operator of St. Paul Lawn Care where he runs the Rays of Sunshine program, offering free lawn care and snow removal services to neighbors in need. Raised in multicultural public housing and having been homeless during his youth, Archie brings a perspective that is often underrepresented in neighborhood development. He is passionate about relationship-building, community, and anti-racism. In his free time, Archie enjoys supporting MN Aurora FC, biking around St Paul, and hosting bonfires for his loved ones.

In 2021, Archie became a homeowner in our neighborhood. The inspiring, compassionate, and thought-provoking interactions he's had with his fellow Midway residents have transformed his life in profound ways. He is deeply honored by the opportunity to represent the community as a member of the MIC board.



Amy Steigman

Amy Steigman (she/her) has lived in the Hamline Midway neighborhood for almost 20 years. She and her husband, two children and three cats are proud to call the Hamline Midway neighborhood home and cannot imagine living anywhere else. She loves the unique beauty of this neighborhood and its people and is passionate about further strengthening this great neighborhood and making it a place where all can thrive for generations to come.

Amy began her career as a newspaper reporter and now works in marketing and communications. She has a wealth of writing, branding and storytelling experience and currently works for Patterson Companies and previously worked for Allina Health, Weber Shandwick and nonprofit organizations. She has been active in a number of volunteer activities, including previously serving as Feline Rescue's newsletter editor, Galtier Community School PTO secretary and chair of the St. Paul Plays Junior League Committee. Amy holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and a master's degree in communications from Metro State.



Nashan McKelton

Nashan McKelton (she/her) is a product of the Rondo and Frogtown Communities here in St. Paul. After a decade in Washington, D.C. she made her way back to her community in 2016 where she resides with her husband and two daughters.

Nashan has extensive background in hyper-growth tech start-ups and education in economics. As she currently completes her MBA at Carlson, she is proactively finding ways to marry her expertise with her passion for the St. Paul Midway Community and beyond.



Nicole Pederson

I am a leader in all aspects of operations, I drive profits through team building, customer experience and creativity. I have strong financial literacy and capabilities, I am a creative problem-solver, and critical thinker. I believe that building teams who are passionate and excited about the brand is the best way to grow profits and customer base.



INTERIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023



Phaedre Sanders

My name is Phaedre Sanders, born and raised in St. Paul, MN. I joined REIC in 2021 because preserving the sanctity of Midway was very important to me. I want to revitalize the community and help the families here feel empowered to invest in where they live. I enjoy giving back. I want the neighborhood to continue to thrive. I have been involved professionally and personally in volunteering, providing educational opportunities, community economic development and community building for the majority of my life; so bringing businesses and homeownership for families is one of my highest priorities for Midway.



Heather Worthington

My name is Heather Worthington. I am a 25-year resident of the Midway neighborhood. I live here with my husband Chris and our pets. I worked in local government as a city manager, deputy county manager and other roles for about 22 years. I now consult for local governments and non-profits. In those roles, I led a wide variety of economic development projects here in the Metro area. I really love the Midway neighborhood—the residents, the mix of businesses and the proximity to both downtowns. During the pandemic, I have been so impressed and heartened by the commitment to community shown by so many of our neighbors! The creation of the Midway Investment Cooperative is an exciting opportunity for the neighborhood to support new business owners, stabilize commercial property, and gain greater equity in ownership of property for BIPOC businesses.



Y. Elaine Rasmussen

Ms. Y. Elaine Rasmussen is Founder/CEO of Social Impact Strategies Group (SISG) a Black/Native-led certified B-corp social enterprise. SISG provides consultation on operationalizing social impact and racial equity in the finance, healthcare, tech, and philanthropy sectors. Rasmussen's clients include Allianz, Frontier Incubators, Beta.MN, Swift Family Foundation and Greater Twin Cities United Way. Rasmussen is also the founder of ConnectUP! Institute a social finance and enterprise development studio. The Institute offers learning experiences for investors & underestimated entrepreneurs. Rasmussen also produces the annual ConnectUP! MN Summit which closes the 180 degrees of separation between Founders of color, investors and the entrepreneur ecosystem. Rasmussen was named 2020 Finance and Commerce's Top Women in Finance, AARP/Pollen's 50 Over 50, and Real Leaders 100 Women in Impact. Rasmussen's board service includes Minnesota Diversified Industries (MDI) and serves on the investment committees of Opus Group Foundation, Nexus Community Partners and Swift Foundation. Her overarching goal? To move billions of investment dollars in Black/Brown and rural communities.



Gretchen Nicholls

Gretchen Nicholls joined LISC in 2007 as a Housing Program Officer supporting a metro-wide approach to LISC's real estate lending. She is also the coordinator of the Corridor Development Initiative (CDI), an informative and interactive resource to engage communities to guide future development. Gretchen provides a strong background in convening and working with community-based organizations and local government to articulate and achieve community development goals. Much of her focus at LISC has been in support of redevelopment along the region's emerging fixed-rail transit system, and works to advance shared equity and community ownership models. Prior to LISC, Gretchen was the Executive Director of the Center for Neighborhoods, and participated in the Senior Executive Program for State and Local Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, through a Fannie Mae Fellowship.



Michael Barefoot

Born and raised in Saint Paul, Michael moved to Hamline Midway in 2017. He lives on Charles Avenue with his wife, their two cats, and a whole lot of garden. He's active in the DFL, fundraises with Second Life every year, and works on his novel every weekend. He has a vision of Hamline Midway as being a vibrant local economy that doesn't leave anyone behind. Michael also wants to make sure that community members are heard and involved in everything the coop does. In the right season, he can be found walking to Allianz Field, and he'd love to stop for a chat (and maybe pat your dog).



Pete McCauley

Pete McCauley is an award-winning Media Producer & Digital Storyteller based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since 2006, Pete has been a Principal Media Producer at the University of Minnesota, supporting researchers and instructors by producing multimedia content and strategies to aid and enable teaching, learning, outreach, and communication. Pete has a BA in Communication and an MED in Learning Technologies, and has spent many years in both media production and higher education under many guises. Pete lives in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul with his wife and son, and hobbies include biking, community activism, and occasionally performing music in and around the Twin Cities area. Please visit www.mccauleymediagroup.com for more info about Pete and his work!



Wale Falade

Wale is an architect and owner of FIHAN Design and Architecture, a St Paul based practice that believes in democratizing design and finding beauty in the simplest things. He and his wife have lived in Hamline-Midway since 2017 where they have enjoyed doing DIY work on every part of their home, taking walks with their months old baby boy, and meeting neighbors. Along with decades of architecture teaching experience, Wale brings a deep knowledge of building codes, building systems, and adaptive reuse processes.



Troy Hackney

Troy was born in California before moving to the Twin Cities several years ago. With a background in advocacy for legal access and economic advancement, particularly for underserved communities, participating with the Cooperative was a great way to contribute to the success of the city he now calls home.