



2023 Board Candidate

Mandy McCarthy



Hello! I'm Mandy McCarthy and have lived in the Ypsi area with my family for about five years. I am a creative professional, artist and maker of all sorts, aerial fitness dabbler, and novice concertina player.

I was so excited to learn that Ypsi had a co-op when I moved here! One of my hobbies is trying to keep my packaging waste low. I loved that I could bring my own containers for the bulk products and I didn't feel like a burden to the employees. They actually liked it! I knew this was a place for me. It

also didn't hurt that everyone I met there was super friendly. :)

Since the Co-op was my introduction to Ypsi and the place I visit most, I thought the board would be a great way to support one of my favorite places and get more involved in the community.

1. What role do you think the Ypsilanti Food Co-op will play in Ypsilanti's future?

The Co-op will continue to be an integral resource for healthy and accessible food through selection, bulk items, curbside, and delivery services. There is also an opportunity to keep growing as a community gathering place. As well as continuing to support the creative community by selling goods and sponsoring events.

2. In what ways are you working to contribute to and improve the Ypsilanti community?

I was introduced to the Ypsilanti community through my employment at WCC. I loved working on a mission to ensure everyone had access to educational resources. Otherwise, I enjoy and try to support local businesses and events as much as possible. Running for the board is how I hope to make a more meaningful contribution to Ypsi.

3. If you can find healthy, organic food at another grocery store, why choose the Ypsilanti Food Co-op?

I love shopping at the Co-op because I like to support small and independent businesses as much as possible. It offers a great connection to the community, not only through the products but the people as well.

4. What issue within the food system is the most important to you, and how would you address it?

Affordable access to food that is produced locally in an environmentally focused and ethical manner. By purchasing from local farms and producers that fit this criteria, they will thrive and become more accessible. Hopefully, this will encourage more community members to start their own so we have a dynamic and safe marketplace.

5. What is your past experience with the Ypsilanti Food Co-op and cooperatives in general (working, volunteering, shopping, etc.)? Include what you have done to improve and support the Ypsilanti Food Co-op.

I was so excited to find the Co-op and become a member! So far my support has been through being a dedicated patron. I hope to better support the Co-op by working as part of the board to help continue and grow the Co-op's amazing service to the community.

6. What has the Ypsilanti Food Co-op done for you?

When I moved to the area the Co-op was one of the most friendly and welcoming places! I was already excited to find a store to buy bulk items but it really made me and my family feel like part of the community. It also allows me to reduce my environmental impact by providing local and zero-waste options.

7. What skills and strengths would you contribute to the Board?

I am a creative problem solver who is highly organized and passionate about making sure organizations are inclusive, collaborative, and mission-focused. I would bring an open-minded ability to incorporate ideas from multiple people and the community to come up with strong initiatives and develop detailed plans to ensure they have the best possibility of success.