



## Midway Investment Cooperative Founding Board Members

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### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Spencer Cox**

Spencer recently moved with his partner to Hamline-Midway after a half decade in Northeast Minneapolis. Passionate about urban economics, he is committed to developing a built

environment that promotes equity, social justice, sustainability, and community joy. He views economic and real estate cooperatives as key strategies to increase democratic participation in processes of urban development, and is excited to help get the Midway Investment Cooperative off the ground. He is currently finishing a doctorate from the Department of Geography, Environment and Society from the University of Minnesota.

### **Emma Olson**

Emma Olson (she/her) is a facilitator, connector, and champion for empathy and creativity in the public sector. Growing up in a multiracial household in the Twin Cities, she learned from a young age the importance of being a positive force for change. She brings this passion to her work in the public sector, including her role as an Innovation Consultant in Hennepin County. Emma received her Master's in Public Policy at the University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, focusing on research, network building, and leadership. She also consults with public and social sector organizations to foster innovation, creativity, and empathy to better meet their clients' needs and build equity in their work.

For Emma and her family, Hamline-Midway continues to be an important place to connect to and celebrate their cultural heritage. She views the MIC as an important opportunity to preserve and foster the rich culturally and racial diversity in the area, and to prevent and protect against gentrification and other forms of white supremacy. Emma is excited at the opportunity to lend her skillset and experiences to support the MIC, and build connections and community with fellow board members and others she has the opportunity to work with through this 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.

### **Michael Bearfoot**

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](http://www.mccauleymediagroup.com) for more info about Pete and his work!

### **Artika Tyner**

Dr. Artika R. Tyner is a passionate educator, poet, author, sought after speaker, and advocate for justice. Tyner is the founder of Planting People Growing Justice Press and Bookstore. In recognition of her leadership and service, she is the recipient of more than two dozen awards that include: Women in Business, American Small Business Champion, International Educator Citizen, and American Bar Association Difference Makers.

She has been featured in a variety of media outlets. She is a prolific, award-winning author of adult and children's books that includes: *Amazing Africa: A to Z* and *The Inclusive Leader: Taking Intentional Action for Justice and Equity*. She serves as a global citizen by supporting education, entrepreneurship, and women's leadership initiatives in Africa. In furtherance of her philanthropic efforts, she created Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, a nonprofit organization committed to promoting literacy and diversity in books.

### **Gretchen Nichols**

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.

### **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.