



Jared Blustein: Biography and Candidate Statement

Jared is passionate about creating equitable and just societies. After completing a graduate degree in Vancouver in 2017, investigating contemporary economic issues and potential solutions, he cofounded The Allium Restaurant and Bodega Worker Cooperative (The Allium). Jared believes that by empowering workers and making them the directors of produced profits, we actively create more resilient and localized economies, and more ethical societies. Moreover, the non-hierarchical and consensus-based model of many worker co-ops directly help to co-humanize and empower those involved, and develop community cohesion with dynamic ripple effects. In the spirit of allyship, Jared is continually working to help other workers establish their own cooperatives. In addition to co-operating The Allium, Jared is also a manager at the Arusha Centre Society, a non-profit organization that works on a variety of social, economic and environmental issues in Calgary.

Jared would like to join the board of the CWCF in order to better formalize and connect his support and advocacy of worker cooperatives in Canada. As a member, Jared has experienced first-hand the important role CWCF plays in connecting, expanding, supporting and empowering worker cooperatives. He hopes to further these outcomes and impacts with his theoretical understandings and first-hand experience of worker cooperatives, and knowledge from his work in other sectors. Jared also believes that our social structures are often produced and maintained within the realm of culture, and so recognizes the important role that art, music, performance, and creativity play for fomenting positive structural change.