Board of Directors
Community Director Position Description

The Vancouver Farmers Market (VFM) is committed to providing a space for the community to gather and small businesses to prosper. The market is comprised of over 260 small businesses, generating over $8 million in small business revenue, and serving over 500,000 shoppers annually. We strive to create a thriving small business economy supporting farmers, food businesses, and makers in our community. The VFM also serves our community through a robust series of programs focused on food access, education, and empowering small businesses to reach their full potential.

The Opportunity
The VFM is currently seeking community members to serve as members of the board, as well as those interested in serving as a member of a VFM committee, using their skills or passions to further the work of the VFM in our community. Serving on the board is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to engage directly with the many entrepreneurs and passionate citizens that make up the Vancouver Farmers Market. The board is comprised of a max of 15 directors, 6 of whom are vendor directors elected by the voting members of the VFM and 9 of whom the board appoints from our community. The board also has various committees focused on providing support in specific areas such as Finance, Board Development, and Fundraising. Working together, the VFM Board, Committees, and Staff are committed to growing an increasingly vibrant, equitable, and sustainable organization focused on growing the success of small businesses and feeding our residents the highest quality local food available.

What are we looking for?
First and foremost, we want people who are passionate about the VFM and our community. Past nonprofit or board experience is a plus, but certainly not required. If you are interested in being part of an interactive and strategic team, and you think your experiences and talents can help propel the VFM forward we want to hear from you! We welcome all interest, but are always on the lookout for those who may provide:

- Connection to the community or a VFM stakeholder
- A track record of advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within an organization
- Business and finance/accounting experience
- Knowledge of economic development, government partnerships, or real estate development
- Experience supporting organizational growth or strategy implementation
- Legal expertise, especially related to nonprofits or business law
- Nonprofit operations and fundraising experience

We strongly believe that having those with diverse backgrounds and lived experiences are critical to ensuring we serve our whole community. As such, we very much encourage and welcome all applicants, especially those who might come from an underrepresented part of our community.

Role of the Board
The Board of Directors is tasked with the strategic governance and oversight of the organization. Board members have a fiduciary responsibility and actively participate in strategic planning, goal setting, and policy development to ensure that the VFM is run effectively and remains true to its mission. Board members bring their unique experiences, talents, and networks to the table, and use them to help the VFM achieve its goals and find continued success in our community.

Board Member Commitment
Board terms of service are 3-years and there is a two-term limit (6-years total). The board hosts monthly board meetings (10 annually). An example of a monthly board commitment is as follows:

- 1-2 hours to prepare for board meetings and respond to board or VFM correspondence
- 2 hours to attend board meetings
- 1-2 hours for committee meetings

Other periodic commitments that may arise:

- Board Retreats
- Strategic Planning processes or special projects
- Market volunteer opportunities

Board Members should be able to:

- Attend all board meetings and VFM events such as a board retreat or fundraising event
- Commit to full 3-year term
- Come to meetings prepared, having reviewed meeting materials
- Serve on at least one committee or on a unique project (informed by expertise)
- Actively evaluate and provide feedback on the state of VFM and its mission success
- Serve as a positive connection between your specific communities and the VFM
- Actively participate in board development and recruitment, shoring up the VFM's future leadership
- Adhere to a board members fiduciary duty and all VFM specific board policies and guidelines

Committee Opportunities

There are numerous committee opportunities within the VFM. Unless otherwise empowered by the Board of Directors, committees serve to provide expertise, advice, and recommendations to the board. Except in the case of the Board Executive Committee (*board officers*), committees are comprised of current board members as well as community members with a specific interest or expertise in the subject at hand. The following committees are currently open to members from our community.

- **Small Business Success Committee:** Support the work of the VFM in helping small businesses finds success. This committee is tasked with advising on business development training and resources, providing technical oversight and expertise, and members may get involved in teaching or working directly with small businesses if their expertise and experiences align.
- **Vendor Category Committees (Agriculture, Artisan, Food):** These committees meet regularly to assess their respective category, ensuring that vendors within the VFM meet the standards of the organization and are providing our community with the best possible experience. Additionally, these committees work to shore up their categories through business development support and advising the board on related policies.

Benefits of Board Service

Choosing to serve as a member of the VFM Board of Directors will provide you experience and insight into nonprofit board operations, VFM community programs, and the mission of supporting a healthy community through access to healthy food, vibrant public spaces, and a thriving local economy. You will experience professional growth through the experiences you gain and the relationships you develop, both within and outside of the VFM. Finally, not only will your work have impact, but you will also see that impact played out weekly across our community through the market's the VFM runs and the partners we work alongside every day.

You can submit your interest using this link

Please contact director@vancouverfarmersmarket.com with any questions