



**480 Wilson Road, Room 172
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January 15, 2018

Dear MIFMA Members,

We are excited to announce that MIFMA's Board of Directors elections will take place on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at our Annual Meeting to be held in East Lansing during the Michigan Farmers Market Conference. **Please join us in finding great candidates to lead MIFMA!**

MIFMA's bylaws specify an eleven-member Board. Four positions are to be held by farmers market representatives from around the state, two positions are to be held by Michigan farmers who sell their own products at farmers markets and five positions are to be held by professionals with a vested interest in MIFMA's mission and vision. The mission of MIFMA is *to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products.*

The Nominating Committee is working to prepare a slate of candidates for MIFMA members to vote on and we need your input. This year we are again specifically **seeking professionals with expertise, experience and/or an interest in fund development.** Please consider nominating yourself or a fellow MIFMA member. Board members serve on a volunteer basis and only one person per membership may serve on the Board at a time. The job is rewarding and we need people who are passionate about advancing Michigan farmers markets to join us in building the association.

Please review the enclosed Board member nomination packet, consider running for the MIFMA Board of Directors yourself, or nominate a fellow member. **Nomination forms are due February 10, 2018.**

Please contact the MIFMA office at (517) 432-3381 with any questions you may have regarding Board member nominations or this process.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Scalera
Board Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair





Board of Directors Information for Nominees

Individuals interested in serving on the MIFMA Board of Directors should read all of the materials in this packet and **complete the enclosed nomination form by February 10, 2018**. Please contact the MIFMA office at (517) 432-3381 with any questions.

Board of Directors Members Pledge:

I understand that as a member of the Michigan Farmers Market Association Board of Directors I have a responsibility to ensure that the association does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in MIFMA's mission to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products and I am committed to working with MIFMA to guide its growth. Therefore, I pledge to devote myself to the following roles and responsibilities:

- I will be a member of MIFMA in good standing.
- I will make an annual cash donation to MIFMA. I understand that MIFMA's Board adopted a giving policy for all Board members. This policy was adopted to support fundraising activities and demonstrate that MIFMA leaders are committed to 100% giving prior to asking members or other individuals or organizations for financial support. The policy states that Board members will be expected to give to the best of their means at a level they would consider generous.
- I am willing and able to contribute approximately six hours monthly to MIFMA activities.
- I will attend all Board meetings held face-to-face and by video conference. I will notify the President or the Executive Director if I absolutely cannot attend due to an allowable absence (planned event or an unforeseen emergency).
- I will attend at least one of MIFMA's major annual events. Examples include the Market Manager Certificate Program, Michigan Farmers Market Conference, Farmers Markets at the Capitol, farm-based education events and/or the farmers market focus at Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo - visit mifma.org/events.
- I will participate in at least one MIFMA committee: Advocacy, Finance, Fund Development, Nominating, and/or Racial Equity and Inclusion. I understand that this involves, at minimum, a one-hour each month as established by the committees.
- I will participate in an annual performance review of the MIFMA Executive Director.
- I will help recruit and orient new Board members.
- I will stay informed about the activities and current issues for Michigan farmers markets. I will draw upon my professional experience and expertise as well as support for Michigan farmers markets in my actions and decision-making.
- I will review all materials prior to Board meetings (meeting minutes, agendas, budgets, etc.).
- I will return all emails and/or phone calls in a timely, professional manner.
- I understand that if I cannot fulfill the above roles and responsibilities I may be asked by the Board to resign.
- I may relinquish my position on the Board at anytime by submitting a letter of resignation to either the Board President and/or the Executive Director.

Qualifications: Each person elected to the Board of Directors must be a MIFMA member in good standing and remain so during the term. Board members serve on a volunteer basis and only one person per membership may serve on the Board at the same time. The Board of Directors will act in good faith on behalf of the whole.

Membership: The Board of Directors will consist of eleven members with four positions to be held by farmers market representatives. Two positions are to be held by Michigan farmers who sell their own products at farmers markets. Five positions are to be held by business professionals with a vested interest in MIFMA's mission and vision.

Nomination: A slate of candidates will be prepared by the Nominating Committee and offered to the membership at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting.

Election: The MIFMA Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members in attendance at the MIFMA Annual Meeting to be held at 8:30 am on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at the Plant and Soil Science Building on Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing, Michigan.

Meetings: An organizational board meeting will be scheduled following the Annual Meeting to elect officers and set the meeting calendar for 2017.

Terms of Office: Board members may serve three consecutive two-year terms. Board terms are staggered.

Resignation and Removal: Board members may resign at any time by providing written notice to the Board.

Removal: Any member may be removed, with or without cause, by a 2/3 majority vote of the full MIFMA Board.

Board Vacancies: If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the Board then in office may, by majority vote, choose a successor to fill that position until the next annual meeting when the members shall elect a replacement to complete the remainder of the term.

Conflict of Interest: Members shall be mindful of potential conflicts of interest that may arise for them individually on matters that come before the Board. The Board is to uphold a high standard of transparency in transactions and processes and to commit itself to maintaining the integrity of the association. Potential conflicts arising from employment, marital, or proprietary relationships should be avoided in order to prevent the appearance of impropriety. Board members shall abstain from voting if a conflict of interest arises.

Compensation for Board Service: Directors shall receive no compensation for carrying out their duties as Directors. The Board may adopt policies providing for reasonable reimbursement of Directors for expenses incurred in conjunction with carrying out Board responsibilities, such as travel expenses to attend Board meetings.

**Michigan Farmers Market Association
2018 Board of Directors Nomination Form**

Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone	Cell Phone	E-Mail
MIFMA Member Yes _____ No _____		
Level of MIFMA Membership Farmers Market _____ Farmer/Vendor _____ Individual _____ Organization _____		
<i>If Representing a Farmers Market:</i>		
Name of Farmers Market _____		
Years of Experience with Farmers Markets _____		
Experience with other Board of Directors Yes _____ No _____		
With Whom and Position(s) Held		

To help our membership in this election we are asking each nominee to answer the following questions in **250 words or less**. Your response will be published and submitted to our membership for their review prior to board elections.

- Why are you seeking a position on the MIFMA Board of Directors?
- What will you bring to the Michigan Farmers Market Association?

Please include all information you feel conveys your desire to become a part of this growing and vital association. **Please attach your typed or clearly printed response to this form.** In addition, **we are asking for a photo that can be published with your response** as we submit your request for consideration to our membership during this election. This is by no means mandatory. Send all materials to Emily Syrja, Michigan Farmers Market Association, 480 Wilson Road, Room 172 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, MI 48824 or submit electronically to office@mifma.org with the subject line MIFMA 2018 Board of Directors Nomination Form.

Please accept the following document(s) supporting my nomination to the slate of candidates for the MIFMA Board of Directors elections. I have read the information for nominees, realize the responsibilities and time commitment expected of a MIFMA board member and therefore submit my qualifications.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature

Date