Pike Place Market Constituency 2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Please indicate the position for which you are running:

Note: ALL positions require a familiarization with or willingness to learn Robert's Rules of Order, the PDA Charter, and the Constituency Bylaws.

[] Chair * **

Duties: The Chair chairs all meetings of the Constituency.

Time commitment: The term length is two (2) years. Must attend a minimum of eight (8) General Assembly or Special Meeting(s) per year and eight (8) Executive Committee Meetings per year. May serve on a subcommittee. Meet the PDA Executive Director once a month.

[] Vice-Chair * **

Duties: The Vice-Chair chairs meetings of the Constituency in the absence of or at the request of the Chair and serves as Election Officer in odd-numbered years.

Time commitment: The term length is two (2) years. Must attend a minimum of eight (8) General Assembly or Special Meeting(s) per year and eight (8) Executive Committee Meetings per year. May serve on a subcommittee.

[X] Officer-at-Large

Duties: Officers-at-Large represent the overall voice of the Constituency, are familiar with the Market, and stay informed of PDA Council and Committee meetings by either attending the meetings or reading the minutes.

Time commitment: The term length is two (2) years. Must attend a minimum of eight (8) General Assembly or Special Meeting(s) per year and eight (8) Executive Committee Meetings per year. May serve on a subcommittee.

[] PDA Council Representative**

Duties: PDA Council Representatives represent the needs of Market Constituents as members of the PDA Council and its Committees.

Time commitment: The term length is four (4) years. Must attend a minimum of six (6) General Assembly or Special Meeting(s) per year and six (6) Executive Committee Meetings per year. May serve on a subcommittee.

^{*}No employee, officer, or Council member of the PDA, or member of the Pike Place Market Historical Commission, shall be eligible to serve as Chair or Vice Chair.

^{**}Chair, Vice Chair and PDA Council Representative candidates are required to have been a member of the Constituency for the entire preceding year to be eligible to stand for election to the position.

CANDIDATE NAME: Babak Ziraknejad

Candidate Questionnaire

The following questionnaire is intended to help voters learn a little about our candidates: their interest in holding office, background, skills, experience, and any vision for the future of the Market. The Constituency values diversity of opinion.

All timely responses will be circulated directly to Constituency members and may also appear on our website and via other news media that is available to the public.

1. What is your connection to the Market? Why are you a member of the Constituency?

For the last 7 years I have had the privilege and honor of owing a business at Pike Place Market.

I am deeply committed to our vibrant community, I believe that my passion for historic preservation, community development, and public service aligns perfectly with the position.

The Pike Place Market holds a special place in my heart, and I am inspired by its rich history, cultural significance, and economic impact. I have closely followed the PDA's work in maintaining and enhancing this iconic landmark, and I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to further its mission as a Constituency member and ultimately as an Officer at Large.

2. Have you attended Constituency meetings and if so, how many in the past year?

I have attended all Constituency meetings since becoming a member early this year.

3. In your view, what are the biggest issues facing the Market now and in the near future? Do you champion any special issue?

- Advocating community merchants and tenants concerns and escalation on need bases
- Returning farmers to the Market and stopping the Market from becoming a food court
- Public seatings concerns
- Formation of a Merchant Association to advocate and promote merchant success
- Consistent and fair compliance as well as adherence to established guidelines and the 50-Year Plan.
- Ensure that all stakeholders have a voice and can be represented

CANDIDATE NAME: Babak Ziraknejad

4. What can we do to increase public participation in Market advocacy, especially by those who live and work in the Market?

<u>Education and Awareness:</u> to have market tenants, merchants and residents attend some of the MCH, PDA or Constituency meetings to learn more about current and upcoming challenges and opportunities. Seek input from the community and seek their help to get other community members advocating the cause.

<u>Diverse Voices:</u> ensure that all stakeholders have a voice. Involve market tenants, merchants and residents from different backgrounds in the processes in a bilateral manner. I am a true-believer that much will get done behind close doors and keeping the stakeholders in the dark. Complete transparency and getting community engagement early is the key to success.

Recognition and Appreciation:

-Spotlight Success Stories: Share stories of individuals who actively participate in market advocacy. Recognize their efforts through social media, newsletters, or local news outlets.

-Awards and Certificates: Consider creating awards or certificates for outstanding advocates. Publicly acknowledge their contributions during market events.

The following two questions are only for those running for PDA Council representative. Others need not respond.

- 5. How many PDA Council meetings have you attended in the last 12 months?
- 6. Representing the Constituency on the PDA Council means more than voting. What skills and strategies will you bring to Council meetings to be a persuasive voice on the Council?

<u>Please return your completed questionnaire by July 8</u> at the latest. If you are sending it by email, send to marketconstituency@gmail.com. If you are delivering a printed copy, please slide it under the Constituency door (#328 in the Fairley Building) or mail it to 1501 Pike Place #328, Seattle, WA 98101.