

SENA 2022 Board Election Candidate

Name: Meredith LaCount

Neighborhood Connection: Live in Standish

Please tell us why you are applying and what you would hope to accomplish as a SENA board member?

I have lived in Standish since 2014 and truly love the location. Now that I have a daughter, I love it even more as it's so different than how I grew up in small-town Michigan, but there's somehow more of a sense of community. I have another baby on the way and I'm excited to grow as a family here.

I would like to improve how people feel about Minneapolis and our neighborhood in general. I feel like recently I've been hearing a lot of negativity and people questioning the safety of the area and I find that disheartening. I always tell people how comfortable I feel here and I think part of that is by talking to people, getting out more, and being involved (and encouraging others to do the same!)

What special skill or background would you bring to the board?

I have a writing background and am comfortable applying for grants and doing social media. I have run a nonprofit preschool for ten years and have run all of the board meetings and learned to do all of the work that goes along with running a small business (community outreach, HR, budgeting, etc.)

Are you a current or past board member/volunteer with another non-profit and if so, please describe the work you have done that you are most proud of.

I sit on the board for Lake Harriet Community Child Care (formerly Lake Harriet Christian Child Care) as the school Director, but I am a non-voting member. I am most proud of setting up a sliding fee scale and scholarship program to better serve our community and increasing benefits for teachers so they are able to improve as teachers and grow within our school while turning what they are passionate about into a career.

What do you think SENA's priorities should be?

- Equity and Combating Systemic Racism
- Youth and Elder Services
- Small Business Support