



2024 BOARD CANDIDATE

Name: Cristin Hosmer

CANDIDATE BIO

Employer / Former Employer (if retired) Self, Chateau Chantal, EduStaff, Michigan State University

Type of Business / Organization Farm and Craft Bev Consultant, Educator, Yoga Teacher

Are you a member of the Blissfest Music Organization? Lifetime Member

Please add a brief bio of your relevant experience?

Hi, I am Cristin Hosmer, I am an agripreneur from Traverse City, MI where I consult, teach, and live the agrarian lifestyle. I primarily focus on flowers, grape growing, and winemaking operations. I have served on several local, state, and national boards. I have a flair for survey administration and grant writing. I'm also a Yoga teacher. Bliss is my happy place, as it is to many of us lifelong Bliss Festival-goers. You may recognize the Hosmer name, our family has been active participants in Bliss for over 20 years, Linda and Brian coordinate at the store and Linda has a booth. For 15 years I was a scheduled Bliss Store volunteer, I "retired" when my son was young, as Dad and Grama were 'working'. It takes a village, we all help out! And that is why I am ready to jump back in and help usher BLISS forward.

Why are you interested in serving on the Blissfest Board? Please share your motivation and what is it about our work that excites you?

In the 20+ years I have been attending the festival I have seen it grow and evolve and become ever so magical. I want to keep that magic alive! All while growing the Bliss brand, it is so much more than just the festival weekend. The implementation of the grants has been tremendous, the Board needs to keep that momentum going and make sure monies are well spent. The opportunities for the site, especially the Bliss Forest and camping potential are super exciting.

What do you see as your most valuable contribution to Blissfest?

I believe my best contribution is yet to come. I was at the 1st Taste of Bliss, the opening of the new store, the 25 year, the 30 year, the 40+2 years, gosh what a wild ride! But I would say the collective impact of the Hosmer clan is appreciated by the Bliss family. I could add value to the Board in the following areas given my varied background: township zoning, grant administration, budgeting, site planning, operations, and sustainability.

What do you see as 1-2 challenges and 1-2 opportunities for us in the next few years?

Challenge & Opportunity: THE Transition, we have had AMAZING folks running Bliss for years and they are transitioning out and the next generation is excited to step in, there are always challenges and opportunities at times of transition, it can be hard but we must evolve to stay relevant.

Challenge: Consistency in Operational Budgets, short-term COVID funds and grant funds have been instrumental in the success of Bliss, but what's next?

Opportunity: Site opportunities and Bliss Forest, Sustainability, Future Land Uses

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

VESTA Resource Center National Visiting Committee, National Science Foundation, Undergraduate Education
NVC Member

Michigan Wine Collaborative, *Board Member, NW Winery, 2016-2018*

Peninsula Township, *Planning Commission/ Vice-Chair & Zoning Board of Appeals, 2007-2012*

MSU/NMC Advisory Committee, *Wine Industry/Adjunct, 2016-present*

P45 Vines and Wines, *Member, 15+ years*

Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail, USDA-MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant Administrator, Michigan Wine Collaborative, USDA-MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant Survey design



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Please provide more details about your nonprofit or board experience such as the organization's size or other roles not listed above. What did you enjoy most about this service, and what was most challenging?

VESTA is a partnership of multiple educational entities across dozens of states, we provide Grape and Wine Education for the 21st Century. I started as an industry representative, became a course designer and adjunct faculty member, and was placed on the NSF oversight committee in 2022. I have enjoyed watching VESTA grow, pivot, and adapt for almost 30 years and I am proud to be sitting in the top seat of the organization as a 43-year-old female. Our next phase is beyond exciting, a National Ag Tech Center, but it is challenging to live grant to grant without sustainable funding and strong executive leadership. We have lost and replaced our Co-PIs, a key staff member, and half of our board during this grant cycle. But I maintain optimism.

Select notable Skills and Expertise you will contribute to the Board of Directors, Blissfest Music Organization and Committees you serve.

Accounting
Agricultural / Small farming
Education
Event Planning
Grant Writing
HR / Administration
Land Use / Conservation
Public Speaking / Presentation
Evaluation of Statistics/Reporting
Strategic Planning
Sustainable living practices
Other: Taste of Bliss - TAM/ServSafe/Training, Township Special Use Process

Attributes

Collaborative
Comfortable Speaking in front of groups
Enthusiastic
Optimistic
Strong Work Ethic
Other: Strategic thinker

Please Choose Committee Interest

Finance
Land Use / Blissfest Future Forest
Site

FUNDRAISING

Can you speak to your level of comfort or experience with this expectation?

I am great at attending meetings, public speaking, letter writing, grant writing, and budgeting, but when it comes to the literal ask for money from friends and family, that can be a tad difficult...But with the right tools, I think I could succeed at fundraising. I will continue to support Bliss for the rest of my life!

TIME

Do you have any concerns or potential conflicts with this time commitment?

No. I am self-employed and set my own schedule. And I live one to two hours from Petoskey/Bliss. I have many times thought about tossing my name in the hat for the previous Board and employment positions, but decided against it because I didn't want it to change my Festival experiences, apparently I am ready to take that leap now, Happy Bliss!