**Pike Place Public Market Constituency**

**2022 Candidate Questionnaire**

Name: Nick Setten

Position(s) of Interest: PDA Representative

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

I have worked in and been enchanted by our Market village and its history of citizen activism since 2010. I currently work for the Market Foundation and I serve on the board for the Friends of the Market. I have served on the Constituency as an at-large, vice chair, secretary and since last year, PDA representative. I believe in the opportunity the Constituency has to be vibrant and important representative voice of the Market community, and enjoy the oftentimes challenging discourse we have in our meetings. I love being in service to this community and helping find actionable solutions to engage our membership in steering the future of the Market.

**2.**      **How many Constituency Meetings have you attended in the last 12 months?**

Just about all of them, with the exception of a couple I missed due to family emergencies.

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

The Constituency continues to see a huge opportunity as far as being a welcoming and exciting organization to be a part of. While the Market faces many challenges from without - the commodification and lack of respect for the history of this neighborhood by external elements and politicians, the undermining of the Market Historical Commission, the ongoing challenge of street uses - I believe the most important challenge ahead of the Constituency is bringing itself into the 21st century. We have made some important strides in recent years - our first online election (as a result of the Covid Pandemic and a desire to provide safe voting options), a long-overdue rejuvenation and update of our bylaws (yay! no more bizarre typos!) but the work is not done. As a membership organization, I believe we have many opportunities to provide fun and engaging ways to get involved in this entry level of Market politics.

**4.**      **One issue that has been getting a lot of attention of late is the move to ban cars on Pike Place. What’s your take on this hot-button issue?**

I recognize that every corner of the Market has a different perspective. What works for folks in the Economy Market won’t always work for folks on the north end of the Main Arcade. What works on street level won’t always work for folks in the down under. I don’t think there can be a one-size solution that will meet the needs of our 9-acre Market community, but I believe that the strategies being recommended by the Friends of the Market and the PDA - that is to say, let the PDA (who has responsibility for the longterm viability of this place) be the ones to manage the street - has a lot of merit.

**5.**      **What can be done to increase public participation in Market advocacy, especially by those who live and work in the Market?**

First of all, I think our meetings have been starting to become more welcoming and less negative which is a huge step. But with the gradual lifting of Covid restrictions, we also have an opportunity to connect more meaningfully with our members even through something as light as an ice cream social. From there, it is important to boost our communication efforts and methods so that our messages are clear, optimistic and forward-looking. Our meetings need to be exciting enough that we get more than five members regularly in attendance, and accessible enough that people who do show up continue to do so and don’t get turned off by a 2 ½ hour circular discussion that amounts to nothing.

**6.**      **In addition to regular meetings, would you be willing to participate in Constituency subcommittees if the need arose?**

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

I have served on many subcommittees for the Constituency in the past and will continue to do the Work. I love working collaboratively with like minded Market superfans in committees!

**7.**      **How many PDA Council meetings have you attended in the last 12 months?**

As I mentioned above, I have attended nearly all of them (especially in my role as Secretary-Treasurer for the PDA) except when family emergencies have arisen.

**8. 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?**

As I mentioned above, I have a strong connection and deep love for the history of the Market and its community. I ask thoughtful questions that don’t shut people down, I listen, and I seek to find common ground where possible. I know when to stand up to do the work and I know when to step back and support others' voices.