

he/him/his

## GABRIEL COLE



I'm hoping to serve on the BOD at the MNFC to create new like-minded food and farm community, expand my knowledge about the regional food systems and lend support and guidance to this amazing grocery where I've spent more time than anywhere else since moving home last August.

I was born and raised in this great state but have spent the last 20 years in California. I'm new to Addison County and excited to

participate in the bread basket of VT's thriving agricultural area here. I have worked in food and farming my entire life starting with a year of culinary school at Essex Tech.

I am the CEO of a social impact catering company in Oakland CA called Just Fare. Among many accomplishments I'm most proud of how we pivoted from mostly catering to workplaces to a non-profit model at the start of the pandemic. We have served over 400,000 dignified meals (using organic ingredients and providing living wages and benefits to our staff) since the start of the pandemic. We also paid over \$500,000 to our CBO partner organizations who distributed the food. Just Fare plans to become employee-owned in 2023 and we currently run a rather egalitarian governance structure, have a transparent wage tier and provide unlimited PTO and sick time to all salaried positions.

I have served on multiple non-profit boards including Food Shift and The Berkeley Student Food Collective. I have volunteered countless hours and deeply supported La Cocina, Homies Empowerment and Doof (a children's healthy food media company). I plan to continue growing my food and farming knowledge by turning ten acres of degraded Vergennes clay into an educational permaculture and carbon sequestration farm. I have coached hundreds of food and farming entrepreneurs (often pro-bono) and have engaged with the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund to continue that work here. I believe that food and farm entrepreneurs are the fabric of our food system and have the ability to drastically alter the climate crisis and put us on a trajectory to building healthy soil, people and food systems for generations to come.