

Catherine Rockett: Statement of Candidacy - CBI Board

1. Describe any experience you have serving on commercial or non-profit Boards. On what committees did you serve? What were the strengths or capabilities you brought to the Board to address the entities' challenges? What were two of three contributions you made through your role?

CBI: At CBI, I have been on the board of directors for 3 years, the Budget and Finance Committee for 3 years, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, which I founded and currently co-chair for 2 years, the Strategic Plan Committee for 1 year, and the Transition Committee for 2 months. I prioritize expanding CBI's reach and mission through strategic planning, financial planning, and long-term partnership development. My background as a lawyer and as a former CBI staff member, combined with my involvement with many sailing organizations through racing, give me the ability to research and effectively implement solutions to complex challenges for CBI. I created a new board member organizational handbook, launched the DEIB committee, assisted the high-performance group with obtaining official recognition, and completed an audit of CBI's insurance policies.

Connecticut College: I have been deeply involved in the long-term planning for Connecticut College from a financial, infrastructural, and educational perspective. I served on the Master Planning Committee for 1 year, the Curriculum Steering and Oversight Committee for 2 years, and I founded the Athletics Advisory Committee and served on it for 2 years. We developed measurable milestones for the strategic plan's implementation while remaining flexible in our approach to accommodate various funding levels.

Egan Maritime Institute: At Egan Maritime Institute, I have served on the Emerging Leaders Committee for 2 years. We engage in fundraising, promotional, and relationship development activities to further the organization's mission and expand its reach.

Harvard Club of Boston: Lastly, at the Harvard Club of Boston I have been a member of the DEIB Committee for 4 years and the Fine Arts Committee for 2 years. We coordinate with internal and external groups to further DEI initiatives within the organization and we assess and advise regarding artistic initiatives within the club.

2. In your professional life, in what types of organizations and in what capacities have you served as a leader? What are or were your primary responsibilities in your leadership roles there?

I currently lead teams of analysts and associates in my professional role at my management consulting firm, training, developing, managing, and assisting with the workflows of my teams. In addition to leading contract review and strategic planning for several clients, I also assist with long-term forecasting, litigation management, and budgeting.

3. Please review CBI's current strategic plan (available to download [here](#)). What stands out to you about the strategies and priorities expressed in the strategic plan? Based on what you see there

and what you know about CBI now, what would you urge the Board to add or change or emphasize more to ensure CBI's health going forward?

CBI's health and success depends on sailors enjoying our programs, returning, and sharing their positive experiences with others. We must continue to innovate ways to make the sailing experience enjoyable and safe for everyone, from top-level fleet innovation and maintenance, DEIB initiatives, appropriate pricing supplemented by donations, and top-tier staff and management teams. What stands out to me in the strategic plan is exploring new payment structures and advertising those structures. It could be beneficial to add a study of similar sailing organizations' pricing structures to see relationships between pricing changes and membership numbers. Also, with Charlie's transition, it will be extremely important for the new director and board to pursue long-term community and donor relationships that Charlie has developed. Lastly, expanding on sponsorship opportunities of certain fleets/ groups within CBI could help with buy-in, community building, retention, and fleet quality for specific sailing groups.

Several items could be tabled indefinitely given the outsized cost and resources involved. Online intermediate classes would cost \$40k+ to develop and are less relevant because intermediate sailing learning should occur on the water. Online learning is more appropriate for helping new sailors become comfortable with sailing. The plan also includes \$10k for assessing DEI outcomes and inequities, on which the DEIB committee is actively assessing and surveying.

4. Thinking again in the context of the Strategic Plan, please describe any other professional skills, networks, or capabilities that you could bring to Community Boating as a member of the Board to refine and implement the strategies described in the Plan.

Through my participation in various sailing fleets, I am in near-constant contact with the heads and board members of many sailing organizations throughout the US. We function as a brain trust with a wealth of experience, and we can quickly and efficiently devise solutions to challenges that are common to sailing organizations. My background as a longtime Beacon Hill resident puts me in close contact with a large population of young professionals from which CBI draws membership, as well as many charitable groups. By hearing the needs and input of these populations, I can understand and prioritize board and committee initiatives, as well as solicit partnerships for funding.

My comfort and experience with CBI and many non-CBI committees allow me to work with precision and efficiency when an organization such as CBI needs to accomplish a goal. As a lawyer who graduated from law school in 2.5 years while working full time, and from my undergrad in 3 years while playing two varsity sports, I can ultra-efficiently see projects and goals through to improve organizations.

This past year on CBI's board has been one of the most active and important years of planning for CBI's future. This year, we interviewed and contracted with audit professionals, executive search firms, and endowment investment managers to set CBI up for long term success.

With the corporation's support, I gladly welcome the challenge and the responsibility of guiding CBI through this critically important upcoming term.