

President

Kari Koch
She or they
Coordinator II
Bureau of Development Services

After working for nearly a year to launch and build this union, I am honored to submit my candidacy for President of the City of Portland Professional Workers Union.

I joined the CPPW team in Feb 2023, serving as President of the Organizing Committee since May. I have spent my time at CPPW helping win our election, preparing the Bargaining Committee, fighting layoffs, and building leadership across all parts of the organization. I am not only excited to take on the Presidency in 2024, I am prepared.

I am proud to be running on the **Build Strong Slate** of candidates. We are a proven leadership team that shares common values and a clear vision of the future of CPPW.

- Democratic Unionism - where leadership comes from and is accountable to the membership;
- Organizing - we win improvements in our paychecks and workplaces when we have a strong, engaged membership taking action to build power;
- Equity - in our own systems, in outcomes for our membership, and in holding the City to equitable outcomes for the community;
- Big Tent Unionism - CPPW can be a leader in shaping the City and the role of the City in the community.

As a leader I believe in collective power. A union is only as strong as the membership is active. And a strong union is what we need to win!

Alongside the Build Strong Slate, I plan to build a union that will win a contract in 2024 that includes improved wage scales, cost of living increases to keep pace with the actual cost of living in Portland, and protections for our members during layoffs and restructuring.

I will make sure CPPW has a voice during restructuring and with the new Council. CPPW members run this City - we lead the programs, provide solutions to problems, drive equity, and do the community engagement. We provide critical skills this City needs to function; our compensation and involvement must reflect our value.

My vision is driven by my experience.

I have worked at the City for 8 years, first in the community office in East Portland, then at Civic Life doing Citywide anti-hate work with Portland United Against Hate, and now at BDS leading the Liquor Licensing Program. I've participated in the Path to Leadership Program, the City Mentorship Program, Equity Practitioners Group, and the Multicultural Affinity Group. These experiences have allowed me to build relationships across the City and to understand that different parts of the City have very different needs. Our union must reflect this by having a diversity of voices leading our work.

Most importantly, I've learned to build successful teams. As President, I am here to lead a team of exceptionally talented people who will run this organization - to organize ourselves, administer a contract, be financially responsible, and be politically effective. That is what I bring to CPPW - leadership grounded in team building, because I believe we are stronger together.