



**2019 Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA)
Board of Directors Candidate Application**

Complete and save this application and submit electronically
to CCA Nominating Committee c/o membership@chautauqua.com

Deadline for receipt of applications: 5 p.m. MDT on Monday, June 24th

Information from candidate applications will be included verbatim with the online ballot and
in information mailed to those who vote by paper ballot.

Handwritten applications cannot be accepted.

Name: Ryan Dawson-Erdman

Residence Address: 625 S. 44th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80305

Phone: (303) 856-5700

Preferred E-mail Address:

ryandawson.erdman@gmail.com

Employment: Criminal Defense & Civil Rights Attorney

Business Name, Address and Phone:

Polansky Law Firm
4999 Pearl E. Circle, Suite 201
Boulder, Colorado 80301
(303) 415-2583

How long so employed? 1 year at current firm.

Do you currently live in the Boulder area? If so, how long have you lived here?

I currently live in Boulder and Boulder has been my primary residence since 2006.

Are you currently a member of CCA? How long have you been a member?

I am a current member, I joined earlier this year.

Time available to commit to the CCA Board of Directors: Approximately 10 hours per month, and certainly more under special circumstances.

Please provide three references (name, association/relationship, phone number):

Barbara Guthery
Chautauqua neighbor
(512) 426-5115

John Hess
Friend and former Chautauqua neighbor
(720) 341-0963

Lisa Polansky
Supervising Attorney
(303) 415-2583

1. Why are you interested in serving on the CCA Board of Directors?

Over the 13 years that I have been regularly coming to Chautauqua it has given me a great deal, cultural experiences, outdoor recreation, and a community of people that have become friends. Chautauqua has become dear to me and I am getting to a point in my professional life where I am established enough to donate my time, and I can't think of a worthier organization for that time.

My interest is also born from a sense of responsibility. For the reasons above I care about the future of Chautauqua and I view serving on the Board of Directors as an opportunity to ensure that what Chautauqua has given me is something others can continue to experience for a century to come.

2. What would you hope to accomplish as a Board Member? What, specifically, would you like to work on as a CCA Board member, and why?

Longevity. Because I am in early 30s I take a 50-year view of sustainability for Chautauqua. Longevity is important to me for reasons both selfish and altruistic. I am a practicing trial attorney and Chautauqua gives me clarity. I've written and refined more opening statements than I can count pacing around the water garden. Altruistically, I see the value in a peaceful place where anyone can experience that same sense of clarity and I want that to be preserved both for myself and others for decades to come.

3. What do you see as the three greatest challenges or issues facing Chautauqua and the Colorado Chautauqua Association in the next 5 – 10 years?

A changing and growing community. Boulder is growing, the park is busier now than I remember it ever being in the past. The history and spirit of Chautauqua is at least in part that of a peaceful and quiet refuge. Spending time there bestows upon me a sense of peace and clarity that only comes from slowing down and limiting distractions. Preserving that spirit while also adapting to a growing community, increased use presents a significant challenge that

The third challenge comes from strained relationships. For Chautauqua to thrive it will require mutually beneficial relationships between the cottage owners, the Association, and the city. At present, those relationships seem strained, and I imagine that is likely to pose a threat to the park's ability to thrive into the future.

4. How could you aid CCA in its outreach to the community?

At 31 years old my network is largely comprised of a different age demographic than those who currently make the most use of the park. I can help the CCA reach a new demographic that will ensure a fresh and vibrant group of users who can support it into the future both through simply generating interest in the park through my own network as well as assisting in the development of community outreach and events that will spark the interest of the next generation.

Additionally, my professional life involves a significant amount of indigent defense, and defense of underserved populations which results in building relationships with more diverse communities than are currently making use of the park.

5. Describe your nonprofit or for-profit board experience. Please include any fundraising you may have done.

Candidly, I don't have board or mention-worthy fundraising experience.