



2022 Board Elections

Per Friends of Burkina Faso's bylaws, elections are held to elect Board Members and roles are assigned during the first meeting of the new Board. Below are the Board nominees for the 2022 FBF Board Elections.

Name: Brad McKim

Connection to Burkina Faso:

Visited in 2013 and have supported FBF financially since as well as targeting BF through Books for Africa.

Personal Statement:

Because I have been troubled by developments over the last five years and my wife and I were deeply touched by who we met and what we saw in our travels around the country. I have served on several non-profit boards and believe my experience as an executive can be helpful.

Name: Caroline Chambre Hammock

Connection to Burkina Faso:

RPCV 2002-2004

Personal Statement:

It has been a joy to serve on the FBF Board for the past 3 years, and I would be honored to continue. As Projects Officer, I have led the Projects Committee in expanding FBF's reach to a wide range of grassroots community development organizations. During my tenure, we have been successful with two rounds of Calls for Proposals and fundraising efforts, and I would like to continue building on those efforts. I bring to FBF 25 years professional experience in the non-profit field, both domestic and international. My time living and serving in Burkina Faso was transformative and continues to be a part of my daily life, as my husband and I are helping to raise my twin 15 year-old Burkinabe nieces who live with us as they attend school in the US. I travel to Burkina annually and was able to visit some of FBF's project partners last year, which is something I hope to continue if I am chosen to serve again on the Board. While I have greatly enjoyed the Projects Officer role, I am open to serving in other capacities as needed.

Name: Kristen Combs-Bicaba

Connection to Burkina Faso:

RPCV (TEFL, Kalsaka '98-00; NGO, Ouaga '00-'01) and proud Burkinabe!

On a separate note, I am open to serving in more than one role on the Board as needed.

Personal Statement:

I've been excited to watch the Board evolve over the past few years, adapting our work to address the circumstances in Burkina Faso. I would appreciate the honor and privilege to continue working with the Board, to help us grow and adapt while bringing important resources to grassroots groups in Burkina Faso. I've served as the Newsletter Chair since 2015.

Name: Etienne Yonly

Connection to Burkina Faso:

I am a current FBF Board member where I serve as a membership officer.

Personal Statement:

I am a current FBF Board member where I serve as a membership officer. I am also a former member of FBF's project committee. I am currently an acquisition and assistance advisor at USAID. I am a strong advocate for Peace Corps and its return in Burkina Faso. Working at USAID, I see first-hand the importance of having a champion in-house to speak for you.

Name: Souleymane Diallo

Connection to Burkina Faso:

I am a Burkinabè who worked as staff member of the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso from 2007 to 2017. Since 2000, I have been working on Education and Human rights issues in Burkina Faso. The Peace Corps approach to development motivated me to keep in touch with RPCVs, and to explore innovative ways to continue serving the Burkinabe. Being part of FBF is therefore another opportunity to serve my country.

Personal Statement:

As a Burkinabè who lived in Burkina Faso the last 30 years, I can help FBF design their interventions based on the actual context that is constantly changing due to the crisis. I live in Ouagadougou, and I have contacts FBF can rely on for information from the field. I am bringing an insider perspective to help FBF make better informed decisions.

I am familiar with Education, Youth, Gender, and emergencies. I worked in these domains for over 20 years, including 10 years with the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso,

Name: Kristin Lavoie

Connection to Burkina Faso:

My husband, Mike Lavoie, served in Burkina from '75-'77 as a well digger. Following his return, he remained very connected to Burkina and his adoptive family there with many activities and partnerships through the years. I am blessed that he shared these beautiful connections with me and I strive to continue and strengthen them.

Personal Statement:

My husband, Mike Lavoie, served in Burkina from '75-'77 as a well digger. Following his return, he remained very connected to Burkina and his adoptive family there with many activities and partnerships through the years. I am blessed that he shared these beautiful connections with me and I strive to continue and strengthen them. FBF helps me learn more about Burkina and I gather strength and energy from the devotion and commitment to its many RPCVs and other supporters. I hope to continue to help further the goals of FBF and support the beautiful land of upright people.

Name: Jennica Betsch

Connection to Burkina Faso:

RPCV 2016-2017, evacuated

Personal Statement:

My time in Burkina Faso was cut short due to the conflict that has since transformed the country. I love serving as an FBF board member because it keeps me connected to Burkina Faso and continues to expand my personal network of those who share a deep love and respect for the country.

Name: Leslie Berger

Connection to Burkina Faso:

RPCV 1981-83, founder member of FBF, member of board for 6 yrs

Personal Statement:

I am one of the founding members of the Friends of Burkina Faso which we began back in the late 1980's when a group of committed RPCV's joined together following our return to the US to continue to support the Burkinabe people. I have served as Secretary to the group since 2016, attending all board calls and taking notes to reflect our discussions. I am also a member of the projects committee and have been thrilled to support fundraising and decision making to ensure that we match donor funds with committed grassroots organizations. I am currently overseeing two projects based in south central Burkina, one to promote improved agricultural practices and one to provide water to IDP's. There are so many continuing challenges in Burkina (political situation, Covid, rising cost of living etc) that I see an even greater need for support from organizations like FBF. I would like to continue to support FBF by remaining in my position as Secretary to the board.
