



Setting Up a Nonprofit Board

Description

All nonprofit organizations need a board of directors. But how do you build a board that does more than just satisfies your legal obligations? How do you build a board that supports, guides, and multiplies your work?

This course offers an introduction to establishing a productive and useful board. It will support you in identifying your own governance needs and help you plan to recruit and onboard board members.

Course topics:

- Understand why you need a board of directors and how to structure it
- Assess the skills, expertise, and leadership that your organization needs on your board
- Enlist the best possible candidates to meet your board needs
- Plan to orient new board members to a healthy board culture

Curriculum

Module 1: Roles & Responsibilities of a Board

Recommended Schedule: Start by January 28th | Finish by February 3rd

Description: What distinguishes a truly excellent board from a simply adequate one? In this module we will explore the responsibilities that a great board of directors should fill. You will also select a structure for your board and learn about potential pitfalls.

Assignment: Mapping Your Current Board Structure

Suggested Due Date:
February 3rd

Module 2: Identifying Your Organization's Governance Needs

Recommended Schedule: Start by February 4th | Finish by February 10th

Description: What kind of board does your organization need? The answer will be different depending on your organization's size, age, and type! In this module we will identify the most important things to look for in board members.

Assignment: Board Matrix

Suggested Due Date:
February 10th

Module 3: Recruiting Board Members

Recommended Schedule: Start by February 11th | Finish by February 17th

Description: How do you attract the most qualified board members? In this module, you will explore the recruitment process: one of the most difficult phases of building an effective nonprofit board.



Assignment: Board Member Job Description

Suggested Due Date:
February 17th

Module 4: Onboarding and Building an Effective Board Culture

Recommended Schedule: Start by February 18th | Finish by February 24th

Description: Getting the correct board members is the first step towards building a great board. But how can you ensure that your new board members are prepared to succeed? In this final module, we explore the role of training and culture.

Assignment: Orientation Plan

Suggested Due Date:
February 24th

Course Advisors

Joe Dougherty

Joe is Regional Director of the Americas region for Dalberg, a global group working to build a more inclusive and sustainable world. He has served as a trusted advisor to donor agencies, governments, NGOs, and leading corporations for nearly twenty years, and has worked in more than 30 countries. He is a lecturer at Haas School of Business at the University of California-Berkeley and teaches about nonprofit leadership.

Joshua Kyallo

Joshua is from Kenya, and he has over 25 years of experience in leading the design, development and implementation of complex, multimillion dollar programs across Africa for 7 international NGOs based in USA and Africa. He has decades of experience in leading nonprofits and working with their boards.

Ben Mangan

Ben Mangan is Executive Director of the Center for Social Sector Leadership and on the faculty at Haas School of Business at the University of California-Berkeley. He teaches Strategy and Leadership for Social Impact at Berkeley Haas. Ben brings more than 20 years of experience in social impact leadership and management, and he has served on several nonprofit boards.