



# BOARD ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

## Nonprofit Governance

Most nonprofit organizations struggle to keep their board of directors engaged, in addition to balancing other challenges related to governance.

*“Over 25% of nonprofit directors do not have a deep understanding of the mission and strategy of their organization. Nearly 1 in 3 are dissatisfied with the board’s ability to evaluate organizational performance. More than 50% do not believe their fellow board members are very experienced or engaged in their work.”*

-Stanford Graduate School of Business, 2014 Survey of 924 Nonprofit Directors

## Did you answer 'no' to any of the following questions?

- ✓ Do board members know where to find the by-laws and a calendar of meetings?
- ✓ Are board meeting minutes recorded and organized after each meeting?
- ✓ Are board members aware of their responsibilities? Have clear expectations been set and communicated to board members?
- ✓ Are you satisfied with board member participation at meetings and on committees?

## Top 10 Ways to Improve Board Engagement

- 1) Set clear expectations
- 2) Formalize your onboarding process for new members
- 3) Recognize and utilize the different skill sets your members bring to the table
- 4) Encourage big picture governance; discourage “getting in the weeds”
- 5) Consistently reinforce your organization's mission
- 6) Avoid using jargon when interacting with board members
- 7) Hold board members accountable for their responsibilities
- 8) Make it easy for board members to find upcoming meeting dates and details
- 9) When in doubt, aim for *concise* and *clear* reporting on progress
- 10) Consider organizing all board information in one place

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