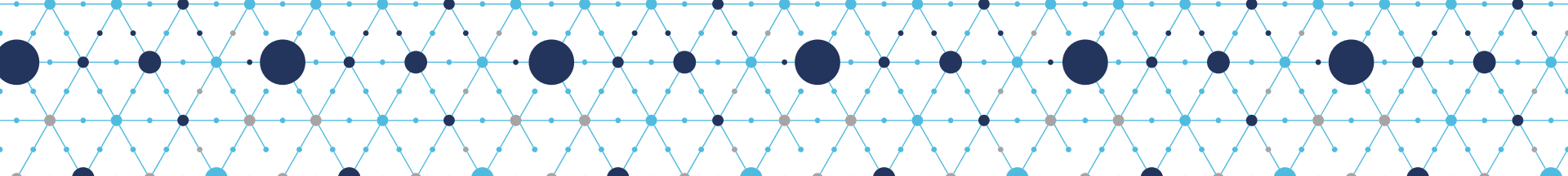


Bring Out the Best in Your Board



Amanda Ziebell Mawanda
Strategic Services Consultant

MCN Essentials Conference
August 15, 2019



Our Mission

Fuel the effectiveness of nonprofits
with guidance, expertise, and capital.

power your mission
propel
● ● ● ● nonprofits

Session Overview

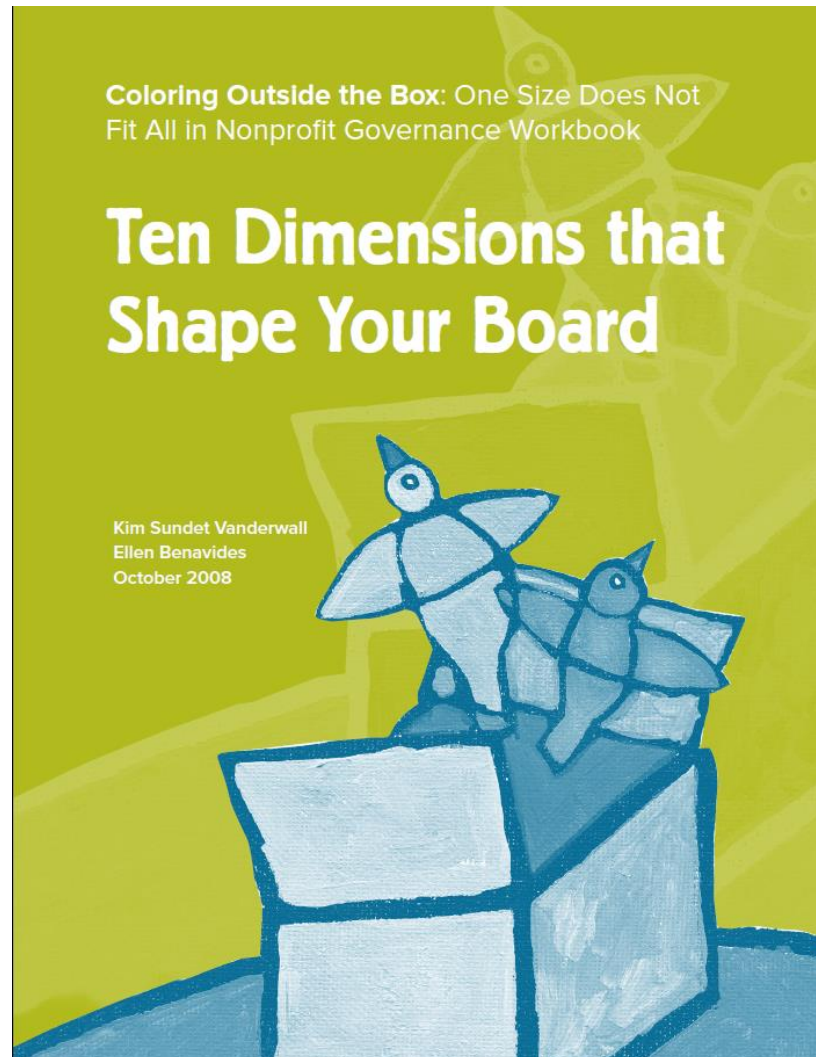


-
- Board Member Responsibilities Overview
 - Board Type Continuum
 - Tips for Engagement

Board Member Responsibilities



Resource



Board Type Continuum



Hands-on
/Start-up



Policy



Institutional



Start-up/Hands-On Board



- Board members support the founder and act as hands-on volunteers to help make the founders dream a reality
- Board size is often small
- Board members are often friends and colleagues from the founder's circle

“Ten Dimensions that Shape Your Board”; Vanderwall & Benavides; 2008

Policy Board



- Board focuses on big picture policy, accountability and evaluating organizational effectiveness.
- Board members are recruited for a mix of skills and expertise with an emphasis on professionals

“Ten Dimensions that Shape Your Board”; Vanderwall & Benavides; 2008

- In addition to focusing on governance, board members are actively involved in fundraising for the organization.
- Board size tends to be larger
- Board composition is relatively formal, includes access to major donors.

Your Organization's Stage



- Age of the organization
- Staffing levels
- Changes in funding
- Adversity
- Strategic direction
- Changes in programming
- Leadership transitions

Discussion Questions



- Where does your organization's board fall on the continuum?
- In which of the 5 roles and responsibilities are of board members most engaged?
- In which of the 5 roles and responsibilities are of board members least engaged?

Key Engagement Questions



-
- Do we have the right people and are they really engaged?
 - Do they know what their job is?
 - Is the board organized in a way that helps us do our job well?

Engagement Tips – Start-up Board



- Provide training for board members – requirements for 501(c)(3) organizations (i.e. fiduciary duties and compliance)
- Define roles and responsibilities among board members and volunteers
- Tap into passion and connection to the mission
- Provide access to infrastructure for the hands-on work of board members

Adapted from “Ten Dimensions that Shape Your Board”; Vanderwall & Benavides; 2008

Engagement Tips – Policy Board



- Provide training for board members – financial oversight, evaluating impact
- Define roles and responsibilities among board members and staff
- Help board members connect to the organization’s mission and impact
- Tap into specialized skills and expertise
- Dedicate board time for strategic discussions about topics including equity and inclusion

Engagement Tips – Institutional



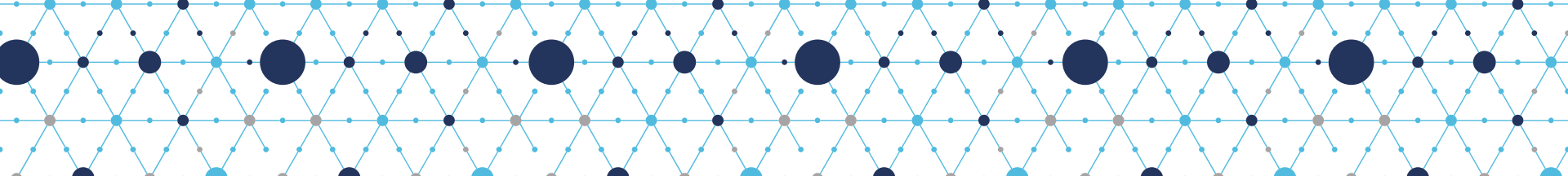
- Provide training for board members – connections with resources & opportunities
- Define roles and responsibilities of board related to fundraising
- Help board members connect to the organization’s mission and impact
- Deepen discussion about what it means to be an inclusive board
- Provide opportunities to serve on committees or in ad hoc groups

Adapted from “Ten Dimensions that Shape Your Board”; Vanderwall & Benavides; 2008

Discussion Questions



- Which tips will benefit your board?
- What steps will you take to share these tips to bring out the best in your board?



propel

● ● ● ● nonprofits

www.propelnonprofits.org
612.249.6700

