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WHITE RIVER STRATEGY

Resources on Nonprofit Board Governance & Board Leadership

There are a wide variety of resources, trainings, services, tools, and more available on topics related to nonprofit board governance and board leadership. However, they are distributed across the country and the internet, which can make it hard for nonprofit board members to find a resource that is helpful for their current situation.

This document contains a list of resources revolving **around generative board leadership and board governance**. This is not an exhaustive list of resources but a handful that we hope will help individuals and boards deepen their own curiosity about generative thinking and board governance. Please note, some of these resources are free while others do have a cost to access them. These are presented as a guide for individuals and boards to deepen their own knowledge in particular areas.

These have been organized by:

1. [Comprehensive Nonprofit Board Resources](#)
2. [Online Resources, Tools, and Trainings](#)
3. [Books](#)
4. [Journals and Magazines](#)
5. [Board Member Matching Services](#)
6. [In Colorado](#)

In addition, the following three guides were created as stand-alone resources in order to delve deeper into specific nonprofit board practices that were identified as of particular interest to the community:

- Generative Board Governance & Leadership
 - Board Recruitment & Onboarding
 - Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
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Comprehensive Nonprofit Board Resources

These are three of the best resources that can be visited consistently to find a wide variety of resources for boards, nonprofits, and consultants. They also each provide field-level research and guidance for the sector on board related issues. Some resources are free, while others are paid/included with a membership.

Boardable - Resources for boards including blog posts, case studies, ebooks/whitepapers, and webinars.

BoardSource - Recognized leader in nonprofit board leadership research, leadership, and support. Provides leaders with an extensive range of tools, resources, and research data to increase board effectiveness, strengthen organizational impact, and serve as the national voice for inspired and effective board leadership.

National Council of Nonprofits - A trusted resource and proven advocate for America's charitable nonprofits. They provide tools, resources, and samples for nonprofits.

Resources offered include:

- Board assessment and evaluation
- Board best practices
- Board tools
- Board diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Board-staff relationship
- Board engagement
- Board meetings and agendas
- Board recruitment and onboarding
- Board roles and responsibilities, board composition
- Fundraising
- Strategic planning
- Succession planning
- Board leadership, governance, and generative thinking



Online Resources, Tools, and Trainings

This section focuses on resources, tools, and trainings that can be accessed by individuals and organizations. The majority of these resources are housed at various state associations for nonprofits. Each state cultivates their own resource list and training curriculum. While several do have discounts for their members, many open their training/resources up to non-members, which can include individuals from a different state.

Various resources and trainings might be organized around a specific schedule, while some offer their resources as an “on-demand” function. A lot of great information is located in each of these links, which allows for an individual/organization to find the right resource for them at this time.

These resources tend to hit on most, if not all, of the core components of board development and learning.

[BoardStrong](#) - Help nonprofit organizations achieve the highest standards of board leadership, governance, and oversight. Provides resources on good governance and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[Maine Association of Nonprofits](#) - Invested in developing the people and organizations making a positive difference to the economy, health, and quality of life in Maine. Host events, trainings, resources, tools.

[Maryland Nonprofits](#) - Work to promote a thriving and effective nonprofit sector. Resources to help strengthen your board based on wherever you fall in the nonprofit lifecycle (startup, growth, peak performance, decline/crisis, renewal).

[Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#) - Online library of nonprofit management best practices, tips, and strategies.

[Nonprofit Association of Oregon](#) - The association provides a whole resource section around principles of excellence, including [governance](#), with a subsection on [board assessment tools](#). The Board Assessment looks at the functioning of the Board as a whole. It is anonymous, and can be completed, tallied, and the results reviewed in one Board meeting. The Board Member Self-Assessment is also anonymous and gives Board Members the opportunity to reflect on their own performance and experiences serving on the Board. If Board Members are comfortable sharing, the answers to questions seven through nine can help the Executive, Nominating, or Governance Committee identify strategies to improve Board Member effectiveness and satisfaction.

[The Nonprofit Institute at the University of San Diego](#) - They have nonprofit governance training programs that provide individual and group development activities to enhance the overall board experience and engagement of each board member.

[Nonprofit Board Resource Center by The Bridgespan Group and BoardSource](#) – A collection of resources on a range of board development topics.



Online Resources, Tools, and Trainings, Continued

Nonprofit Leadership Center - Mission to develop and connect nonprofit leaders to strengthen organizations and our communities, with a list of board governance resources and articles.

Nonprofit Ready by Cornerstone Foundation - Hundreds of free online courses, videos, and downloadable guides to support the most common nonprofit jobs.

Stand For Your Mission - Designed to unleash the power of the nonprofit sector through advocacy. They have resources to help boards understand the basic components of good governance and serve their organization and the public in the best possible manner.

The Washington Nonprofit Institute - Provides nonprofit learning to organizations of all sizes with a broad set of resources and courses. **Boards in Gear** is an on-demand/free course that covers the five main areas of strong board practice: Connection to cause, roles and responsibilities, how to build a great board, sustain a great board, and engage board members in fundraising.



Books

There are numerous books that focus on key aspects of board development. These are just a few that have particularly resonated with readers and nonprofit organizations over the years.

Board Recruitment and Orientation: A Step-By-Step Common Sense Guide by Hildy Gottlieb - Step-by-step guide to creating a strong recruitment and orientation program, putting your board on the path to increased effectiveness.

Boards on Fire!: Inspiring Leaders to Raise Money Joyfully by Susan Howlett - Simple steps and practical solutions to get your board on fire about fundraising.

Boards That Make a Difference: A New Design for Leadership in Nonprofit and Public Organizations by John Carver - An empowering and fundamental redesign of the board role, emphasizing values, vision, and empowerment of board and staff, and strategic ability to lead leaders.

How Are We Doing?: A 1-Hour Guide to Evaluating Your Performance As A Nonprofit Board by Gayle L. Gifford - Questions and conversation starters for boards to air problems and create solutions.

The Little Book of Boards: A Board Member's Handbook for Small (and Very Small) Nonprofits by Erik Hanberg - Board responsibilities and relationships.

Nonprofit Governance & Management - Describes substantive governance issues and includes a practical advice section that provides guidance on how to apply principles and addresses different substantive issues. This is intended to help nonprofit management and board leadership convert principles and concepts into concrete actions to improve governance and help board members understand their responsibilities.

Nonprofit Governance: The Why, What, and How of Nonprofit Boardship by Thomas J. Harvey and John Tropman - Information and practical guidelines for board members and executives of nonprofit organizations.



Books, Continued

	<u>Board Recruitment and Orientation</u>	<u>Boards on Fire!</u>	<u>Boards That Make a Difference</u>	<u>How Are We Doing?</u>	<u>The Little Book of Boards</u>	<u>Nonprofit Governance & Management</u>	<u>Nonprofit Governance</u>
Board assessment and evaluation			✓	✓			✓
Board best practices			✓		✓	✓	✓
Board tools							
Board diversity, equity, and inclusion							
Board-staff relationship			✓		✓	✓	
Board engagement		✓			✓		
Board meetings and agendas					✓		✓
Board recruitment and onboarding	✓		✓				
Board roles and responsibilities, board composition			✓		✓	✓	✓
Fundraising		✓					
Strategic planning			✓				
Succession planning							
Board leadership, governance, and generative thinking			✓		✓	✓	✓



Online Journals and Magazines

These resources run the gamut from publishing new research and trends in the nonprofit sector, to hosting trainings and interviews with practitioners in the field. Many of these offer free newsletters that can help anyone stay up to date on the latest thinking in the sector.

Blue Avocado - Online magazine and monthly newsletter that provides practical, tactical tips and tools to nonprofit leaders. Categories include Board of Directors, community and culture, and leadership and management.

Nonprofit Quarterly - The leading journal of the nonprofit sector covering a range of issues related to the operating environment for nonprofits. They also have a podcast, *Tiny Spark*, that reports on philanthropy, nonprofits, and international aid. Finally, they have a number of webinars on a wide variety of topics.

Stanford Social Innovation Review - Magazine and website that covers cross-sector solutions to global problems. A portion of the articles are focused on nonprofits and innovative ideas to help leaders of nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations work more effectively.

	<u>Blue Avocado</u>	<u>Nonprofit Quarterly</u>	<u>Stanford Social Innovation Review</u>
Board assessment and evaluation	✓		
Board best practices	✓	✓	✓
Board tools	✓		
Board diversity, equity, and inclusion	✓	✓	✓
Board-staff relationship	✓	✓	✓
Board engagement	✓	✓	✓
Board meetings and agendas	✓		
Board recruitment and onboarding	✓	✓	
Board roles and responsibilities, board composition	✓	✓	
Fundraising	✓	✓	✓
Strategic planning	✓	✓	✓
Succession planning	✓	✓	✓
Board leadership, governance, and generative thinking	✓	✓	✓

Board Member Matching Services

There are a few services available that particularly match nonprofits with potential board members. These three are offered as points of reference of “what could be,” knowing that there are many formal and informal ways that communities make these matches. These primarily focus on board recruitment and onboarding.

boardnetUSA - A unique website dedicated to the express purpose of connecting nonprofit boards and new leaders. The site is designed to be a common technological platform for a national collaborative network of communities working locally to enhance nonprofit board governance. This growing network of community partners work together on common themes of populating board rooms as well as individually developing services tailored to their local market.

Cause Strategy Partners - Connect talented professionals to nonprofit board service opportunities in their communities and train them for high impact from day one. They primarily work through large companies in order to match their younger professionals to nonprofit organizations. They also tend to focus on large markets.

Spark the Change Colorado BoardMatch - A leading resource, strategist, and partner that inspires, engages, mobilizes, and empowers individuals, communities, and organizations to become a driving force for good through the power of volunteerism, service, and engagement. Their BoardMatch program is Colorado’s premier institute for board leadership trainings and connections.



In Colorado

When using a more focused lens on resources cultivated and housed in Colorado, the following organizations and opportunities emerged. This is not an exhaustive list, but just a few examples that range from consultants, broader initiatives, and the state association.

Christy Honigman and Associates - Specializes in building nonprofit organizations' capacity, helping them become stronger through strategic planning, fundraising, board development, and program sustainability. They provide a Board Development Series that includes board training, board retreat facilitation, new board member recruitment, board member orientation, and board/executive director relations.

Colorado Nonprofit Association - A Colorado-based nonprofit association that works to increase nonprofits' capacity so that the state has the nation's most effective, vibrant, and innovative nonprofit community that is essential to the quality of life in our state. They provide trainings and resources related to board and nonprofit leadership.

Community Resource Center - Create opportunities, tools, and strategies to develop nonprofits and community groups to strengthen Colorado. While this organization does not provide board specific resources, it does provide some broader resources to help nonprofits including: a Colorado Grants Guide, the Colorado Common Grant Form, and resources on how to start a nonprofit,

Colorado Secretary of State's Nonprofit Board Member Course - Board Education eLearning course that serves as a resource for current and aspiring nonprofit board members. Includes a self-assessment tool and five modules.

Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center's Nonprofit Governance Board Training - Provide tools that support, connect, and inspire community nonprofits. Host a Nonprofit Governance Board Training to prepare nonprofit boards for confident leadership.

Leadership Arts Program through Colorado Business Committee for the Arts - Nine-month training program that prepares people to serve on nonprofit boards of directors and increase their civic engagement in the arts.



In Colorado, Continued

	<u>Christy Honigman and Associates</u>	<u>Colorado Nonprofit Association</u>	<u>Community Resource Center</u>	<u>Colorado Secretary of States Nonprofit Board Member Course</u>	<u>Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Centers Nonprofit Governance Board Training</u>	<u>Leadership Arts Program through Colorado Business Committee for the Arts</u>
Board assessment and evaluation	✓			✓		
Board best practices	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Board tools		✓				
Board diversity, equity, and inclusion	✓					
Board-staff relationship	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Board engagement	✓					✓
Board meetings and agendas	✓					
Board recruitment and onboarding	✓					✓
Board roles and responsibilities, board composition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fundraising		✓				
Strategic planning	✓	✓			✓	
Succession planning						
Board leadership, governance, and generative thinking	✓	✓		✓	✓	



This resource was compiled by White River Strategy (WRS) as part of a broader landscape scan of available board development resources available online. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of resources, and we encourage users of this document to do their own assessment of which resource are best for their own organization and board dynamics.



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