

Nonprofit Board Certificate Course

DISCUSSION GUIDE

As you learn about board service through the Nonprofit Board Certificate Course, we encourage you to bring these conversations into your board meetings.

Discussion ideas:

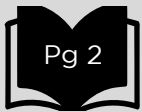
- Watch a video (or part of a video) together or assign a video to be watched prior to a meeting.
- Spend 10 minutes every meeting talking about one topic.
- Spend 30 minutes quarterly to dig deeper into a bigger topic.
- Invite individual board members to lead discussions. Mixing up voices can encourage new ideas.

Here are some important conversations to have with your whole board.

1 What is your organization's PURPOSE?



Module 2



Episode 65
"Big picture thinking"

Your purpose is the anchor for everything that follows, so it is important for board members to come to some agreement around this. Some might find it hard to land on a purpose because it is existential, outside the box of the day-to-day work.

2 Who shares your purpose (or some aspect of it) across your COMMUNITY?



Module 2



Episode 28
"Community building"

This question invites board members to think about organizations and people working within your movement who you may not have connected with yet. It is very helpful in identifying potential board members who bring new insights, experiences, and connections to your board.

Resources



Video

Use this for pre-discussion learning. We've given you the Module number for each question.

nonprofitlearning.center



Course workbook

You may have notes here. Bring your workbook to the discussion. We've given you the page number for each question.

nonprofitlearning.center



Podcast

The creators of the Board Certificate Course talk about these topics regularly on the Nonprofit Radio Show podcast. We've given you the episode number for each question.

nonprofitradioshow.com

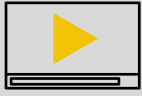
For more information about the Nonprofit Board Certificate Course, email hello@nonprofitlearning.center.



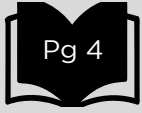
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3 Who does your organization need on its board? What kinds of DIVERSITY need to be represented?



Module 2



Episode 43
"Board matrix"

Your mission and purpose will best be achieved if you have a diverse set of minds, experiences, connections, and more around your board table. We often consider board recruitment from the position of who we already know. These questions invite a broader exploration of board recruitment.

4 How is your board's CULTURE experienced by diverse people on your board and in your community?



Module 2



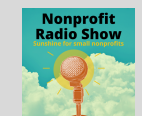
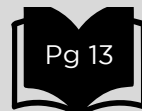
Episode 22
"Create a culture people want to be part of"

Every group of people has a culture. Your board has a culture. It may be the same or different from your organization's culture. Being explicit about your culture requires conversation about it.

5 How can you have board CONVERSATIONS of consequence? What strategies would help to keep people focused on what matters most?



Module 4



Episode 23
"Board retreats"

Board members join boards to make a difference. This question invites deeper conversation on how you can maximize people's engagement so the organization benefits from the diversity you engage on your board and individuals experience greater joy and job satisfaction.