

“Guidelines to Creating a Philanthropic Advisor Board”

Creating a philanthropic advisor board involves several key steps:

1. **Define Purpose:** Clarify the purpose and goals of the advisor board, such as providing strategic guidance, reviewing grant proposals, or offering expertise in specific areas.
2. **Identify Expertise:** Select individuals with diverse backgrounds, expertise, and experience in philanthropy, finance, law, and relevant fields. Aim for a mix of skills that align with your organization's focus.
3. **Recruitment:** Reach out to potential advisors through personal networks, referrals, and professional organizations. Clearly communicate the expectations, time commitment, and benefits of joining the board.
4. **Roles and Responsibilities:** Outline the roles and responsibilities of the advisor board members. This could include advising on grant strategies, evaluating impact, assisting with donor relations, and attending periodic meetings.
5. **Governance:** Establish a clear governance structure, including terms of service, meeting frequency, decision-making processes, and potential compensation for advisors.
6. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Strive for diversity in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, age, and perspectives to ensure a well-rounded board that represents the community you serve.
7. **Orientation:** Provide a thorough orientation for new advisors, covering the organization's mission, goals, current projects, and expectations for their involvement.
8. **Engagement:** Foster engagement by maintaining regular communication, sharing updates, and involving advisors in meaningful discussions about the organization's direction.
9. **Committees:** Consider forming specialized committees within the advisor board to focus on specific areas like investment, grant evaluation, or public relations.
10. **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish mechanisms for advisors to provide feedback on the organization's activities, strategies, and overall effectiveness.
11. **Evaluation:** Periodically assess the performance of the advisor board and individual members to ensure alignment with goals and expectations.
12. **Recognition:** Recognize and acknowledge the contributions of the advisory board members through public appreciation, awards, or other forms of recognition.

Remember, creating a successful philanthropic advisor board requires careful planning, clear communication, and ongoing engagement to harness the expertise and guidance of its members effectively.