



## FOCUS BoardBridge St. Louis

Including racially and ethnically diverse St. Louians on our nonprofit boards is essential if we are to think, act, and be more inclusive in a region that is evolving racially, culturally, and socially. Launched as a pilot test in fall 2023, BoardBridge is an initiative of FOCUS St. Louis designed to help connect nonprofit boards and candidates through a matching process. BoardBridge aims to complement other St. Louis board recruitment initiatives, not replace them.

### BOARDBRIDGE FOR CANDIDATES

BoardBridge is for racially and ethnically diverse candidates who:

- Desire greater civic and community leadership involvement
- Are looking to contribute their time, treasure and talents to causes they are passionate about
- Have the time and interest to commit to serving on a nonprofit board or committee

Before being matched, candidates must participate in an Orientation Session. This virtual event will provide an overview of the board matching process, along with best practices and tips for serving on a board.

### BOARDBRIDGE FOR NONPROFITS

BoardBridge is for nonprofit organizations who:

- Desire to expand their circle of racial and ethnically diverse potential board candidates
- Are committed to principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Are looking to welcome new board members, especially those from immigrant backgrounds

Before being matched, each nonprofit must have a board/staff member participate in an Orientation Session. This virtual event will provide an overview of the board matching process, along with best practices and tips for successfully diversifying your board.

### Take the Next Step

BoardBridge matching will occur twice a year, based on nonprofit/candidate interest. Visit [www.focus-stl.org/BoardBridge](http://www.focus-stl.org/BoardBridge) to learn more and apply. If we are between matching cycles, you can also sign up on the website to be notified about the next round of matching.

**About FOCUS St. Louis:** Recognized as a national model for civic leadership development, FOCUS provides diverse leaders with the civic awareness and powerful connections needed to be collaborative changemakers who advance a thriving region for all. Our continuum of civic leadership program are designed to meet participants where they are. As a neutral convener and facilitator, FOCUS brings together community members to deliberate on critical regional issues in a trusted, nonpartisan space.

Special thanks to our volunteer planning committee:

- Anna Crosslin, Retired President & CEO, International Institute of St. Louis
- Betsy Cohen, Executive Director, St. Louis Mosaic Project
- Nhi Doan, Board Member, Asian American Chamber of Commerce-St. Louis
- Angela Batnasan, Board Member, Asian American Chamber of Commerce-St. Louis
- Robin Feder, Executive Director Emeritus, Central Institute for the Deaf
- Martha Garcia Kampen, Executive Director, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Metro St. Louis
- Linda Ogbah Faas, President, St. Louis African Chamber of Commerce
- Arinola Solanke, Board Chair, St. Louis African Chamber of Commerce
- Ben Molina, Chair, Hispanic Leaders Group of St. Louis

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