



Increasing the diversity of our St. Louis nonprofit boards is essential if we are to be a more inclusive region. Launched as a pilot test in fall 2023, BoardBridge is an initiative of FOCUS St. Louis designed to help connect nonprofit boards and diverse candidates through a matching process.

BOARDBRIDGE FOR CANDIDATES

BoardBridge is for 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 a virtual Orientation, which 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 potential board candidates
- Are committed to principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Are looking to welcome new board members, especially those from diverse backgrounds

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

“This is one of THE most significant and effective programs we have been a part of. The need for board members is always present and this process was truly exemplary ... not complicated, not a ton of time and 100% effective in introducing us to future board members.” - Tami Timmer, Flance Early Learning Center

Based on their experience, 92% of past participants would recommend the program.

Take the Next Step

BoardBridge matching will occur twice a year, based on nonprofit/candidate interest. Visit 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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