



COMPASS
SORKIN CENTER
For Nonprofit Governance

Strengthening Nonprofit Boards and Supporting Nonprofit Leaders

Committed and aligned boards and leaders are essential to driving success within a nonprofit. The Sorkin Center at Compass provides a range of fee-based services, from introductory sessions for prospective board members and capacity building for experienced boards to peer support for Executive Directors.

ON BOARD: BOARD PLACEMENT

Through our signature On Board program, we pair mission-driven organizations with committed board members. Our time-tested practice includes:

1. Conducting interviews to identify talented and dedicated individuals interested in board service.
2. Matching individuals with nonprofits tailored to their passions and strengths using our extensive nonprofit network.
3. Providing new board member orientation sessions and opportunities for On Board participants to meet and network with peers.

SORKIN SUMMIT: NONPROFIT BOARD BEST PRACTICES

The Sorkin Summit is an annual governance conference that brings current and prospective nonprofit board members, community changemakers, and social entrepreneurs together to connect, learn, and lead. The Summit features expert panels and community building, with essential training and discussions around nonprofit best practices and emerging challenges. We cover a wide variety of topics, from the fundamentals for building highly effective boards to fundraising to long-range planning.



INDIVIDUAL NONPROFITS: TAILORED BOARD TRAINING AND BOARD RETREAT FACILITATION

The Sorkin Center provides customized training sessions for boards. Our tailored sessions can cover the fundamental responsibilities and requirements of board service, as well as more advanced sessions including strengthening fundraising, understanding nonprofit finance, ensuring board impact, and engaging and supporting Executive Directors. We work with nonprofits to design a training session that fits their specific needs. We can also facilitate board retreats for nonprofits to achieve alignment between staff and board members, develop short- and/or long-term strategic priorities, or address critical issues and opportunities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: ALIGNING BOARD AND STAFF

The Sorkin Center offers strategic planning services for nonprofits. Establishing a three- to five-year strategic plan aligns the entire organization, including board and staff, on its highest priorities, focusing everyone on achieving goals in a coordinated way. The strategic plan also helps nonprofits communicate their efforts to donors and funders to help them understand the impact of their funding.



COMPASS CONNECT CONVERSATIONS

The Sorkin Center also supports nonprofit leaders through convenings by issue area or leadership topic. Compass Connect Conversations gather nonprofit leaders virtually to share best practices, concerns, and conversations with experts on topical issues from mergers to crisis communications to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We also assemble specialized cohorts to address some of the most daunting issues nonprofit leaders face today.

ABOUT COMPASS

Compass believes nonprofits are the backbone of strong and vibrant communities and knows many are overstretched and under-resourced. Few can afford top-tier consulting firms. Compass has dedicated staffs in Chicago, Greater Philadelphia, and Greater Washington, and has been providing pro bono professional consulting services to nonprofit organizations since 2001. We have connected more than 4,341 business professionals with nonprofits to complete 1,077 projects, providing \$106+ million,~ in pro bono consulting services. To date, Compass has also placed 200 professionals onto 129 nonprofit boards. For more information, check us out at www.compassprobono.org.

CONTACT THE SORKIN CENTER

For more information about Sorkin Center services, including pricing, scheduling, and this year's deadlines, please visit us online at CompassProBono.org or contact Sorkin Center Executive Director Amy Cress at (773) 396-6747 or at acress@compassdc.org.

