



SORKIN FOUNDATION SERVICES

Nonprofit Board Member Support

Summary of Services

The Sorkin Center at Compass partners with foundations to provide board member matching, as well as support and training for nonprofit boards within a foundation's grantee portfolio. For those foundations that already provide financial support to nonprofits, but would like to expand capacity building services for their grantees' boards, Sorkin can be the answer. Sorkin services include training existing and new board members, placing individuals on nonprofit boards, Retreat Facilitation, and Strategic Planning. As part of Compass, the Sorkin Center builds on years of experience and expertise in the local nonprofit sector.

The goal of Sorkin Foundation Services is to strengthen nonprofit boards by: leveraging local talent in supporting nonprofit boards, tapping into Compass' deep relationships to positively impact the nonprofit community, and providing focused yet versatile trainings that can serve a specific nonprofit or a group of organizations within a foundation's portfolio (education, health, hunger, etc).

Why do foundations seek Sorkin Center services?

Foundations are uniquely qualified to take a 30,000 foot perspective when assessing the needs of the local community. Nonprofits, on the other hand, are rightly focused on their mission and the specific population they serve. That said, many foundations want to play a stronger supporting role in strengthening nonprofit boards. Stronger boards mean stronger nonprofits which, ideally, mean a stronger local community. The Sorkin Center can help enhance a foundation's value as not only a funding source for nonprofit organizations, but also as a thought leader and capacity building partner.

How does the Sorkin Center support foundation grantees?

Tailored Nonprofit Board Trainings

Many foundations have expressed interest in building synergy among their portfolio grantees and within specific social sectors. In addition, many nonprofits do not have the bandwidth or budget to provide proper onboarding or ongoing training for their board members. Sorkin can provide this needed service through board member training for a small group of foundation grantees or customized trainings for nonprofits serving particular sectors of the local community. These trainings are aimed at not only building stronger boards, but also serving as a powerful convening of nonprofit board members who would not normally interact with their counterparts from other organizations. Finally, sector-specific events allow the Sorkin Center to customize the training to address the unique issues impacting a specific type of nonprofit.

On Board - Board Placement

Sorkin provides board matching and placement services for nonprofits seeking qualified board members, especially individuals outside the nonprofit's normal network. Sorkin staff work with foundations to identify a group of grantees to invite to participate in the On Board program. With an extensive nonprofit database and even deeper knowledge of nonprofit organizational needs, the Sorkin Center is ideally suited to serve nonprofit board placement needs and sponsoring foundations' desire to support this service.

Sorkin Summit - Nonprofit Board Best Practices

The Sorkin Summit is an annual conference for nonprofit board members and social enterprise stakeholders interested in learning about the fundamental components of highly effective boards. Foundations can sponsor boards and Executive Directors to attend the Summit.

The Summit includes presentations, expert panels and community building with nonprofit leaders and board members dedicated to making the local community a better place to work and live.

Training modules are led by Sorkin leaders with deep knowledge and expertise in board management and governance. The sessions include a holistic introduction to high impact boards and the fundamentals of board membership including:

- **Finance** - Addresses topics such as what makes nonprofit financials unique, financial stewardship, accounting for grants, nonprofit cash flow, the Form 990 and Audited Financials, and risk management including policies, insurance, fraud, and internal controls.
- **Fundraising** – Focuses on the critical responsibility of a nonprofit board with respect to fundraising. Topics include how board members fundraise, understanding why donors contribute, and telling a nonprofit's story.
- **Governance** – Covers the foundations and characteristics of good governance, the role of a nonprofit board versus staff, the responsibilities of the organization to board members, and the role of committees.

Contact The Sorkin Center

To learn more about Sorkin Foundation Services and pricing, please contact Sorkin Center Executive Director Amy Cress at (773) 396-6747 or acress@compassdc.org.

About The Sorkin Center at Compass

As part of Compass, the Sorkin Center builds on Compass' years of experience and expertise in the local nonprofit sector. The Sorkin Center also offers Retreat Facilitation and Strategic Planning services for nonprofits.