

PREAMBLE

What do we want Board directors to do?

- Be active thoughtful, and candid.
- Come to meetings fully prepared to participate.
- Understand and declare possible conflicts of interest when they occur.
- Serve on at least two committees.
- Give a significant gift each year.
- Help in some way to build and maintain important relationships with individual, corporate, foundation, and agency funders.
- Advocate for the land trust back into their communities.
- Serve as official ambassadors at land trust events.
- Help the Board replicate itself.

Board Director Role and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors is the governing body charged with ensuring the long-term continuity and success of the land trust by:

- maintaining its leadership among peer institutions;
- sustaining and enhancing its credibility within the communities it serves;
- preserving its reputation and standing among the organization's private and public funders; and
- ensuring its own perpetual self-replication.

Individual directors carry far greater responsibility for the land trust than any other volunteer. They are leaders in caring for and protecting the natural environment and advancing land conservation throughout the region. They are responsible for the long-term fiscal health of the land trust. And they are advocates within their own communities for support for the land trust, its values, its programs, and its projects.

Board Director Responsibilities – Leadership

- Maintain membership in good standing with the land trust.
- Take an active role in the ongoing development of the land trust's mission and programs, assessing its mission, shaping its strategic direction, and creating policies to ensure the quality of its programs.
- Conduct the business of the land trust in a professional manner consistent with the needs and interests of the land trust and with an overall culture of integrity.
- Prepare for and attend all Board meetings and other meetings as called by the Executive Committee, participating fully in the proceedings as needed and able.
- Serve on at least two Standing Committees.
- Serve as an advocate for the land trust within personal circles of influence – civic, personal/social, faith, and/or professional communities – always alert and articulate in advancing opportunities to further the land trust's mission and goals and in bringing back input and ideas from the community. Participate as an ambassador in land trust educational or outreach programs (e.g. property tours, community presentations) as needed and called upon.

- Attract, recommend, and participate in the election of individuals for the Board of Directors who expand the diversity, demographic, and skill-based profile of the Board and, therefore, serve the land trust efficiently, energetically, and well.
- Be accessible to and supportive of the volunteers, staff, and other Board Directors.
- Maintain transparent legal and ethical integrity in the conduct of the land trust business, including adherence to the land trust's bylaws, policies, and procedures.

Board Director Responsibilities – Fiscal Responsibility

- Financially contribute to the land trust annually at a level that represents a significant personal commitment to the organization.
- Ensure that the land trust operates on a fiscally responsible basis (e.g. assuring sufficient capital, fulfilling obligations, protecting assets, and so on) by approving and monitoring annual budgets and generally overseeing the financial operations.
- Approve and regularly review policies related to the land trust's short- and long-term investments.

Board Director Duties – Fundraising

- Exhibit leadership in fundraising by participating in identifying, cultivating, and soliciting financial and in-kind contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, organizations, and government entities.
- Share resources and talents with the land trust including expertise, guidance, contacts for financial support, and contacts for in-kind contributions.
- Promote special fundraising events and project campaigns by participating personally and encouraging others to participate.