The Board of Directors and the Executive Director: A Partnership Model

Alberto R. Cortés, MBA Executive Director Mama's Kitchen

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Roads to explore:

- Clear Sense of Roles and Responsibilities
- Cultivating Relationships
- Partnership between board chair and executive director
- Communication, communication, communication!

Traditional Hierarchical Model (formal)



Partnership Model (Informal/Actual)

The board governs with accountability from the executive director

The board and the executive director is accountable to the broader community through communications and feedback

The executive director facilitates crossfunction communication, partnership, and accountability

Clients inform programs through feedback and formal evaluation.

The staff implements programs as those closest to the work.

Clear Sense of Roles

| Area of Responsibility | Board's Role | Executive Director's Role | Joint Roles |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Mission & Planning | | | |
| Programs | | | |
| Fundraising | | | |
| Personnel | | | |
| Marketing | | | |
| Finance | | | |

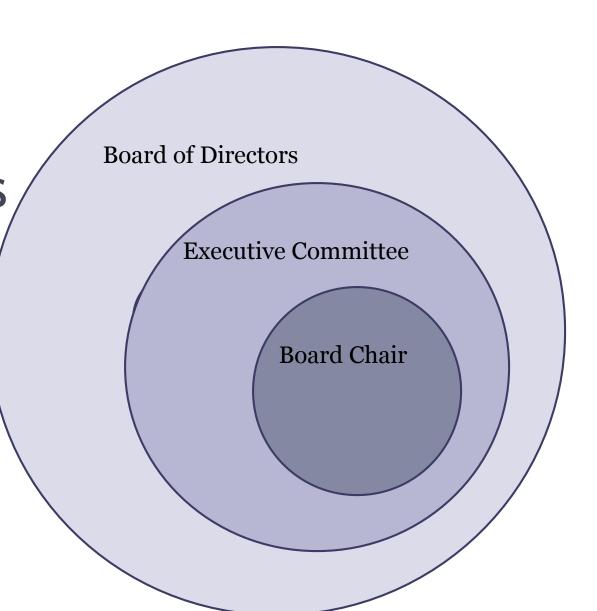
Clear Sense of Roles

| Area of Responsibility | Chair's Role | Executive Committee's Role | Board's Role (Committees' Role) |
|---|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Board Agenda | | | |
| Executive Director Hiring, Evaluation | | | |
| Setting Policy | | | |
| Fundraising | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Cultivating Relationships

- Trust Building
- Respect
- Ability to disagree
- Willingness to learn
- Willingness to go to places of discomfort

Relativity of Board Relationships



The board chair and the executive director

Dancing to the rhythm of the music.



Trust Building

Knowledgebased

Calculusbased Identificationbased

From: "The Board Chair-Executive Director Relationship: Dynamics that Create Value for Nonprofit Organizations"

Communication, communication, communication!

- Within Context:
- Reports
- Calendars
- Meeting agendas
- Follow up
- Outside expertise

Closing thought

From The Irony of American History

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;

Therefore we must be saved by hope.

Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense

In any immediate context of history;

Therefore, we must be saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;

Therefore we are saved by love.

- Reinhold Niebuhr