



# Board Chair Cohort

## What?

The **Mission Triangle Board Chair Cohort** is specifically purposed to support, equip, and fortify current nonprofit Board Chairs and Chairs in waiting as they aim to steward their leadership responsibilities well. The Cohort does so in three ways: by building strong nonprofit Board Chair community and relationships; by unpacking best practices and strategies for board viability and impact; and by implementing real-world strategies to meet the challenges and opportunities of the current nonprofit board. If you desire to shape and sharpen your leadership skills within the context of community, cohorts may be the right fit for you!

## Who?

This **Board Chair Cohort** focuses primarily on growing effective and impactful Board Chairs or Board Chairs in waiting by equipping them with the knowledge and experience to leverage best practices as they lead their respective board.

## How?

By **pouring into** and **growing** effective nonprofit Board Chair leaders, the Cohort catalyzes board health and impact. Cohort members meet quarterly for 3 hours with a fellow group of nonprofit Board Chairs. Guidance and facilitation will be provided by Mission Triangle staff and the meetings will be characterized by confidentiality, fellowship, encouragement, prayer, support and the topics of greatest interest to you - all in an effort to accelerate your Board's journey towards health and sustainability.

### Planned Agenda:

- **6:00-6:15pm**
  - Appetizers and Fellowship
- **6:15-8:00pm**
  - Dinner with purposeful conversation around Board Chair topics of interest.
- **8:00-8:45pm**
  - Coffee and Dessert with Open Forum Issues discussion (an opportunity to gather input around emergent issues, challenges, or opportunities from your cohort peers.
- **8:45-9:00pm**
  - Group alignment on topics for the next quarterly meeting.

### Board Chair Cohort Particulars:

- Board Chair cohort will be facilitated by Jim Dotson (Mission Triangle ED) and Cheryl Hunter (Mission Triangle Board Chair)
- Quarterly, evening dinner meetings (meal included) - group discussion, meaning making as a community, open forum/issues discussion, competency topic discussion
- Cost: \$175/meeting

Each meeting will highlight Mission Triangle resources and tools to help you implement key learnings.



**Next Meeting: December 4, 2023 from 6-9pm; Location: TBD**  
If you are interested in joining, contact Brad Wingo ([bwingo@missiontriangle.org](mailto:bwingo@missiontriangle.org)).

# Content

The nonprofit you lead will be healthier and more sustainable as you apply key principles discussed in the Cohort within the context of a "like-minded community of leaders." We believe important learnings and needed growth can best happen within the **authentic community** fostered within the Cohort.

Quarterly topics will be aligned with Mission Triangle's core competencies and driven by participants with a heavy emphasis on **Board Leadership**. Focus will be on the application of principles taught and core tools used - sharing of best practices, input on challenges being faced, and accountability for ensuring the fundamental elements of a healthy board and organization are in place. The Baseline Health Assessment (BHA) will be woven into each cohort meeting as it is across all Mission Triangle program offerings.

## Examples of Board Leadership Topics

- **Board/Board Chair Roles & Responsibilities**

- To whom does the Board report?
- What is the difference between a secular nonprofit board and a Christian nonprofit board?
- How does fiduciary responsibility play out in context with a founder?
- What does the fiduciary responsibility for a nonprofit mean?
- What are the clear lanes of authority and oversight within a nonprofit organization?

- **Strategy**

- What roles do board members and staff play in setting strategy?
- How does the budget impact strategy - what is the relationship?
- What do you want the Executive Director to report on to the board at each meeting?
- How can the board best provide clarity versus suggestions given the situation?

- **Oversight**

- How do you build an effective board, committee structure, and run great board meetings?
- What are best practices for holding board members accountable?
- What does a great board meeting look like and how do you assess it?
- What is the utility of board terms - are they essential?
- How can you leverage the board skills matrix to create a healthy and vibrant board?
- How can you ensure there is a robust pipeline of potential board members and how best can you establish a clear on-boarding process for new board members?
- What is the board's role in overseeing program impact and effectiveness?

- **Ambassadorship**

- By what process do you create and foster nonprofit ambassadors on the board?
- How do you off-ramp board members who don't fit or who don't share the nonprofit's passion?
- What are strategies for how to best train board members to be ambassadors - even for fundraising?
- How can you tease out Executive Director and board roles and responsibilities around fundraising and champion cultivation?

- **Personnel**

- What is the board's role in performance management for the Executive Director?
- Where does board fiduciary responsibility start and stop in regards to staffing issues?
- How does the board best encourage and support the Executive Director while also staying in its lane?
- How can you create a culture of succession planning at the nonprofit?

