



### Setting the Stage:

Four Characteristics of a High Performing Board

The Well-Run Board Meeting





### Top 5 Action Steps for Our Board

Ensuring the Organization for the Long Term

ACTION STEP 1		
Point Person:		
Strategic Step:		
Deadline:		
Completed Date:	Coach	h's Help? Yes N
ACTION STEP 2		
Point Person:		
Strategic Step:	×	

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### A High-Performing Board...

Agrees on the governance model and philosophy (Effective **Governance** Practices)

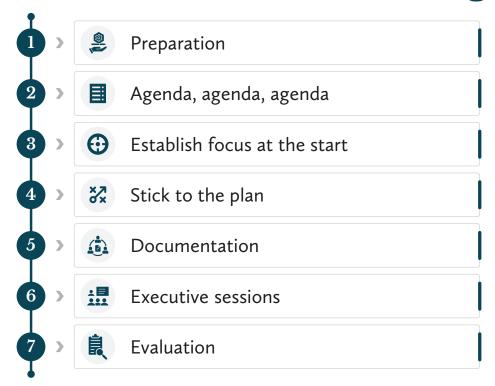
Defines and maintains a healthy, mission-centered board culture (Healthy Board **Culture**)

Commits to deep understanding of the organization and its context/marketplace (**Sustainable** Organizational Framework/Business Model)

Holds the long view in mind (Dynamic Strategic Plan)



### Seven Keys for an Effective Board Meeting









### Governance 101:

The Primary Work of the Board on Behalf of the Organization



### Ten Primary Responsibilities of the Board

Determine the mission and ensure it remains the focus of the organization's operations

Select the executive director

Monitor and strengthen curricula and programs

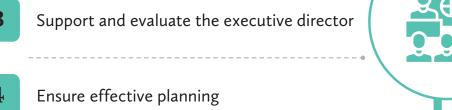
Ensure adequate financial resources, including defining the board's role in fundraising

Protect assets and provide financial oversight

Build a healthy board, incorporating cultural awareness

Ensure legal and ethical integrity

Enhance the organization's public standing





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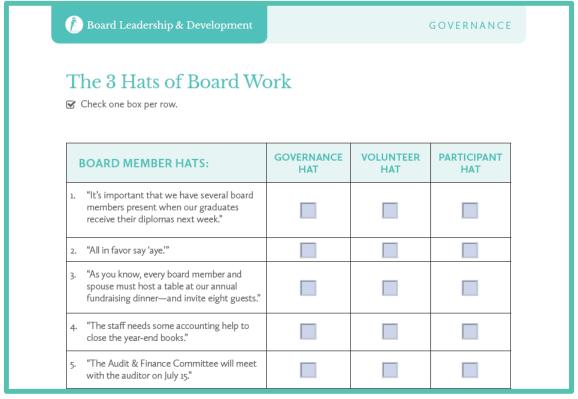
### The Primary Roles of Board Members







### The 3 Hats of Board Work



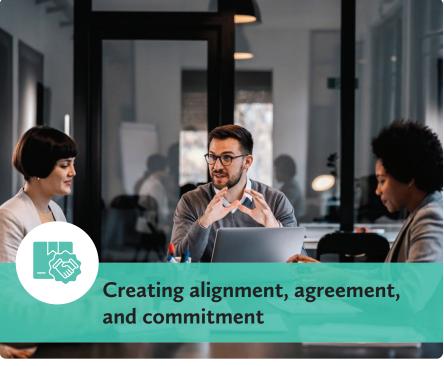


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### **Shared Commitments of Board Members**









### Annual Affirmation Statement (sample)







### **Board Policies**



#### The board focuses on three types of policies:

- Opportunity policies provide thoughtful parameters on how opportunity will be pursued. For example, a policy may require 100% funding prior to starting a new initiative.
- Safeguard policies are written to keep the organization from misunderstanding and harm. Conflicts of Interest and Dispute Resolution are two common examples.
- Relationship policies describe the connection between the board, Executive Director, staff, volunteers, and constituency. Succession plans are a good example of how people will be cared for in crisis or planned transitions.







### The Taxi



Boards provide direction regarding destination.





You are not driving.





### The Corral



Board policies as safeguards





Example: Executive Limitations







### Governance



The board is a community of individuals brought together to steward/govern the public trust through the unique purpose of the organization.





### Governance



#### One Board-One Voice





### Governance



#### **Assessment**

- Take *individually* first
- Understand where you are now.
- Consider where you want to bemonths from now.



Board Leadership & Development

GOVERNANCE

#### **Board Governance** Assessment — Summary

1. The board operates under a set of policies, procedures, and guidelines with which all members are familiar.

2. The executive committee reports to the board on all actions.

3. There are standing committees of the board that meet regularly and report to the board.

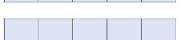
4. Board meetings are well-attended with near full turnout.

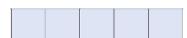
5. Each board member has at least one committee assignment.

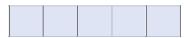
6. Nomination and appointment of board members follow clearly established procedures using known criteria.

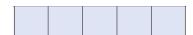
7. Newly elected board members receive orientation for their role.

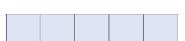
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### **Board Culture 101:**

How Does Your Board Conduct Itself?





Culture eats strategy for breakfast.

Peter Drucker

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### **Board Culture Defined**



The underlying beliefs, assumptions, values, and the ways of interacting that contribute to the unique social and psychological environment of an organization or group





### Five Practices to Strengthen Your Board Culture



Recognize the *importance* of a strong and healthy board culture



Assess your board's current culture



Be *intentional* about working together towards improving and protecting it



Understand and *utilize practices* that support a healthy board culture



**Reassess** your culture annually and **emphasize** it during times of change and transition







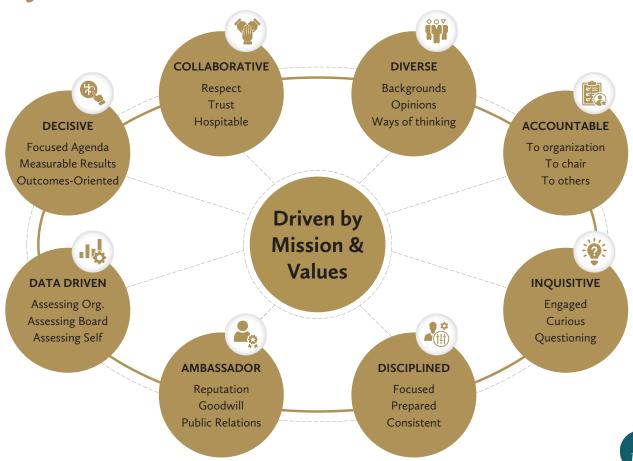


#### **Assess Your Current Board Culture:**

Healthy, Unhealthy or Somewhere in Between?



### Healthy Board Culture



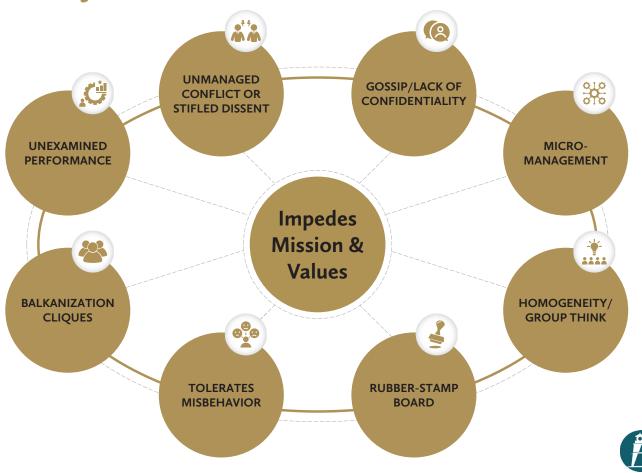


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Board Leadership & Development

A MURDOCK TRUST PROGRAM

### Unhealthy Board Culture



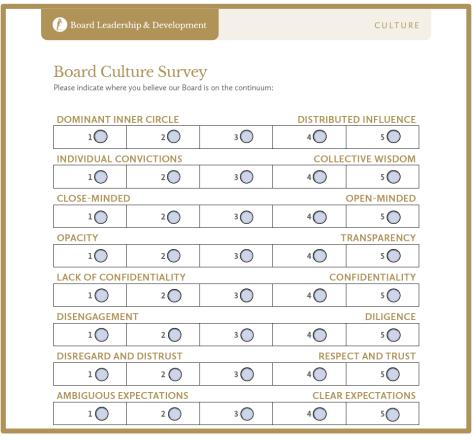


Board Leadership & Development

A MURDOCK TRUST PROGRAM

### Culture Assessment

Take individually first, then discuss as a team.







## Be *Intentional* about Improving and Protecting Culture





Work together to improve and protect



Owned by the entire board



Monitored and assessed by a specific committee



Led by Board Chair and Executive Director





### Utilize Practices that Drive a Healthy Culture





A chair who is an *effective facilitator* 



**Strong relationships** among board members, with Executive Director and senior leadership

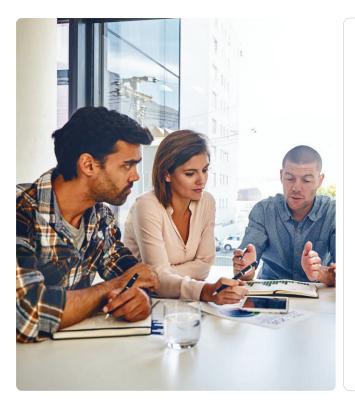


Board cultures that take the *long view* 





### Chair Facilitates Healthy Culture



- Cultivates a strong partnership with Executive Director
- > Resolves conflicts
- > Builds consensus and reaches compromise
- > Fosters an environment that builds trust
- Frames questions and discusses issues strategically





### **Build Strong Relationships**



- Manage expectations on the front end
- > Ensure board feels appreciated
- > Leverage gifts and skills of board members
- Value all perspectives and opinions, while speaking with one voice





### Take the Long View



- > Spend 70%-80% on future vs. 20%-30% on current issues
- Use longer time horizons when making decisions
  - 3 years or more
- Strategic vs. tactical focus creates robust discussions
  - Makes most of diverse perspectives
- Challenges leadership to consider different future scenarios





### Reassess and Emphasize Culture



- Include questions in annual or bi-annual board evaluations
- Emphasize the importance of culture during times of transition
- When it's broken, be intentional about fixing it.





# Quick Review—for a Healthy Culture



Recognize the *importance* of culture



Assess current culture



Be *intentional* about improving and protecting it



*Utilize* healthy board culture practices—3 Drivers



**Reassess** your culture regularly

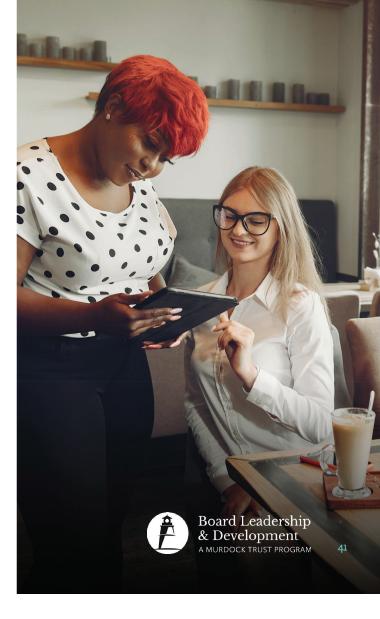




# Breakout Discussion/Work with Coach

- Discuss the healthy and unhealthy aspects of your board culture based on the board assessment.
- Discuss unwritten rules as well as clear and hidden assumptions within your board's culture.
- Does your board have specific values it aspires to? If so, what are they?
- How do you describe board culture to a prospective board member?
- 5 > What might you want the board culture to look like in two years?
- 6 > What steps could you take to make shifts in board culture?
- Should we add board culture to your Top 5 Action Steps for your board?







### Top 5 Action Steps for Our Board

Ensuring the Organization for the Long Term

rganization Name:							
ACTION STEP 1							
Point Person:							
Strategic Step:							
Deadline:							
Completed Date:		Coa	ach's Help?	Yes	No		
ACTION STEP 2							
Point Person:							
Strategic Step:							

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## See you tomorrow!

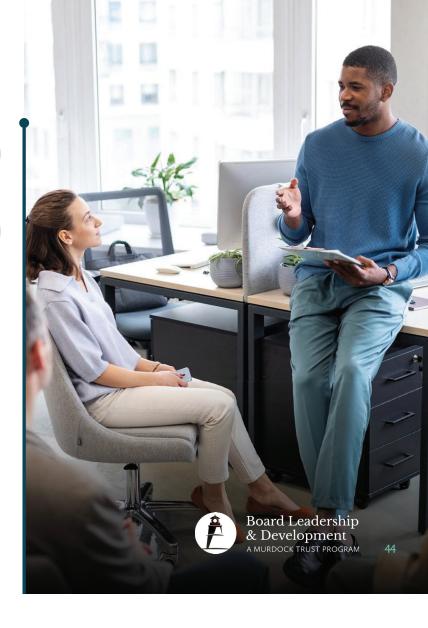
The room opens at

8:45am PT

The first session starts at

9:00am PT





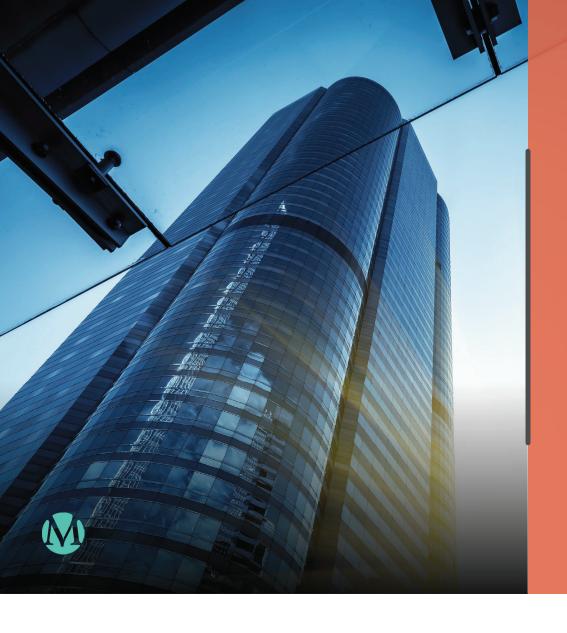




# Sustainability 101:

Building an Organizational Framework





Our primary task is to unleash the creative forces in man. Let us accept the challenge and try to elevate the whole population.

**Jack Murdock** 

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## What Do We Mean by "Sustainable"?







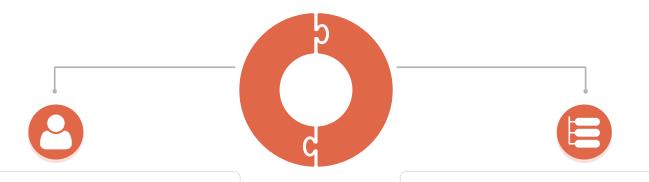
## Why is Sustainability Important?







#### Organizational Framework



Understand your organizational framework (e.g., organization & history—the work they do and how that work is supported)

Identify the elements of your organization's framework





#### 5-Minute Self-Assessment



Complete the self-assessment individually first.

Identify the elements of your organization's framework. Think in terms of ingredients in a recipe.

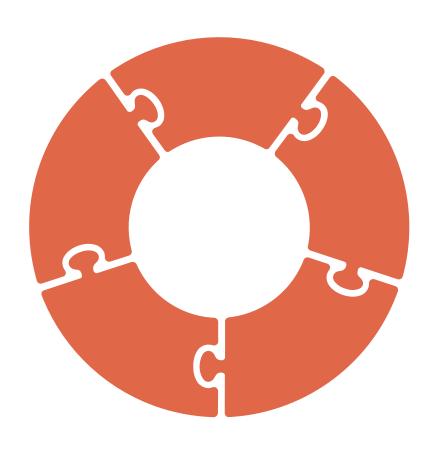


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#### Framework for Board Success: A Structure

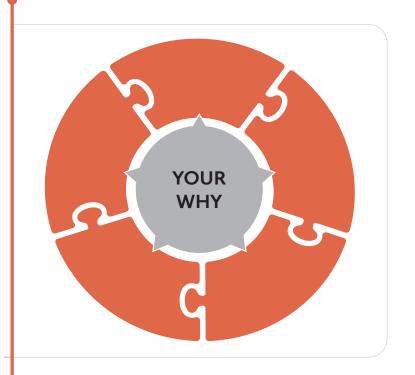






## Everything Starts with "Why"

- Why did you come into existence?
  What need did you see?
- What gets you up in the morning?
- What keeps you up at night?
- Understanding your "why" leads to a promise



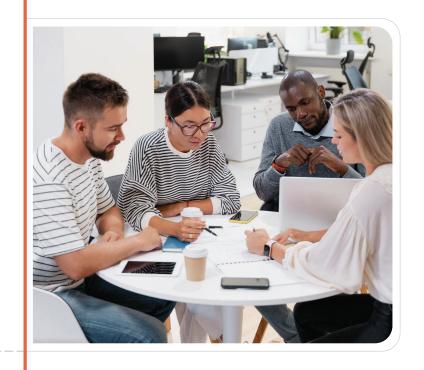




#### What is Your Promise?

#### **Breakout Discussion Questions**

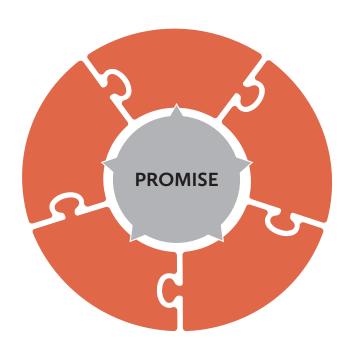
- Why was your organization founded?
- What need did it set out to meet?
- What is your promise?







# Your "Promise" is the Core, Touching All Elements of the Framework

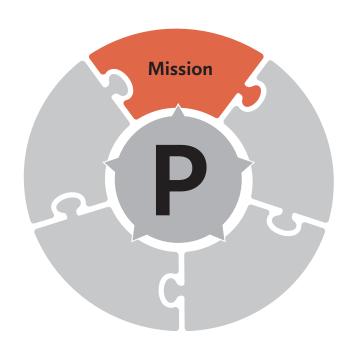






#### First Core Element: Mission

- Defines what we do
- The board is responsible to steward (hold in trust) the mission
- Missions must live and breathe—they need to stay relevant







### Second Core Element: Target Audiences

- You have multiple audiences—your primary audience is the beneficiary of your services
- What does each audience want/need?
- The board needs to ensure a strategy exists for each audience







#### Third Core Element: Programs

- This is where your mission comes to life
- Do we deliver this service/program better than everyone else?
- Are our programs relevant/ productive? Do they produce desired results?







#### Fourth Core Element: Resources



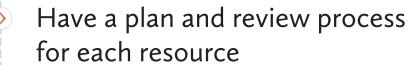




#### Fourth Core Element: Resources











#### Fifth Core Element: Future Direction

- Future" is the key word (70/30)
- Proactive versus reactive
- Disruption will drive this if nothing else
- How will you deliver your mission three years from now?







# A Complete Framework for an Organization

- Your promise is at the center of everything
- Balances inputs/outputs
- Top leaders need to understand your framework

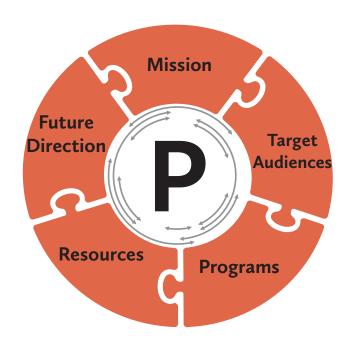






# Adding the POWER

- The power is the interconnectivity of the elements
- Embrace this and avoid silo thinking
- Promote efficient behavior









#### Three Most Important Concepts with the Organizational Framework

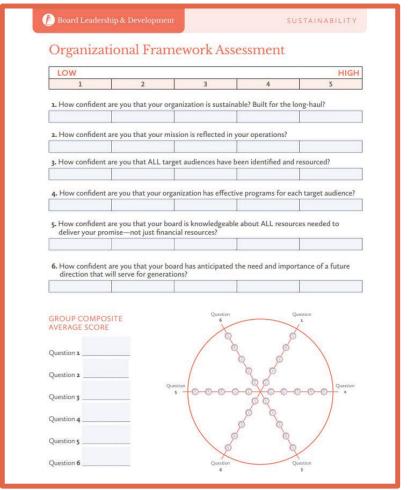
Leadership must have a working understanding of the entire framework

Interconnectivity is key to driving efficiency and optimizing resources

Have a plan and review process for each element



### Organizational Framework Assessment

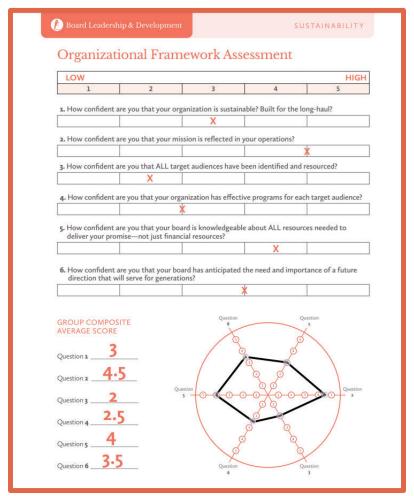






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#### Organizational Framework Assessment (sample)







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# Strategic Planning 101:

The Board's Role in Strategic Planning





# Strategic Planning

Why have a plan?





# Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is a continual process that is used to set priorities, focus resources, and establish agreement on intended results. It shapes what an organization does with a focus on the future.

Note: Strategy is different from strategic planning. Strategy describes HOW goals will be met using available resources.



# Board's Role in Strategic Planning

Board as Staff	Board as Managers	Board as Directors	Board as Governors	Board as Advisors
<ul><li>Legal responsibility resides</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Legal responsibility resides</li></ul>	<ul><li>Legal responsibility resides</li></ul>	Legal responsibility resides	<ul><li>Legal responsibility resides</li></ul>
with the board	with the board	with the board	with the board	with the board
<ul> <li>Reasons for organization</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Reasons for organization</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Reasons for organization</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Reasons for organization</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Reasons for organization</li></ul>
to exist are determined by	to exist are determined by	to exist are determined by	to exist are determined by	to exist are determined by
the board	the board	the board	the board	the Executive Director
<ul> <li>Organizational long-</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Organizational long-</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Organizational long-</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Organizational long-</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Organizational long-</li></ul>
term goals are set by the	term goals are set by the	term goals are set by the	term goals are set by the	term goals are set by the
board	board	board	Executive Director	Executive Director
<ul> <li>Strategies to achieve</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Strategies to achieve</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Strategies to achieve</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Strategies to achieve</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Strategies to achieve</li></ul>
organizational long-	organizational long-	organizational long-	organizational long-	organizational long-
term goals are developed	term goals are developed	term goals are developed	term goals are developed	term goals are developed
by the board	by the board	by the Executive Director	by the Executive Director	by the Executive Director
<ul> <li>Day-to-day operational</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Day-to-day operational</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Day-to-day operational</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Day-to-day operational</li></ul>	Day-to-day operational authority rests with the Executive Director
authority rests with the	authority rests with the	authority rests with the	authority rests with the	
board	Executive Director	Executive Director	Executive Director	
The heard spends most of its	The board spends most of its	The heard spends most of its	The heard spends most of its	The board spands most of its
The board spends most of its time <b>DOING</b> the work of the organization	time <b>SUPERVISING</b> the work of the organization	The board spends most of its time <b>DIRECTING</b> the work of the organization	The board spends most of its time <b>GOVERNING</b> the organization	The board spends most of its time <b>AFFIRMING</b> the work of the organization
Primary board output is <b>LABOR</b>	Primary board output is COORDINATION	Primary board output is <b>DIRECTION</b>	Primary board output is COUNSEL	Primary board output is ENDORSEMENT

Board responsibilities

ExecutiveDirectorresponsibilities

These vary based upon which type of board you have. Adapted from R. Terrence Jackson (C) 2004







### Board's Role in Strategic Planning



Where you land on the previous chart helps describe your role in the strategic planning process.



# Why Plans Fail, Falter, Succeed, Never Get Started

Fail: No loyalty, no updates, no accountability

Falter: Loss of focus due to tyranny of the urgent, board neglect, rigidity

> **Falter:** Strategy is confused with operations

Falter: Poor framing of strategic issues

Succeed: Loyalty, accountability, agility, enculturation

Never get started/finished: Desire for the perfect plan, low priority, the illusion of time commitment

I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.

Dwight D. Eisenhower





## Outcomes of a Good Strategic Planning Process



Works well for most boards and executive directors



Functions well in simple/complex situations



Collaborative



Drives strategic thinking into the culture



Focused and communicates well





#### Elements of the Work











# Strategic Planning 101:

**Strategy Formation** 



#### Why Is Strategy Important?



An organization's power arises from bringing its resources to bear on a point.



Deciding why, where, and how to operate is different than operating.



Strategy overtly decides the best answers to "why, where, and how."





#### What Strategy Looks Like



Guides resources allocation and shapes organizational practices



Chooses a point of focus



Aligns organization around that point of focus



Great strategy uses today's resources to achieve greater success tomorrow through the organization's position, programs, practices, and resources







#### What Strategy Is



#### Strategy advisor Roger Martin says it well...

> "Strategy is the act of making an integrated set of choices which positions the organization to win."



Choices that fit together to achieve a defined vision



Strategy reveals the path to success





#### What Strategy Is Not

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Strategy is not planning, but they are dependent upon one another.

 "Planning is the act of laying out projects (steps) with timelines, deliverables, budgets and responsibilities..." - Roger Martin

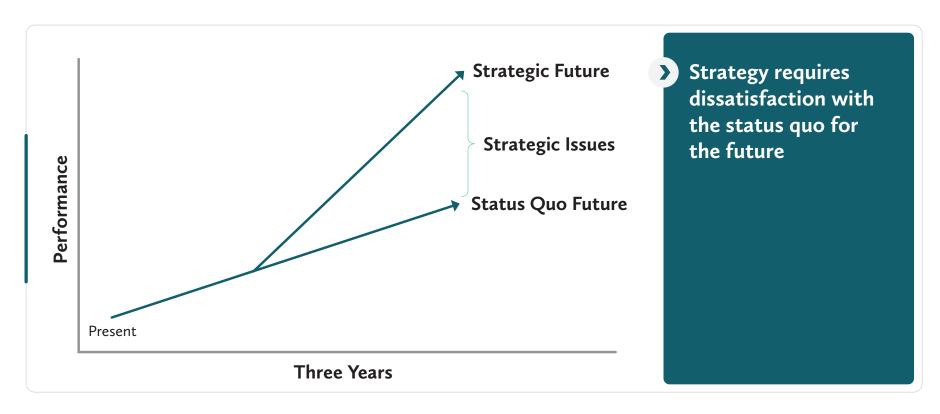
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Strategy is not tactics. Strategy is largescope, long-term and stable. Tactics are fluid and shorter-term.

> You adjust tactics in pursuit of your strategy.



## **Strategy Formation**









## Context for Strategy

An organization is itself "a thing"

The organization operates within an environment

That environment is dynamic





## 4 Parts of Strategy Formation

Affirmation of purpose

Narrative describing environment and its changing nature

Statement of organization's position

A real description of the organization at the end of the planning time horizon





Results of Strategy Formation

Answers the big questions

Guides resource allocation

Provides direction that can be implemented organization-wide

Develops outcomes for which management is responsible





## Strategy Formation Exercise

#### As you see the world today:

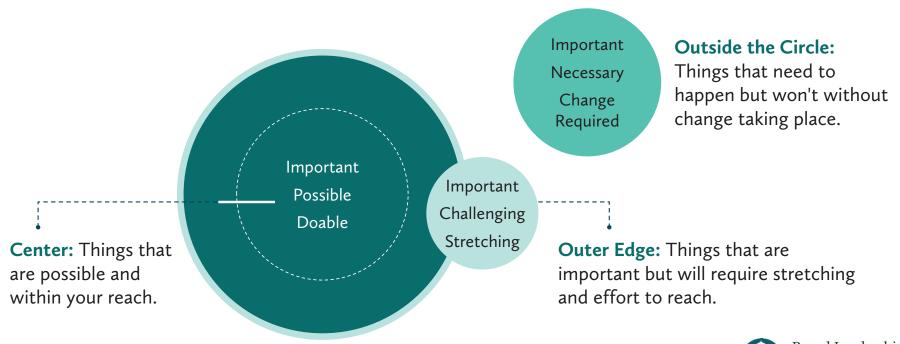
- What is most possible?
- What is less possible?
- What is impossible (but needs to happen)?

Strategic thinking will consider how to make the impossible come to be a reality.



## Circle of Possibility

#### Things to Consider: Think about the next 3 years coming up.







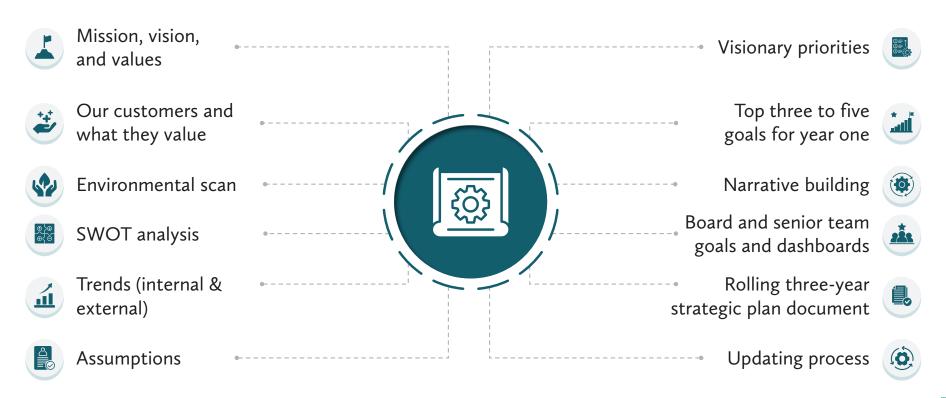


# Strategic Planning 101:

Planning



## Components of the Planning Process









### Strategic Planning Assessment



Take assessment *individually*.



Discuss the three lowest scores.

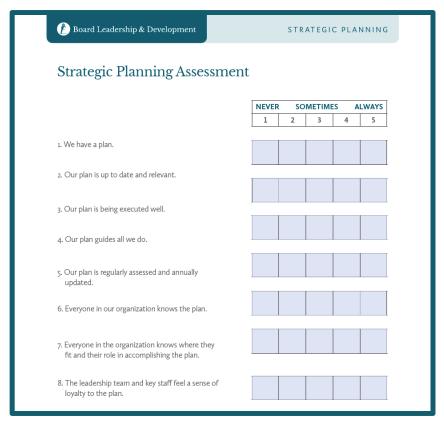


Identify next steps for improvement/work with coaches.





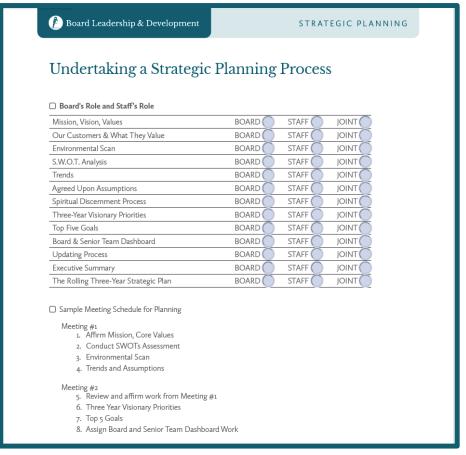
## Strategic Planning Assessment



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## Undertaking a Strategic Planning Process







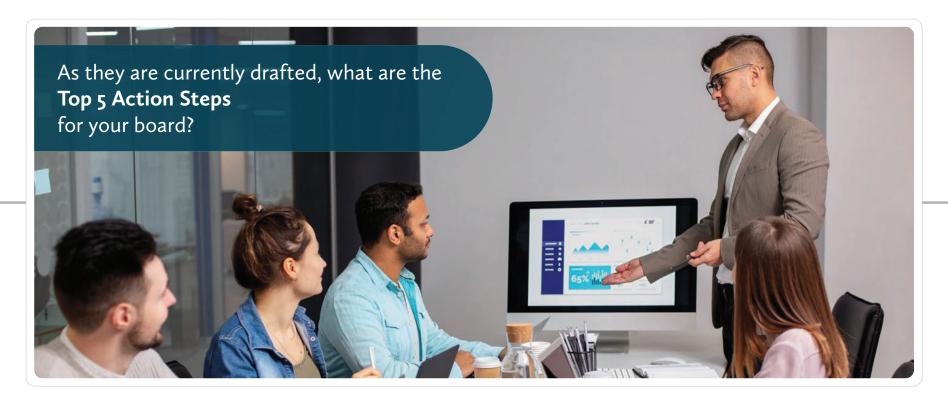
## Strategic Planning: Next Steps & Work with Coach







### Stand and Declare







## About your Board Leadership Coach



- The goal of coaching: To help facilitate (some) of the Top 5

  Action Steps for your Board
- What to expect between Sessions 1 and 2:
  - Coaches may be in touch, but the majority of coaching takes place after Session 2 (concluding by December).

#### The role of a coach:

- Coaches are independent contractors hired by the Murdock Trust—not consultants or Murdock Trust employees
- The focus of the coaches is supporting your board toward accomplishing some of your Top 5 Action Steps
- If you have questions or feedback about the Murdock Trust's administration or grants process, please contact a member of the Murdock Trust, not your coach.



## Thank you!



See you in Vancouver, WA, on June 10 & 11 for Session 2!



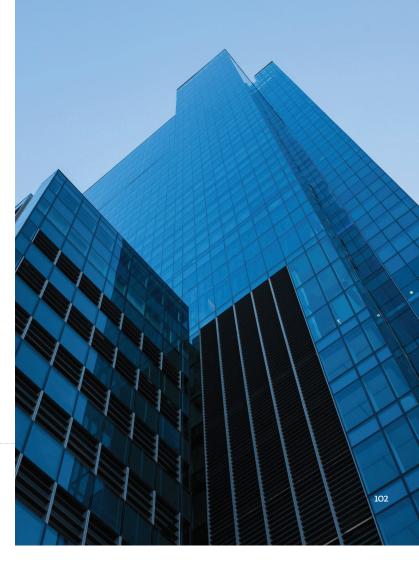
Optional Grants Info Webinar: Thurs., May 16, 10am (PT). Contact Hannah Pick for Zoom registration information.



Questions?

- > Visit <u>murdocktrust.org/boardleadership</u> for more info
- Contact us at <u>boardleadership@murdocktrust.org</u>







# Thank you

murdocktrust.org