

CONNECTED OFFICE WORKSHEET: Board of Directors

In *The Connected Office* eBook, we explore how all teams across an organization can align to deliver a constituent-driven experience. As a board member, you're in a unique position as an advocate and ambassador for your organization. You can also be a valuable voice for your constituents because you play so many supporter roles yourself—donor, volunteer, advisor, and others. **Examine these questions and share them in your next board meeting to support collaboration from where you sit.**

1 Understanding Your Role in Relation to the Organization

In fulfilling board responsibilities, consider the types of skills and opportunities that can be used on behalf of your organization and how you can plug into key departments or initiatives.

What are 3–5 skills that I have that I can use to support my organization?	In what departments or areas of my organization do I see a need for these skills?	What connections, organizational/professional affiliations, or community networks can I use on behalf of my organization?	In what departments or areas of my organization do I see a need for these connections?

2 Discovering Areas for Collaboration

From first-term members to chairs of the board, continue to grow your understanding of your organization's internal teams. Get to know the ins and outs of the budget, what each department does, and then consider these questions to discover how your organization can better collaborate.

DEPARTMENTS	Who are the key players in each department?	How can I partner with these players on tasks that relate to my committee or board responsibilities?	Are there barriers preventing me from collaborating with these players? If so, what are they?	Are there aspects of my organization (culture, benefits, environment, employees' histories, etc.) that contribute to successful collaboration?
Development				
Events				
Finance				
Grants Management				
Information Technology (IT)				
Leadership				
Marketing				
Programs				

3 Supporting Collaboration Across the Organization

Reflect on your critical roles as a board member, and consider the perspectives you bring to your organization and how that can serve the constituent experience.

What are three ways I contribute to my organization in each role?

As a donor I offer...			
As a volunteer I offer...			
As an advisor I offer...			

If I host or serve on a committee, how can I make sure that teams and departments stay in the know with committee priorities?

Are there ways that I can support my other board members in meeting our goals? What examples can I set to encourage their collaboration across the organization?

How can I support collaboration across my organization?

About the Blackbaud Institute

The Blackbaud Institute drives research and insight to accelerate the impact of the social good community. It convenes expert partners from across the philanthropic sector to foster diverse perspectives, collective thinking, and collaborative solutions to the world's greatest challenges. Using the most comprehensive data set in the social good community, the Blackbaud Institute and its partners conduct research, uncover strategic insight, and share results broadly, all in order to drive effective philanthropy at every stage, from fundraising to outcomes. Knowledge is powering the future of social good, and the Blackbaud Institute is an engine of that progress. Learn more, sign up for our [newsletter](#), explore our [knowledge base](#) of social good best practices and trends, see the latest quarterly [statistics](#) on giving, and check out our most recent resources at www.blackbaudinstitute.com.