REIMAGINING GOVERNANCE

Strategic Framework

Vision of the Initiative

Nonprofit organizations are designing* governance that is more consistently effective and better able to respond to the complex environments of today and the future.

If this is achieved, then the governance of nonprofit organizations will be more optimal and sustainable, which will:

Enable organizations to more effectively focus on their vision and mission, thereby creating better impacts for their communities.

Allow leaders to navigate successfully through complex systems and times.

Ensure resources are used wisely and appropriately.

Engage diverse stakeholders in governance decision-making.

Overall Goal of Initiative

Provoke a shift in how organizational leaders in the nonprofit sector talk about and fulfill governance, including its structures, processes, culture, and practices.

Outcomes of the Initiative

✓ There is a better understanding among influencers in the system about what is meant by governance of nonprofit organizations.

✓ Outdated assumptions which shape mindsets and practices have been challenged, leading to new ways of thinking about governance.

✓ There are a growing number of examples of transformative approaches to nonprofit governance and they are broadly shared.

✓ Funders/philanthropists and capacity-builders are enabling new approaches to governance to emerge.

*By design, we mean: the form governance structures take, the way governance functions are fulfilled, and how they all work within its ecosystem, including its structures, processes, culture, and practices.

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Design Phase Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Goal 1

Design a Transformative Design Process that will enable individual organizations to unlock new approaches to the way their governance is fulfilled so it is more optimal and sustainable.

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement the strategies and steps required to design the transformative process.

STRATEGY: Take an iterative, cyclical co-creation process engaging a variety of sector leaders and strategic allies. Pilot with Trailblazer Organizations to further learn and improve it.

Goal 2

Generate a sense of urgency and excitement amongst strategic allies in the governance ecosystem about the need and potential for change in the way that governance is fulfilled.

OBJECTIVE: Persuade those who shape governance practice and mindsets, such as key leaders within nonprofits, capacity builders, thought leaders, funders and philanthropists, to be agents of change in the next phase of the initiative.

STRATEGY: Grow and nurture a network of co-creators and strategic allies, as part of and in addition to Goal 1's strategy.

HOW IT CONNECTS TO THE GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

Develop a process for leaders within nonprofit organizations to custom design their governance to meet their unique circumstances and legal and regulatory requirements, while shifting culture and practices.

Shift the thinking of key strategic influencers, including nonprofit management teams and board members; capacity builders and funder/philanthropists, so they are positioned to promote change.

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