

MAUREEN K. ROBINSON

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Maureen K. Robinson is the author of Nonprofit Boards that Work: The End of One-Size-Fits-All Governance, published by John Wiley & Sons. She is a consultant and speaker on topics relating to the leadership, governance and management of the nonprofit sector. In her work with nonprofit organizations, she focuses on organizational and leadership development, strategic planning, and board and management assessments.

Ms. Robinson founded the education program of the National Center for Nonprofit Boards (now called BoardSource). During her eight-year tenure, she brought information, ideas and services to a broad cross-section of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and abroad about the value of governance and its role in strengthening the effectiveness of the independent, nongovernmental sector. Among the programs she created are an international consulting practice that serves hundreds of nonprofit organizations each year, a national conference with a unique focus on nonprofit governance, and training programs for consultants and management assistance providers.

Prior to joining BoardSource, Ms. Robinson held a variety of positions in the museum field. She was the director of legislative affairs at the American Association of Museums, and served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Museums at the Smithsonian Institution, where she conducted executive-level searches and managed special projects.

In addition to her most recent book, Ms. Robinson is the author of Developing the Nonprofit Board: Strategies for Educating and Motivating Board Members and The Chief Executive's Role in Developing the Nonprofit Board, both published by the National Center for Nonprofit Boards (BoardSource). She writes and presents regularly about current topics in nonprofit governance and management.

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CONSULTING SERVICES AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE

RECENT CLIENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL EVALUATION/ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(includes evaluation, planning, coaching, consulting)

Association for Conflict Resolution
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Program (CCAFS)
CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)
Institute of Museum and Library Services (federal agency)
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
International Livestock Research Institute
Motown Historical Museum (Gordy Family Foundation)
Museum Trustee Association
National Association for Environmental Education

BOARD ASSESSMENT/BOARD RESTRUCTURING

(evaluation, size, composition, structure, role and practice)

Barnes Foundation
Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
EARTH University
Grantmakers for Education
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations
Grantmakers in the Arts
Indianapolis Museum of Art
International Food Policy Research Institute
International Potato Center/CIP
KickStart
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
National Association of Women Business Owners
National D-Day Museum
National Public Radio
New England Aquarium
South Arts

STRATEGIC PLANNING

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
Arthouse
Clark Art Institute
Cuyahoga Arts and Culture
Dallas Contemporary Art Center
International Academy of Collaborative Practice
International Women's Media Foundation
Philbrook Museum of Art
San Francisco Art Institute
The Phillips Collection
Women's Foreign Policy Group

FUND RAISING/ADVOCACY

Association of Fund Raising Professionals (Washington, D.C. chapter)
National Public Radio
Toledo Community Foundation
Smithsonian Institution International Art Museum Division (Hirshhorn Museum, Freer and Sackler Galleries, National Museum of African Art, Cooper-Hewitt Museum)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

American Association of Museums, *For CEOs Only: Building an Effective Board and an Effective Relationship with the Board* (annual 2-day workshop), webinars on leadership succession and board development
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Building Board Capacity* (2-day workshop for board/executive director leadership teams from state organizations)

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Independent consultant

Consult to nonprofit organizations on governance, management, planning and organizational development. Practice focuses on increasing an organization's effectiveness through leadership, planning and evaluation. Areas of specialization include strategic planning, board development, organizational assessment, and leadership development services to executive directors and boards.

Serve as a speaker, facilitator and trainer on a range of nonprofit governance and management topics.

Director of Education

BoardSource (1990 - 1998)
(formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards)

Designed and managed the education and public programs of BoardSource, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the effectiveness of nonprofit boards of directors.

As BoardSource's founding director of education, created the strategy and framework for a national program that addressed the governance needs of nonprofit organizations. Developed a consulting service that provided tailored training and facilitation annually to more than 100 nonprofits in the U.S. and abroad, a comprehensive board information library and referral service, an annual leadership conference, distance learning programs, and governance training programs for consultants and nonprofit technical assistance providers.

Special Assistant, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Museums

Smithsonian Institution (1987 - 1990)

Organized and conducted the searches for executive level positions in the Smithsonian Institution. Supervised and conducted management studies of selected Smithsonian programs within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Museums.

Financial Consultant

Merrill Lynch (1985 - 1987)

Developed long-range financial plans and managed the financial assets of individuals, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses.

Director, Legislative Program

American Association of Museums (1979 - 1985)

Founded and directed first legislative advocacy program for museums at the AAM, the leading national organization representing the nation's 5,000 museums. Monitored appropriations for arts, education and science-related federal programs, and legislation and regulation relating to nonprofit tax issues. Prepared testimony for Congressional hearings, created grass-roots network within museum community for lobbying purposes and communication systems that enabled rapid and well-informed responses to legislative and regulatory issues.

Associate Editor of Publications

American Association of Museums (1975 - 1979)

Wrote and edited monthly newsletter for members, and edited Museum News, the AAM's journal.

Publications

Boards that Work: The End of One-Size Fits All Governance, John Wiley & Sons, 2001, New York

The Chief Executive's Role in Developing the Nonprofit Board, Booklet 2 in the NCNB Governance Series, National Center for Nonprofit Boards

Developing the Nonprofit Board: Strategies for Educating and Motivating Board Members, National Center for Nonprofit Boards

Gifts of Appreciated Property, American Association of Museums

Regular contributor to nonprofit trade publications on nonprofit leadership

Education

B.A., The George Washington University, 1974
New York University, 1970 -1973

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