About Governance Matters

Governance Matters is your one-stop shop for everything a nonprofit board needs:

- finding the right people for your board (and the right board for your people)
- making boards more effective
- generating new knowledge about best practices in a rapidly changing environment

The market leader since our founding in 1969, Governance Matters has maintained a reputation as the innovator in the field of nonprofit governance services both regionally and nationally: In addition to providing a broad range of direct services to our clients over these years, we:

- 1996: Launched the first Trustee Recruitment Program to assist Boards in recruiting in groundbreaking ways.
- 1988-89: Lead a national fact-finding project for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to examine the ways in which individuals in other communities move onto nonprofit Boards
- 1993: Developed the Tri-State Board Marketplace Program a community-wide program piloted in NYC and tested in five cities from Atlanta to Santa Clara.
- 1994: Designed and established the first Board placement program for our corporate partners working in new ways to bring the expertise and experience of the business community into nonprofit Board rooms.
- 2000: Published a joint study with American Express’ Human Resources team, Executive Leadership Development Through Service on Nonprofit Boards for the first time detailing the skills needed to serve on a nonprofit Board and the expertise learned during Board service.

Finally, in 2009, we established the Brooke W. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Board Leadership, the only award that annually recognizes the leadership and work of an entire nonprofit Board of Directors. Named in honor of our founder, this prestigious award is supported by The Rauch Foundation.

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Governance Matters (GM)

Stakeholder(s):

Nonprofit Boards of Directors:

For nonprofit boards, for our corporate and professional firm partners, for foundations and Board candidates, we provide services based on 45 years of experience and innovation.

New York Council of Nonprofits:

Governance Matters is now a subsidiary of the New York Council of Nonprofits.

Governance Matters Leaders

David S. Birdsell, Ph.D.:

Chair — Marxe Dean & Professor, Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College, CUNY — David Birdsell has centered his academic work on the nexus of communication, media, and information technology in politics, government and nonprofit administration. An expert on political debating and widely published on communication theory and practice, David is a regular guest commentator on debates and other aspects of political communication for television and print media. His work has been supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the IBM Endowment for the Study of Business and Government, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, the New York Community Trust, the JPMorganChase Foundation, the United Way of New York City, the Marble Foundation, and other funders. David is Immediate Past President of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, and serves on NASPAA’s Executive Council. He chairs the boards of Governance Matters and of the New York Federal Statistical Research Data Center. He is a member of the board of the New York Council of Nonprofits and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. David received his BA and MA degrees from the University of Virginia and his Ph. D. in Public Communication from the University of Maryland.

Reg Foster:

Vice-Chair — Former President and CEO of United Way of New York State — Reg Foster is the former President and CEO of United Way of New York State, retiring in August 2017. Before that, he was the Global Coordinator for Corporate Responsibility for the IBM Corporation, leading IBM’s internal working group on corporate responsibility and relations with outside organizations. Reg also worked at United Way of New York City and held human service policy roles in New York State and City government. Reg has also worked as an analyst in several nonprofits, including the Vera Institute of Justice. His fields of work included low-income housing, mental health and adult education. Reg holds a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, and a degree in English Literature from the University of Toronto.

Daniel M. Flax:

Secretary — Senior Technology Leader at MassMutual — Daniel Flax is a senior technology leader at MassMutual, leading the transformation of all Advisor and Client-facing systems. Previously, Mr. Flax was the Chief Technology Officer for Omega One responsible for Omega’s platform development. Prior to joining Omega One, Mr. Flax was the VP, Professional Services for Broadway Technology where he led a global team of technology professionals to implement Broadway’s platform solutions. Prior to Broadway, Daniel held CTO roles at CAN Capital, TheStreet, Inc. and Cowen & Company. Earlier in his career, Mr. Flax was a Managing Director for the New York Stock Exchange, where he was responsible for Trading Technology and the NYSE’s transition to a Hybrid Market. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Daniel enjoys volunteering with several organizations. Daniel is a member of the board of trustees of Governance Matters. For several years, he was active with NYC2012 in their efforts to bring the Summer Olympic Games to New York City. Daniel has presented to technology fans of NYSSIA, the Princeton Macintosh Users Group (PMUG) and at many technology focused Meet Up groups. Daniel has volunteered as an Industry Consultant for Junior Achievement and regularly donates platelets and whole blood through the New York Blood Center. Mr. Flax holds a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University and was an Undergraduate Research Fellow in High Energy Astrophysics at CalTech in a joint program with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and NASA.

Joe Del Toro:

Treasurer — CFO & Director of Portfolio Operations, Argand Partners — Prior to his current work as CFO & Director of Portfolio Operations for Argand Partners LP, Joe Del Toro was the Chief Financial Officer of Novitex, where he oversaw Novitex’s accounting and finance functions. Joe has over 20 years of finance, general management, operations, private equity, and M&A experience and joined Novitex from Undertone, a digital advertising and technology company. Prior to Undertone, Joe served as the CFO of the The Topps Company, a manufacturer of consumer products that includes baseball cards and confectionery. Prior to Topps, Joe served as General Manager of the Fortune|Money Group, a multi-media network comprising the business and finance titles of Time, Inc. Joe was previously Director of Finance and Acquisitions at the Time Warner corporate entity. Earlier in his career, he worked in private equity at Lazard Freres and HIG Capital Management as well as in Morgan Stanley’s Mergers & Acquisitions department. Joe received his MBA from the Harvard Business School and received a BA in Mathematics from Columbia University.
Governance Matters Founders & Leadership Council

Francis Carling, Esq.:
Collazo Carling & Mish LLP

T.J. Dermot Dunphy:
Founding Trustee — Kildare Enterprises LLC

Thomas P. Ference:
Columbia Graduate School of Business

David Furter:
McKinsey & Co.
Vision
Effective governance of nonprofit organizations

Mission
To strengthen the governance and management ability of nonprofit Boards of Directors.

Values
- Governance
- Management
- Innovation
- Effectiveness
1. Boards & Candidates

*Bring Together Board Candidates and Nonprofit Boards*

**Stakeholder(s)**
- Nonprofit Boards of Directors
- Nonprofit Board of Director Candidates

We bring together Boards needing new members and individuals who wish to serve across the broad range of skill, ethnicity, age, and geography.
2. Effectiveness

Work To Make Boards More Effective
### 3. Education

*Provide Ongoing Education Opportunities to Board members*

**Stakeholder(s)**

- Board Members

**Administrative Information**

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