

Board Member Expectations and Guidelines

Champion – the work of the organization, represent The Philanthropy Connection in the community, help to recruit new and diverse members, and broadly share our mission to inspire, teach and enable women to engage in collective philanthropy.

Engage – in the work of leading TPC. As a predominantly volunteer-led organization, each Board member is expected to provide leadership to the Board through participation on at least one committee in addition to either: a) leading a committee (as chair or co-chair); b) leading a subcommittee; or, c) functioning as a captain or finance lead on a grant team. These leadership roles are in addition to engaging in and contributing to other Board work.

Strengthen – our goal to provide high-impact grants to non-profit organizations that improve the quality of life for low-resourced individuals and families in Massachusetts. Each Board member is required to participate on a grants team in her first year as a Board member if she hasn't already done so as a general member. Subsequently, we highly encourage participation on a grants team as a regular member or team leader in order to contribute to the process and be a visible presence to our member-led teams and organizations that seek to become grantees.

Govern – attend at least 75% of scheduled board meetings (targeted at 8 annually) preferably in person. Adhere to established board norms and participate in all activities of the board, including long-range planning, non-profit board governance, Board and Board member self-evaluation, and ad hoc needs that arise.

Attend –our Annual Grant Awards event, represent TPC at a minimum of 2 TPC events per year across the selection of New Member orientations, Connect the Dots, Philanthropy Dialogues and special events. In addition, we encourage board members to attend Volunteer Days, events of our funding partners and grantees and to host or co-host TPC events.

Commit – as a board member for 3 years (2 years if a Young Philanthropist) with the potential to be asked to recommit for an additional 3-year term (or two 2-year terms if a YP) with a 6-year term cap for any Board member, understanding that there may be individual or TPC circumstances which preclude one's ability to participate for her full term. Annually, a Governance Committee member will contact each member to ensure that the commitment is working for both the member and TPC.

Contribute – financial support to the organization through stated membership dues and an additional contribution to support on-going operating costs. Our membership fees cover less than 50% of our expenses and we fundraise to support the balance; as a result and because it is important to current and potential funders, we request that 100% of our board members make TPC a philanthropic priority and either contribute additional funds or introduce us to funders who make an equivalent contribution either directly or through in-kind services.