

Additional resources to support

THE SOURCE: TWELVE PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE THAT POWER EXCEPTIONAL BOARDS



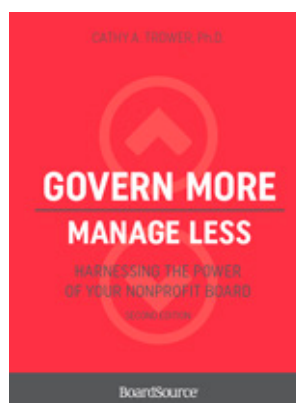
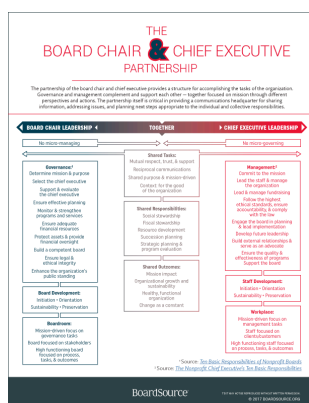
Exceptional boards add significant value to their organizations, making discernible differences in their advance on mission. [The Source](#) enables nonprofit boards to operate at the highest and best use of their collective capacity. Aspirational in nature, its principles offer board members a vision of what is possible and a way to add lasting value to the organizations they lead.

Each of the twelve principles of governance is outlined below, along with corresponding content from BoardSource's library. Download the resources that best suit your organization and take your board's performance to the next level. And visit our [website](#), where you'll find many more resources addressing these principles.



Constructive Partnership

Exceptional boards govern in constructive partnership with the chief executive, recognizing that the effectiveness of the board and chief executive are interdependent.



Mission Driven

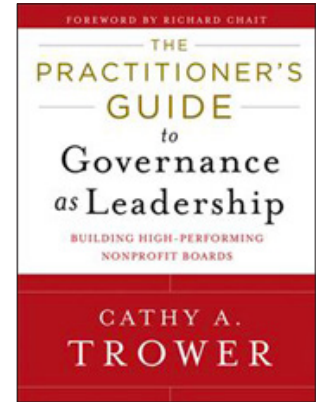
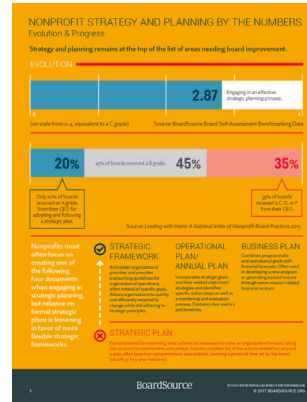
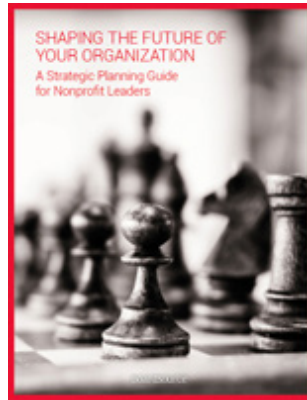
Exceptional boards shape and uphold the mission, articulate a compelling vision, and ensure the congruence between decisions and core values.





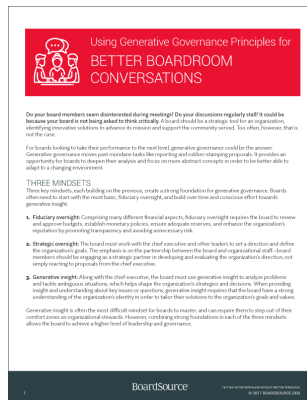
Strategic Thinking

Exceptional boards allocate time to what matters most and continuously engage in strategic thinking to hone the organization's direction.



Culture of Inquiry

Exceptional boards institutionalize a culture of inquiry, mutual respect, and constructive debate that leads to sound and shared decision making.



Independent-Mindedness

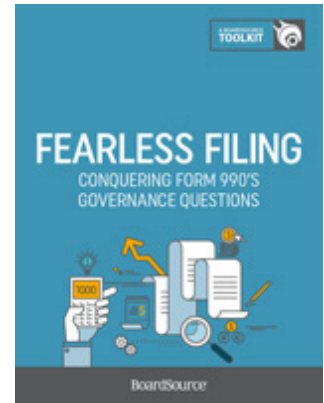
Exceptional boards are independent-minded. When making decisions, board members put the interests of the organization above all else.





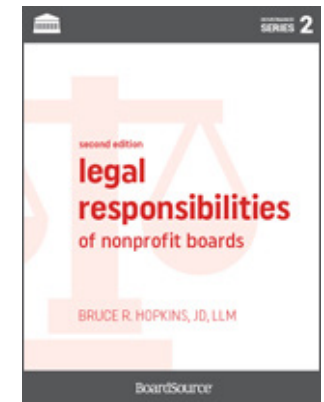
Ethos of Transparency

Exceptional boards promote an ethos of transparency by ensuring that donors, stakeholders, and interested members of the public have access to appropriate and accurate information regarding finances, operations, and results.



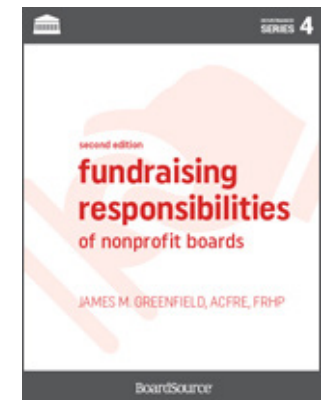
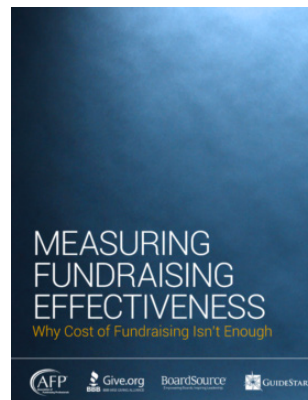
Compliance with Integrity

Exceptional boards promote strong ethical values and disciplined compliance by establishing appropriate mechanisms for active oversight.



Sustaining Resources

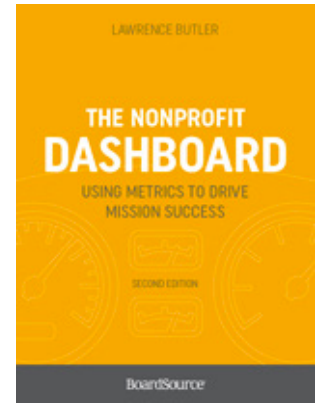
Exceptional boards link bold visions and ambitious plans to financial support, expertise, and networks of influence.





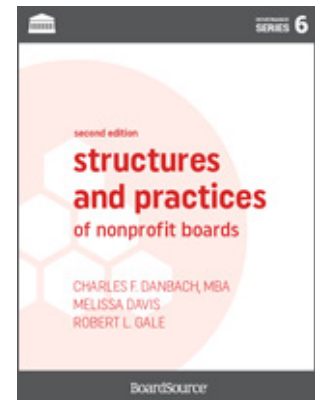
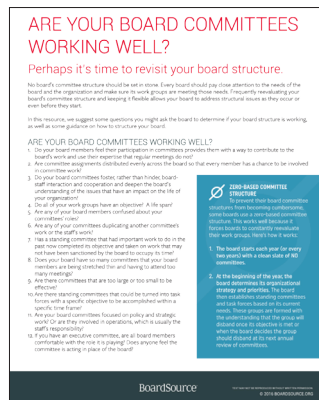
Results-Oriented

Exceptional boards are results-oriented. They measure the organization's advancement towards mission and evaluate the performance of major programs and services.



Intentional Board Practices

Exceptional boards intentionally structure themselves to fulfill essential governance duties and to support organizational priorities.



Continuous Learning

Exceptional boards embrace the qualities of a continuous learning organization, evaluating their own performance and assessing the value they add to the organization.





Revitalization

Exceptional boards energize themselves through planned turnover, thoughtful recruitment, and inclusiveness.

