

Star Island Corporation Board Governance Task Force

Introduction

Star Island Corporation is committed to being a learning organization, always open to positive change, learning from our environment and the world around us, and constantly striving for positive advancement in all areas.

Our board is responsible for periodically assessing the way in which the Star Island Corporation governs and the systems and processes we have created over the years to ensure that they are effective, inclusive, and position the board and staff to respond to opportunities and challenges.

Our overarching goal is to ensure that our organization is thriving, with governance practices which foster a healthy partnership with leadership staff and our wider Star community, ensure skillful fiscal and operational oversight, support SIC's mission and values, and engage all members of the greater Star Island community.

To achieve this goal, a Governance Task Force is being formed to conduct a governance audit, examine our current processes against the backdrop of best practices in nonprofit governance, and study what systems we want to preserve and what system enhancements or changes we want to adopt, especially with regard to our commitment to move towards a more diverse and equitable environment on Star.

Governance Task Force Charge

The Task Force is specifically charged with:

- Reviewing and mapping all current governance practices, including the following: bylaws (in general); SIC membership, including nomination and expectations of members; officers & directors, including board recruitment, nomination, and orientation practices; committee structures, jurisdiction and charges; meetings, roles & responsibilities of the aforementioned groups; and other relevant governance practices
- Seeking input from Star Island's community, including but not limited to committees, our constituent organizations (ISAUU and SIUCC), staff, the Beloved Community Task Force, and the full board regarding the effectiveness and impact of each committee and the current governance processes
- Investigating best practices in nonprofit governance from other successful nonprofit organizations
- Presenting information and updates to the board on a regular basis
- Creating a draft report, including a draft set of recommendations to be provided to the board
- Taking input from the board and, as appropriate, making changes to the draft report and set of recommendations
- Make a final presentation to the board

Membership of the Task Force

- As governance is a central function of the board, the membership of the Task Force is primarily composed of board members. The Governance Task Force is composed of the following members, all of whom volunteered to serve: Kate Brady (staff), Liz Erickson (board), Mary Ellen Jackson (professional consultant) Tom Kennedy (board), April Rosario (board), Topher Soltys (board), Joe Watts (staff), Arlyn Weeks (board), and Lucia Green-Weiskel (board), with Debbie

Duval (board) serving in an ex-officio capacity. Additional persons may be added to the Task Force from time to time and/or will be asked to serve on subgroups established by the Task Force.

Timeline

This timeline is subject to change as the work unfolds, as it's possible that this work will take more time than anticipated below. The following timeline anticipates being ready to present something to Corporation membership at the 2023 Annual Meeting, but the work may extend to the 2024 Annual Meeting. The process is meant to be an iterative one, with opportunities for community participation.

- Starting with 2022 Annual Meeting*, the Governance Task Force will seek input from participants in Star's governance, including the board, all committees, the Beloved Community Task Force, staff, our constituent organizations and other members of our community.
- The Task Force will meet at least monthly starting in May 2022 with a goal of developing a final set of recommendations for any governance advancement by the dates described below.
- The Task Force will, between May 2022 and February 2023, review the current governance processes and systems in place in the Star Island Corporation, assess each governance practice in terms of the goals of the activity or committee, its impact, and its alignment with not-for-profit best practices and effectiveness. The Task Force will seek additional support from individuals and/or establish subgroups, as needed, to do this work.
- The Task Force will create and distribute a thorough report on the status of the governance practices and any recommendations for the future
- The Task Force will create a draft set of recommendations by early 2023 that will be reviewed by the board and made available to interested community members
- After engaging with community members interested in any of the recommendations, the Task Force will create a final draft of recommendations to be presented to the board for approval and presented to the membership at the 2023 or 2024 Annual Meeting. Any proposed governance recommendations to be voted upon by the membership will be distributed to all members in advance of the Annual Meeting.

** At the 2022 Annual Meeting, we hosted input gathering breakout sessions on governance, and we received some excellent input from membership which will inform our efforts.*