## Individual Reflections Exercise – Choosing a Board

**1. What am I really interested in (when it comes to nonprofit impact)?   
Issue area**: (example: racial justice, youth, environment, arts, culture, etc.)

**Communities:** (example: regional/national/local, race, gender, age/generation, professions, etc.)

**Type of work the organization focuses on:**  (examples: direct service, policy, communication, organizing, political, etc.)

**2. Where do I feel the most comfortable? Nonprofits (like other organizations) have different management and oversight needs at different stages of their life cycle. What would you like most?:**

* Grassroots, all (mostly) volunteer organization and/or start up where I am more hands on with the work being done
* Founder-driven and/or charismatic leader where there is a strong personality at the helm
* Transitional group, where the organization is adapting to external changes, internal and/or redefining its core strategy
* Larger or more established board/organization

**3. What role do I want?**

* Do I want to be a catalyst for change on the board and/or the organization?
* Would I prefer implementing change and/or executing on a strategy or task?
* Am I more comfortable as part of a more established board and/or not take a substantial role in any board or organizational efforts.
* Do I want to play a leadership role (i.e. chair a taskforce or committee)?

**4. SKILLS/STRENGTHS: Try to be broad in your reflection (example: artistic skills; the ability to facilitate meetings; party organizing; technology; financial skills; public speaking, etc.).**

**5. TIME: What would be your monthly commitment of time outside of meetings? Are you willing to contribute more time during specific periods during the year?**

**6. MONEY/RESOURCES: What would be a gift meaningful to you? What other resources would you be willing to leverage for the organization (connections, material in-kind, pro-bono professional)**

**7. What pragmatic requirements do I have?**

* Do I want to serve near home? Near work? Mostly remote?
* How much travel time am I willing to put in?
* Can I meet during the day? In the evening? What about weekends?
* Does the diversity of the board matter to me? In what way?
* Other:

**8. Meet Your Needs. Prioritize: 1 being the highest priority, 8 the lowest.**

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| **Priority** | **What I want to gain from my board service** |
|  | Service to the community |
|  | My own leadership & professional development |
|  | Develop my professional network with other leaders or folks in a field |
|  | Be exposed to an issue or community that is new and different to me |
|  | Expand my social network |
|  | Do something completely different from my usual work/life |
|  | Support a cause that you’ve supported for a long time. |
|  | Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion |

Other needs not mentioned above?