## Choosing a Nonprofit Reflections Exercise.

1. What am I really interested in? (issues, communities, impact, policy)

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

* Grassroots, small organization
* Startup or relatively new organization
* Founder-driven and/or where there is a strong personality at the CEO/ED position.
* Transitional group:
  + where the organization is adapting to external changes or redefining its core strategy
  + Where an organization is going through major internal transition (executive transition, major staff turnover, restructuring)
* More established board/organization without any significant opportunities or challenges

3. What role do I want? (Yes, No, Maybe)

* I want to be a catalyst for change on the board and/or the organization – sparking innovation, leading the efforts to grapple with challenging strategic questions.
* I prefer implementing change and/or executing on a strategy and established plans.
* I prefer to be involved in strategic questions, but more as a “team member” and in a “learning/following” role.
* I want to be very hands-on and have as much “support board activity” as I do governance responsibilities.
* I want to primarily be focused on governance roles such as oversight/fiduciary; strategy; vision (i.e. – not management support/volunteer activities).  
    
  4. SKILLS/STRENGTHS/NETWORKS – both social and professional/EXPERIENCE – lived/professional. Be expansive in your brainstorm - both “workplace” qualities and personal qualities. Example of qualities you might also include beyond some usual “professional” qualities: facilitation skills; teaching/presenting; party organizer; recent immigrant; volunteer pastor; yoga instructor; conflict resolution; project manager.

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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, corporate match, material in-kind)

7. What pragmatic requirements do I have?

* Close to home? Near work? National? International? Participate primarily online?
* How much travel time am I willing to put in?
* Can I meet during the day? In the evening? What about weekends?

Meet Your Needs. Prioritize: 1 being the highest priority.

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| **Priority** | **What I want to gain from my board service** |
|  | Develop competencies/skills that I can use professionally |
|  | Leadership & professional development |
|  | Develop my professional network with other community leaders |
|  | Be exposed to an issue or community that is new and different |
|  | Expand my social network |
|  | Do something completely different from my usual work/life |
|  | An organization that address a very specific issue |
|  | Promote diversity within boards/organizations |
|  | Represent my community on the board |
|  | Challenge myself |
|  | Use my current professional skills/experience for a cause |