

Showboat of the Mississippi

Board Member Description

Overview

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring excellent management of the organization.

Our Purpose:

- To support and conduct educational programs that promote arts and culture.
- To support and educate about the history and heritage of Aitkin.
- To provide a space for community arts, theater, and entertainment.

Protect the Public's Interest:

The first function of the board is to protect the public's interest. The board's job is to represent the public's interest in assuring that the Showboat serves the community effectively. The board accomplishes this oversight and evaluation function by keeping well informed about the activities of the Showboat and communicating appropriate information to the public. The board must make decisions that will guide the Showboat beyond concern for mere survival of the organization, the reputation of board members, or the jobs of employees.

Enable the Showboat to achieve its mission: The second function of the board is to enable the Showboat to effectively and successfully achieve its mission.

The board has both formal and informal responsibilities.

Formal Responsibilities:

- Hiring (if necessary) and firing the Executive Director;
- Delegating the Showboat's management functions, including planning, organizing, staffing, and directing;
- Developing and approving strategic plans, including major commitments;
- Assuring the continuity of the Showboat, making emergency decisions when management cannot perform, and stepping in when crisis endangers the programs or existence of the non-profit; and
- Maintaining the board as a well-organized governing body capable of helping the Showboat achieve success.

Board members must wear the formal governance hat. It is both a legal obligation and a moral responsibility. The reality is that board members also have to provide additional volunteer help if the non-profit is to succeed.

Informal Responsibilities:

- Helping in areas such as planning events, fund-raising, and community relation;
- Helping responsibilities will vary depending on the needs of the non-profit;
- Board members and staff are partners in much of the work in the Showboat and will serve the Showboat best if a "team" attitude can be cultivated from the start.

Additionally, major decisions are discussed, debated, and decided with input and recommendations from the Executive Director, who has been hired to manage the Showboat.

Board Member responsibilities include attendance at monthly board meetings, where information is exchanged and decisions are made. Potential board members should plan to serve on at least one committee outside the monthly board meetings. The board develops committees to handle the work load of the board. In committees, board members can focus their attention and energy on one or two organizational concerns, rather than on every problem and opportunity. The board distributes its governing functions and responsibilities equitably among its members, and thus positions itself to maximize its effectiveness. Terms are for (3) three years and all board members must be in good standing at all times.

Time and Financial Considerations

Board positions require a time and energy commitment that should not be underestimated. Potential board members are urged to consider personal priorities for the next year as well as the ways to contribute to the development of the Showboat.

Meetings:

- Board Meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Location to be decided at meetings.
- Designated Committee Meetings
- Possible educational seminars and conferences
- Possible special meetings

To apply:

- Submit the Board Application to upnorth@aitkin.com.
- Attach additional pages of any information you would like to share that is relevant to considering you for a position within the Board of Directors.