



#1 Better Board Meetings

- Build board agendas around strategic goals.
- Add “purpose” and “timestamps” to agendas. Purpose can be Discussion, Decision, Needs Vote, Brainstorming, Etc.
- Consider a “consent agenda” where routine and procedural agenda items are organized together and voted on as one (minutes, committee reports, financials, etc.)

#2 Give the board and staff a shared experience (homework) to discuss.

- Reading: [Top Boards Do These Four Things Differently](#) (Harvard Business Review)
- Ted Talk: [The Way We Think About Charity Is Dead Wrong](#) (Dan Pallotta, March 2013)
- Podcast: [Answering the Call To Leadership with Jennifer McCrea](#) (Nonprofit Lowdown)

Tip: Break your board up into smaller teams. Provide 3 – 4 discussion questions for each group.
(*Did you have an Aha! Moment? How do we use what we learned to make our board better?*)

#3 Give them something meaningful (and fun!) to do.

- Scavenger Hunts
 - Ask a small team to review and compare your organization’s current materials with best practices. Some examples:
 - Bylaws Scavenger Hunt Using [Bylaws Checklist from Blue Avocado](#)
 - Board Orientation Scavenger Hunt Using [Joan Garry’s Template for A Great Board Orientation](#)
- Personal Values Assessment – use this [online assessment tool](#)
 - Have board members partner up (groups of 3) to discuss their results and how their personal values are aligned with the mission of the organization.

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