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Board Prep Program Overview

The Board Prep Program (BPP) is a comprehensive training program for young individuals who are interested in serving on nonprofit boards. It was created to teach participants how to use their leadership skills more effectively, but also to learn what it takes to be an effective board member. In its seventh year, the Board Prep program has prepared over 200 young professionals in Philadelphia to serve as exceptional board leaders.

The Board Prep Program is run by Young Involved Philadelphia (YIP), which increases civic engagement and builds relationships to connect and represent young Philadelphians. YIP strives to make Philadelphia the premier city for the next generation of leaders. The Board Prep Program is one of YIP's ongoing programs to increase the leadership role of the young professionals in the non-profit sector. Board Prep is a six-session series running on Tuesday evenings from 6pm-8pm. There are two cohorts every year (April-May and October-November). Board Prep lecture sessions include topics around the following: Fundraising, Strategic Planning, Beyond Board Diversity, Financial Management, Legal and Ethical Responsibility, and Community Engagement. The sessions include group and individual work, and moderated panel discussions.

At the end of the program, the participants have a graduation ceremony in which they receive recognition of program completion and have the opportunity to meet local nonprofits that are seeking board members or committee members during the nonprofit matching portion of the graduation.

If you are interested in participating in the Board Prep Program, please check this page for updates and application details: <http://younginvolvedphila.org/programs/board-prep/>

If you have any questions, feel free to email boardprep@yiphilly.org



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How often do you run the Board Prep Program?

A: YIP offers the Board Prep Program twice per year - once in the spring, and once in the fall.

Q: What is the interview and application process?

A: Applications for the fall cohort are launched in late spring, and applications for the spring cohort are launched in the fall/winter. Once applications close they will be reviewed and eligible applicants will move onto an in person or phone interview. Once the interviews are complete we will notify the accepted applicants! YIP usually sees about 100 applications for 50 seats.

Q: What is the content covered within the Board Prep cohort?

A: The Board Prep Program is a six week program that gives participants a general overview of board service, and equips each cohort with the tools necessary to serve as an effective and informed board members. Some topics covered (subject to change) include Fundraising, Strategic Planning, Beyond Board Diversity, Financial Management, Legal and Ethical Responsibility, and Community Engagement. Although you won't walk away a bonafide expert in each of these areas, the program gives you a great taste of what is expected of you within each of these content areas, as well as gives you the tools necessary to ask the right questions.

Q: What is the time commitment for the program?

A: Classes are held one evening per week from 6-8 PM, spanning 6 weeks. Outside of class time there are a few special events which allow students to interact with one another, our non-profit partners, and Board Prep Alumni.

Q: Who leads each Board Prep session?

A: YIP utilizes their vast network within the nonprofit and corporate world to bring together facilitators that can speak to their personal experiences with each session presented. Whether the facilitator is a trained veteran in the field, teaches a college course in the topic, or has extensive experience using those skills within their volunteer life - participants will walk away with a deeper understanding of how to apply each session to their role on a non-profit board.

Q: How do participants and graduates get linked up with non profit partners and potential board opportunities?

A: Throughout the program, there will be a handful of special events where the cohort is invited to meet our non-profit partners, learn about the board opportunities available to them, and begin to survey the opportunities available within the Philadelphia community. Once you have graduated from the program, there is a Board Prep Alumni facebook group that is constantly updated as new board application opportunities are presented to YIP and those following this page.

Q: I am a non-profit who is actively seeking energetic and informed board members. How can I become a non-profit partner?

A: Email us at boardprep@yiphilly.org! We would love to hear from you. There are multiple ways for partners to get engage with the current cohort as well as our graduates.

Q: This program sounds great and I'm super interested. What should I do?

A: Keep an eye out for the next cohort's application to go live, and apply! The best way to keep up to date with our applications going live is to sign up for the YIP newsletter. If you have further questions, you can reach us at boardprep@yiphilly.org.