**Bridges dba for**

**Network for Community Entrepreneurs (NCE)**

**Board of Directors Membership Expectations**

**Approved by Bridges Board of Directors on December 11, 2021**

**Edited by Lawrence Dietz January 17, 2022**

**Bridges Introduction**

At a critical time in American history when the pace of economic and social change is accelerating, Americans are feeling increasingly lonely, fearful, and divided. While more and more official churches are closing, many people across America are aware of their spiritual needs and are seeking a way to fulfill those needs, and themselves.

Bridges nurtures and equips local people to serve as Bridge Leaders, because we have found this is the best strategy for engaging with those outside of faith in Christ, particularly those who are not likely to attend an existing church. New forms of church involvement are emerging. God is doing something new in our time. We seek to participate in this movement.

Bridges, a Christian 501c3 nonprofit ministry, is dedicated to providing the very best support to leaders who change lives and catalyze new Christ-following Communities. Bridges identifies leaders and prospective leaders and nurtures and equips them to disciple people who are part of the many subcultures of America. These leaders, and their disciples, form new Christ-following communities. This is accomplished through providing services to these leaders, such as 501c3 status, annual assessments, 1-on1 coaching, training, support groups, and accounting services.

DREAM:

We see a Transformed America where people begin to experience and actively live the life of God's Kingdom. In this Transformed America, a new model of church has emerged. Many traditional churches with property and full-time pastors continue to minister to their congregants, but now they are nodes among networks of millions of Christ-following groups with part-time leaders, who tend and disciple 5-30 people each. These new leaders have multi-sourced income that empowers them sustainably to serve for decades. These leaders also have the cross-cultural skills of missionaries, through which they mobilize their people into unique local ministries that further impact their local community.

VISION

Bridges is facilitating an ever-increasing number of Christ-following communities, partnering with existing congregations, to create positive social impact that is transforming America.

MISSION

Bridges seeks to provide the very best support to leaders seeking to change lives, start new ministries, and facilitate new Christ-following communities among peoples not engaged with existing churches.

SERVICES

To accomplish this mission and live the reality of this vision, Bridges provides ACTS services to leaders:

*A- Assessments*

*C****-*** *Coaching*

*T- Training*

*S- Support Groups*

**Objectives:**

Equip 500 Bridge Leaders by the end of 2025

Facilitate 25 Christ-following Communities by the end of 2025

**Long Range Objectives:**

Equip 1000 Bridge Leaders

Start 1000 ministries

Facilitate 1000 Christ-following Communities

**Board Development**

As Bridges continues to grow, the Board of Directors of Bridges also grows in the art of governance and the ability to perform the duties of overseeing a corporation. The Bridges Board ensures the organization stays true to our vision through implementing the mission according to our values.

**Board Governance**

The Board’s role is to oversee or govern the ministry/organization.  The Board’s process of governance comes from the Carver Governance Model and is articulated in the policies that the Board develops and approves.

Board members will be required to learn and understand the Carver Governance Model. Materials will be made available to all potential Board members and time will be spent at Board meetings discussing Board governance. <https://www.carvergovernance.com/pg-np.htm>

**Board Composition**

The Board of Directors *represents* the ”owners” of Bridges. They are entrusted with the moral responsibility to ensure that Bridges stays on her vision and mission and serves her constituents. The Board should represent a diversity in church affiliation as well as a variety of communities. The Board should maintain a balance of professional expertise. These areas of expertise include, for example: missiology, educational practice, church leadership, mission field experience, church-planting experience, philanthropy expertise, marketing, financial, legal, business leadership, and leading through leadership transitions. Ideally, there should be at least one Board Director representing each area above, though one director may represent several areas of expertise.

**Board Member Criteria**

In recruiting and building a strong, vital Board, Board members will be expected to serve as Ambassadors for Bridges and actively communicate its vision to the church at large, to the greater community and to help garner the financial support necessary to sustain this ministry. It is also important that the Board represent the communities that Bridges serves, as well as provide the requisite expertise to shape and grow this ministry.

To this end, it is crucial that that we evaluate current members and strategically recruit new members based upon the following criteria:

1. Godly character, seeking to daily walk with the Lord and listen for and follow the Spirit’s direction. Willing to continually seek personal growth in Christ-likeness and in following Jesus.
2. Personal alignment with Bridges’ mission; must have a genuine concern for the welfare of people outside of faith in Christ and an understanding of the need to engage them through their local community in nontraditional ways.
3. Willing to bless missionary leaders from a variety of worldviews and cultures. Must be willing to transcend the split in worldviews of conservatives and liberals and the conversations dividing Americans today—that the Kingdom of God is not equivalent with any political party or organized religion or identified movement.
4. Willingness to promote the vision, mission, values, and goals of Bridges.
5. Highly respected and well-regarded in the community; possess demonstrated leadership abilities.
6. Possess professional expertise needed by Bridges and/or represent one or more constituencies needed to provide the necessary balance and diversity for the Board’s efforts.
7. Ability to make the necessary time commitment to the Board activities.
8. Capacity and willingness to make a significant, meaningful financial contribution at a level that demonstrates commitment and is commensurate with God’s personal blessing. Achieving 100% Board member giving participation EVERY YEAR is crucial for approaching Foundations and Potential Financial Partners.
9. New Board Members are expected to make a minimum contribution of $3000.
10. Participate in the Annual Banquet by sponsoring a table and asking others to participate as sponsors of the event. Virtual Annual Events have similar opportunities for involvement and support by Board Members.
11. Utilize influence. Willing to serve as an Ambassador [capitalized above] for Bridges to the community. Willing to open doors to their local church, circles of influence, and prospective financial partners. Willing to help secure gifts to support Bridges as appropriate; Give and Get.
12. Willingness to ask questions, offer constructive feedback and make suggestions through appropriate channels.

**Individual Board Member Expectations**

1. Board members are expected to attend 75 percent of the meetings (3 of the 4 meetings each year).
2. Participate in the annual learning opportunities for Board Members related to Board Member roles, responsibilities, and activities.
3. Make an annual, sacrificial financial gift to sustain the vital ministry of Bridges. It is expected that after supporting the local church, Board member giving to Bridges would be amongst their top 3 additional nonprofits.
4. Become a member of Bridges Subscription Service at least at the minimum monthly level.
5. Willing to participate in building relationships and cultivating participation with current and prospective partners, such as inviting them to an event, writing thank you notes, or making a referral.
6. Participate in the recruiting of new Board Members and new Advisory Members.

**Board Member Evaluation**

To ensure the diversity and health of the Board and its ability to lead and support Bridges, each Board member will be evaluated on an annual basis to review participation and financial support provided to Bridges. This evaluation is completed by the Chairperson of the Board with the support of the Executive Director.

Recommendations From

The **Fundraising Habits of Supremely Successful Boards**

by Jerold Panas

1. In all your actions, integrity rules.

2. You hold in trust the mission of your organization.

3. You never lose sight that your organization is in the business of changing

lives or saving lives.

4. You create an atmosphere of excellence.

5. You continually push for greater success.

6. You’re willing to leave the Comfort Zone.

7. You’re passionate about your organization and show it.

8. You maintain a positive attitude.

9. You plan.

10. You don’t manage the operation.

11. You’re constantly on the lookout for key people to join the board.

12. You strive to recruit trustees with the 4 Ws. (Work. Wealth. Wisdom. Wallop.)

13. The organization whose board you serve on is among your top philanthropic

priorities.

14. You ask others to give.

15. You realize that those who give are your best donors for the future.

16. You understand that not all gifts are worth accepting.

17. You’re involved in acknowledging and thanking donors.

18. You attend board meetings.

19. You’re prepared for every meeting you attend.

20. You take your fiduciary role seriously.

21. You exercise sound business judgment.

22. You monitor the investments.

23. You’re keenly aware of the competition.

24. You call upon a consultant when necessary.

25. You don’t allow a mission deficit.