A SEAT AT THE TABLE

OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS

After-School All-Stars
ALPFA
Bank Street Head Start
Bloomingdale Family Program
Bloomingdale School of Music
Brooklyn Arts Council
Brooklyn Youth Sports Club
Center for Family Representation
Center for Urban Pedagogy
Children of Promise NYC
College and Community Fellowship
Epic Theatre Ensemble
Girls Educational & Mentoring Services
Graham Windham
Helen Keller International
Hip Hop 4 Life, Inc.
I Challenge Myself
Iris House
JazzReach, Inc.
La Unidad Latina Foundation
Learning Leaders
Mark DeGarmo & Dancers/Dynamic Forms
MOUSE
Museum of Contemporary African
    Diasporan Arts (MoCADA)
National High School Basketball Association
    / Winning Through Education
National Multiple Sclerosis Society NYC-SNY
    Chapter
North Bronx Youth Sports Association, Inc.
Odyssey House
People's Prep Charter School
PhysEd Plus
Reading Partners
Red Hook Initiative
Rosie's Theater Kids
Safe Horizon
Safety Net Project - Urban Justice Center
Stonewall Community Foundation
Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG)
SuitUp
Summit Academy Charter School
Symphony Space
The Center for Arts Education
The Child Center of NY
The Opportunity Agenda
The Parent-Child Home Program
The Possibility Project
The Public Theater
Third Street Music School Settlement
Union Settlement Association
Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone
Urban Arts Partnership
WebServes
Women's Project Theater
Year Up
Youth Education Throught Sports (YES) Inc.

THE COUNCIL OF URBAN PROFESSIONALS & ROBIN HOOD CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

A CONVERSATION ON BOARD SERVICE

Council of Urban Professionals

ROBIN HOOD

NEW YORK LIFE

The **Council of Urban Professionals (CUP)** empowers diverse professionals to develop connections, opportunities, and expertise that best position them for top leadership roles, resulting in transformative impact on our communities.

Through our **A Seat at the Table** initiative, CUP secures board placements for our talented and highly motivated members so that, individually and collectively, our organization fulfills its mission of enhancing the capacity of organizations, institutions and agencies to better serve our communities. We are placing people of color and women on non-profit and public sector boards – a strategy for developing long-term structural change, increasing the diversity of boardrooms, and holding non-profit organizations accountable for creating boards that reflect their stakeholders.

In addition to securing board matches, our A Seat at the Table initiative offers trainings to equip members with the knowledge and skills needed to make a difference once they are at decision-making tables.

To learn more, please contact CUP Leadership Institute Program Associate Nina Pascucci at npascucci@nycup.org or (646) 779-4719.

Council of Urban Professionals
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Finding the Right Match

1. Registration

As a CUP member, you have access to our A Seat at the Table board matching initiative. Upon completing your board matching profile, you will be eligible to attend networking receptions with select nonprofit partners, enroll in board governance trainings, request introductions to CUP's nonprofit partners, and attend nonprofit partner events.

To complete your board matching profile on CUP Connect, visit http://members.nycup.org/ and complete the following steps:
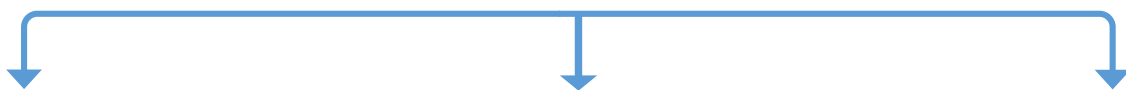
- First-time users must reset their CUP Connect password. To reset your password, please sign in using your email address as your username and click '**Forgot your password?**'
- Upon your first login, you will be prompted to customize your Member Profile preferences. Please make your selections and click '**Save My Settings**'
- Once you submit your preferences, you will be directed to your Member Profile
  - ➢ Complete the Board Matching section of your Member Profile, by clicking on the "**Bio**" tab and then click the '**Edit**' button in the Board Matching section. Make sure to upload PDFs of your bio and/or resume if you want to request introduction to nonprofits.
  - ➢ Be sure to click '**Save Changes**'

Once your board matching profile is complete, you will have access to our board matching resources and will be added to our database, which we regularly search to identify strategic board matches for our nonprofit partners.

2. Exploration

Its time to start exploring your options! As you pursue a board seat with your preferred nonprofits, be sure to research each organization to gauge how the mission, structure and culture, as well as board requirements and responsibilities, fit into your personal values and interests.

There are several ways to initiate the exploration phase

Request an Introduction

Browse our list of nonprofit partners and email Nina Pascucci at npascucci@nycup.org to request a formal introduction to the nonprofit(s) of your choice.

Attend a CUP Event

CUP hosts quarterly networking receptions for our members and select nonprofits. These receptions are a great way to casually meet-and-greet with a variety of nonprofits that have a wide range of missions and impact areas.
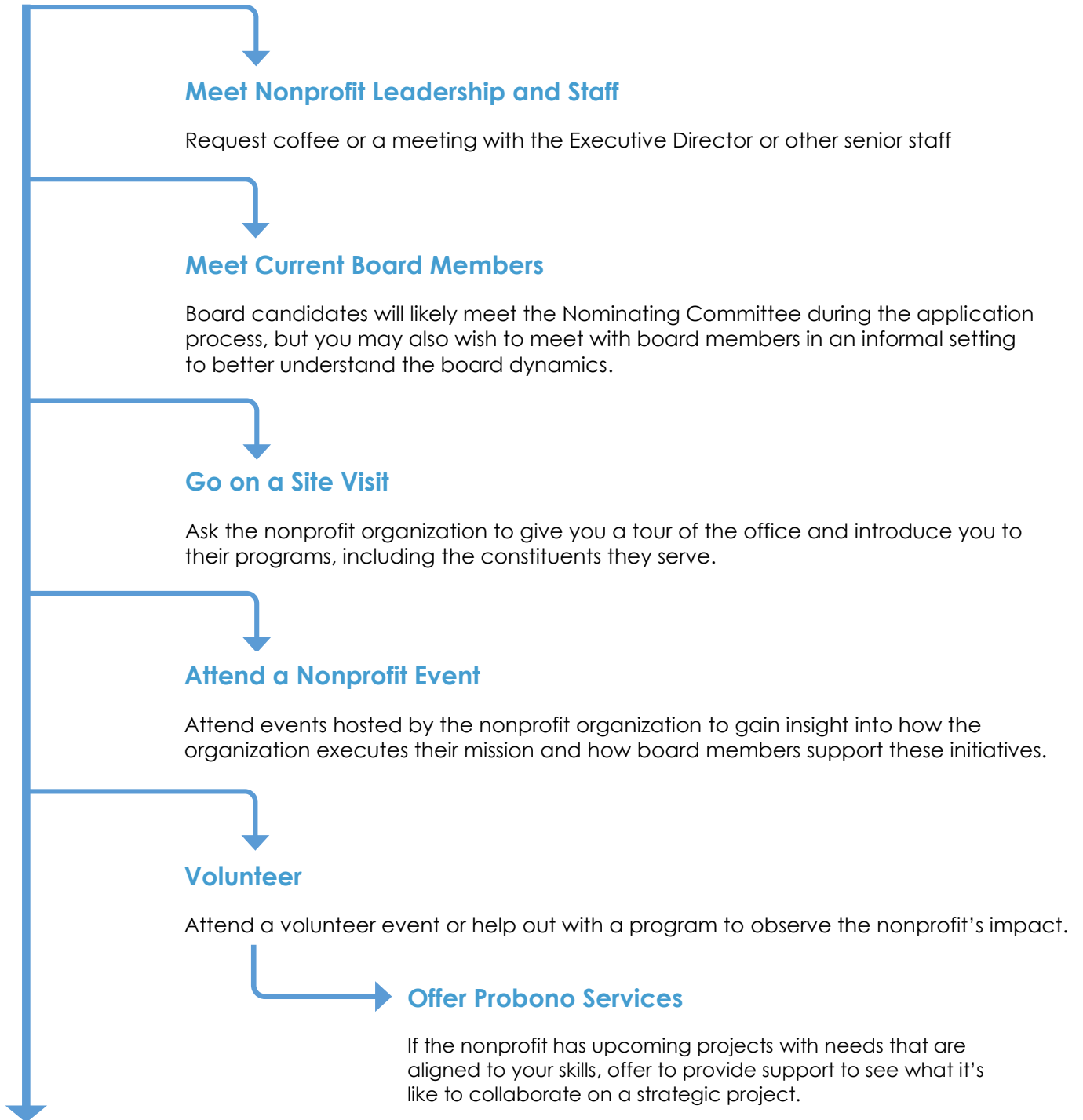
Attend a Partner's Event

You will be notified periodically of nonprofit partner events, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities. This is a great way to see an organization in action and assess your interest and fit.

3. Cultivation

During the cultivation phase, exposure to the nonprofit organization will help you to gain a better understanding of the organization's vision and goals, as well as the people you would be supporting. Be patient and remain engaged—this process can often take several months, but it is worth your time to fully understand the commitment of joining the board.

Initial Introduction
After an introduction, be courteous and respond to the nonprofit organization promptly. Next steps may include:

Meet Nonprofit Leadership and Staff

Request coffee or a meeting with the Executive Director or other senior staff

Meet Current Board Members

Board candidates will likely meet the Nominating Committee during the application process, but you may also wish to meet with board members in an informal setting to better understand the board dynamics.

Go on a Site Visit

Ask the nonprofit organization to give you a tour of the office and introduce you to their programs, including the constituents they serve.

Attend a Nonprofit Event

Attend events hosted by the nonprofit organization to gain insight into how the organization executes their mission and how board members support these initiatives.

Volunteer

Attend a volunteer event or help out with a program to observe the nonprofit's impact.

Offer Probono Services

If the nonprofit has upcoming projects with needs that are aligned to your skills, offer to provide support to see what it's like to collaborate on a strategic project.

Application
Before you get to the application or decision phase, engage in one or more of the above activities to best determine if the organization is right for you and your interests.

4. Decision

Now that you've researched your options and found the right organization, it's time to formally apply to be on the board. Each nonprofit has a different application, vetting and onboarding process.

After completing the formal application process, the organization will hopefully be ready to extend an offer. Once you are on the board we recommend that you get right to work: join a board committee, volunteer to support an upcoming event, or perhaps ask a veteran board member to mentor you as you adjust to your new role. To further enhance your impact, keep an eye out for CUP's trainings in board governance best practices.

Last but not least, please keep us posted. We love to hear about your success in finding the right board and your board service!

For questions, please email Nina Pascucci at npascucci@nycup.org.