



Networking and Industry Thought-Leadership for Fund Directors

MFDF's Member Working Groups

Presented on: September 14, 2023

What are Member Working Groups?

- Member working groups convene member independent directors and CCOs for networking and peer learning opportunities and/or to solicit input on MFDF work
- Three categories of working groups:
 - Topic/Issue groups: have a set over-arching theme and calls typically have a specific topic of discussion defined in advance
 - Affinity groups: have more of a networking purpose and bring together directors who have similar roles or identities
 - Program planning group: invites members to suggest topics and speakers for MFDF programming



Who Can Join Member Working Groups?

- Current independent directors and CCOs of member fund boards*
- Multiple directors from the same board can join a working group, if desired
- An individual director can join as many working groups as they are interested in, according to their availability

*The Directors of Color Networking Group is open only to current independent directors including non-member directors due to its specific mandate



What Groups are Available?

Topic/Issue Groups

- Board Effectiveness Working Group
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group

Affinity Groups

- Directors of Color Networking Group
- Nom/Gov Chairs* Roundtable
- Closed-End Fund Directors Roundtable
- Newer Director Working Group (New in Fall 2023)

Program Planning Group

- Education Advisory Committee (Adapted for Fall 2023 - formerly two groups: Webinar Working Group and Fund Governance and Regulatory Insights Conference Task Force)

*Other members of the Nom/Gov Committee are also welcome



What Do Working Groups Do?

- All working groups meet over Zoom, meetings are usually one hour in duration
- Most groups meet 3-4 times per year
- Some meetings have topics set in advance with questions driving the conversation, others are open discussions with the participants on the call following current events or issues at hand for their boards
- Provide insights to MFDF staff leading to programs and resources, as well as to connect other members with knowledge and experience. For example:
 - A member question about executive search firm fees was directed to members of the Nom/Gov Chairs Working Group
 - Discussions with the Board Effectiveness and Nom/Gov Chairs Working Groups added significantly to the body of knowledge around recruitment and onboarding practices that were built into breakout sessions at the Fund Governance and Regulatory Insights Conference
 - Members of the Directors of Color Networking Group have been integral in connecting MFDF with diverse industry experts for speaking opportunities



Why Join a Working Group?

- Connect with like-minded directors and CCOs around a particular issue or common experience
- Contribute toward developing director education
- Ask questions and/or share lessons learned around fund governance practices
- Participate in industry-leading conversations



When Are the Groups Next Meeting?

- Directors of Color Networking Group: September 26, 12:00pm ET
- Board Effectiveness Working Group: September 28, 11:30am ET
- Closed-End Funds Roundtable: October 3, 1:00pm ET
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group: October 26, 11:00am ET
- Newer Directors Networking Group: October 30, 1:00pm ET
- Educational Content Advisory Group: November 13, 11:00am ET
- Nom/Gov Chairs Roundtable: November 15, 11:00am ET



FAQ

- How do I join working groups?
 - Every fall, the Forum sends an enrollment email. Also, each month an email listing upcoming member group calls is distributed and you can RSVP to those directly. At any time, you can contact MFDF staff (forum@mfdf.org or 202-407-4492) to be added to the distribution list for any of the working groups.
- What is the time commitment?

Most working groups meet approximately once per quarter and meetings are typically one hour Zoom meetings. The Education Advisory Committee will meet more frequently.
- Do I need to commit to joining all the calls if I join the group?

No, members can join calls according to their interest and availability. If a call topic does not interest you, or you have a conflict, you don't need to join the meeting. However, working group calls are not recorded and the benefit of the group lies primarily in the discussions.

Further Questions?

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