



CONTENTS

1. Board Member FAQ
2. Staff + Board Contact Information
3. The Iowa Center White Paper
4. Fundraising Brochure
5. Strategic Plan
6. Financials



BOARD MEMBERS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

TIME COMMITMENT:

- The board of directors meets every other month (currently 7:30 -8:30am the 3rd Thursday of every other month: August, October, December, February, April, June).
- The Executive Committee meets the opposite months on the third Thursday.
- Attend events hosted by The Iowa Center (unless hosted virtually due to social distancing). The targeted goal for event attendance is six a year—or one bi-monthly event. The first Friday of every month we host a special session called The Story Of...and Small Business Essentials (normally hosted on Tuesdays at noon) are a great place to start.
- Setting up networking meetings for Megan Milligan.

BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS:

- Attendance at the six board meetings is expected although we recognize that travel and other commitments means this is not always possible. There is not a mandated attendance policy. If a board member is out of town, call-in conferencing is an option. We try to avoid that for in-town members as on-site presence and participation is beneficial. (We are currently holding all of our meetings virtually due to the COVID pandemic. Links to the Zoom meetings are sent out in advance.)
- The Iowa Center holds public events monthly (an activity we have increased for FY 2021). Board Members are not required to attend; however their presence is beneficial to the other guests.
- While The Iowa Center does not have a minimum request, we do have a goal of 100% board giving and getting. We hope each board member will make a financial gift to The Iowa Center and help solicit, make introductions, advise on opportunities for fundraising. Likewise, board members are not expected to volunteer, however there are opportunities for them to lend their expertise if this is in an area of interest.

PRIORITIES FOR THE IOWA CENTER FY21:

- Growing our Direct Services including education, microloans and coaching
- Continuing to improve our triage program
- Upgrading and updating our IT and Technology
- Marketing
- Fundraising; including assessing current state and federal relationships
- Strengthening existing services
- State-wide growth opportunities



CURRENT BOARD MEMBER STRUCTURE:

Our board currently has 17 members as the max was mandated by our former Articles of Incorporation. At the end of CY16, the board voted to change that number to 25.

The board consists of members-at-large and an executive committee which includes Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, President and Immediate Past Chair. All but President is a one-year term.

Additional Information:

As mentioned above, board members have the flexibility to make The Iowa Center their passion and main way to volunteer or can add us to a long list of ways they contribute to our community; we provide many opportunities to serve and volunteer. We are in a position to significantly increase our imprint in the community; most of the issues we address through our services are “hot button” issues right now. We look to the board to serve as advocates – spreading our story far and wide so that we may attract more clients and donors.

If you have addition questions, feel free to reach out to any member of our Executive Committee:

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Shane Isley
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Ciara Ladroma
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Mission

Our mission is to empower Iowans with the potential to succeed as they pursue opportunities for financial success.

Our Why

The Iowa Center is committed to empowering people to strengthen and stabilize their financial futures through business ownership and investment. It is our belief that to be successful in small business, one needs support in three core areas: education, capital, and networking. We have built key programs that support those core areas and empower individuals to succeed, families to prosper, and communities to thrive. Success to us is people supporting themselves and their families through the execution of their own ideas.

Priorities

EDUCATION

- We offer individuals access to our variety of classes, one on one coaching, and mentoring opportunities. We empower clients to develop the skills, confidence and resources necessary to start, grow, and succeed in business. Our clients are tremendously smart and driven; they come to us with good ideas and the perseverance to turn those ideas into reality.

CAPITAL

- Ability to obtain capital is one of the most significant obstacles to the growth of business. This is especially true for Iowa's female, minority, veteran, and disabled entrepreneurs. For businesses with few assets and limited capital needs, a microloan is often the best option. Through our microloan program, we offer loans up to \$50,000 with highly competitive fixed interest rates.

NETWORKING

- We organize networking opportunities for our clients with other Iowa professionals and link them to niche small business specialists. We host speed networking events, peer mentoring groups, lunch and learns and motivational speakers, all with the goal in mind of building our clients' networks and raising the visibility of small businesses.