

## **MAUREEN K. ROBINSON**

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8217 HAMILTON SPRING COURT  
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**Maureen K. Robinson** is the author of Nonprofit Boards that Work: The End of One-Size-Fits-All Governance, published by John Wiley & Sons. She is a consultant and speaker on topics relating to the leadership, governance and management of the nonprofit sector. In her work with nonprofit organizations, she focuses on governance and leadership, organizational development, and strategic planning.

Ms. Robinson founded the education program of the National Center for Nonprofit Boards (now called BoardSource). During her eight-year tenure, she brought information, ideas and services to a broad cross-section of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and abroad about the value of governance and its role in strengthening the effectiveness of the independent, nongovernmental sector. Among the programs she created are a national consulting practice that serves hundreds of nonprofit organizations each year, a national conference with a unique focus on nonprofit governance, and training programs for consultants and management assistance providers.

Prior to joining the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, Ms. Robinson held a variety of positions in the museum field. She was the director of legislative affairs at the American Association of Museums, and served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Museums at the Smithsonian Institution, where she conducted executive-level searches and managed special projects.

In addition to her most recent book, Ms. Robinson is the author of Developing the Nonprofit Board: Strategies for Educating and Motivating Board Members and The Chief Executive's Role in Developing the Nonprofit Board, both published by the National Center for Nonprofit Boards (BoardSource). She writes regularly about current topics in nonprofit governance, leadership and management, and is a columnist for the magazine, *Contributions*.

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### **Independent consultant**

Consult to nonprofit organizations on governance, management, planning and organizational development. Practice focuses on increasing board and executive director effectiveness in meeting organizational mission and achieving measurable improvements in performance. Areas of specialization include organizational assessment, board development, strategic planning and leadership development services to executive directors and boards.

Serve as a speaker and trainer on a range of nonprofit governance and management topics.

### **Director of Education**

National Center for Nonprofit Boards (1990 - 1998)  
(NCNB was renamed BoardSource in 2001)

Designed and managed the education and public programs of NCNB, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the effectiveness of nonprofit boards of directors.

As NCNB's founding director of education, created the strategy and framework for a national program that addressed the governance needs of nonprofit organizations. Developed a consulting service that provided tailored training and facilitation annually to more than 100 nonprofits in the U.S. and abroad, a comprehensive board information library and referral service, an annual leadership conference, distance learning programs that served thousands of nonprofit leaders using live, interactive formats, and comprehensive governance training programs for consultants and nonprofit technical assistance providers.

Served as a member of the senior management team. Supervised a national consultant roster of 25 and a staff of three. Managed annual budget of \$960,000. Raised \$2.25 million in grants from foundations and corporations for new program initiatives.

### **Special Assistant, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Museums**

Smithsonian Institution (1987 - 1990)

Organized and conducted the searches for executive level positions in the Smithsonian Institution, including director of the Museum of the American Indian, director of the National Museum of American Art, director of the Freer and Sackler Galleries, deputy director for program at the National Museum of Natural History, and director of the Archives of American Art. Supervised and conducted management studies of selected Smithsonian programs within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Museums.

## **Financial Consultant**

Merrill Lynch (1985 - 1987)

Developed long-range financial plans and managed the financial assets of individuals, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses.

## **Director, Legislative Program**

American Association of Museums (1979 - 1985)

Founded and directed first legislative advocacy program for museums at the AAM, the leading national organization representing the nation's 5,000 museums. Monitored appropriations for arts, education and science-related federal programs, and legislation and regulation relating to nonprofit tax issues. Prepared testimony for Congressional hearings, created grass-roots network within museum community for lobbying purposes and communication systems that enabled rapid and well-informed responses to legislative and regulatory issues.

## **Associate Editor of Publications**

American Association of Museums (1975 - 1979)

Wrote and edited monthly newsletter for members, and edited Museum News, the AAM's journal.

## **Publications**

Boards that Work: The End of One-Size Fits All Governance, John Wiley & Sons, 2001, New York

The Chief Executive's Role in Developing the Nonprofit Board, Booklet 2 in the NCNB Governance Series, National Center for Nonprofit Boards

Developing the Nonprofit Board: Strategies for Educating and Motivating Board Members, National Center for Nonprofit Boards

Gifts of Appreciated Property, American Association of Museums

Columnist, *Contributions Magazine*

Regular contributor to nonprofit trade publications on nonprofit leadership

## **Education**

B.A., The George Washington University, 1974  
New York University, 1970 -1973

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**CONSULTING SERVICES AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

**RECENT CLIENTS**

**ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

(includes assessment, planning, coaching, consulting)

Association for Conflict Resolution  
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts  
CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)  
Institute of Museum and Library Services (federal agency)  
International Livestock Research Institute  
Motown Historical Museum (Gordy Family Foundation)  
Museum Trustee Association  
National Association for Environmental Education  
Roslyn Landmarks Corporation/Roslyn Landmark Society (Gerry Trust)

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
Association of Children's Museums  
Clark Art Institute  
Dallas Contemporary Art Center  
International Academy of Collaborative Practice  
International Women's Media Foundation  
Tucson Museum of Art  
Women's Foreign Policy Group

**BOARD RESTRUCTURING**

(size, composition, structure, role and practice)

Barnes Foundation  
Grantmakers in the Arts  
Indianapolis Museum of Art  
National Association of Women Business Owners  
National D-Day Museum  
National Public Radio  
New England Aquarium

### **FUND RAISING/ADVOCACY**

Association of Fund Raising Professionals (Washington, D.C. chapter)

National Public Radio

Toledo Community Foundation

Smithsonian Institution International Art Museum Division (Hirshhorn Museum, Freer and Sackler Galleries, National Museum of African Art, Cooper-Hewitt Museum)

### **BOARD RETREATS/BOARD ASSESSMENTS**

(topics/focus: board self-assessments, roles and responsibilities, retreat facilitation)

Covenant House, Washington

Grantmakers for Education

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations

Historic Deerfield

Friends of the National Arboretum

Milwaukee Public Museum

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

American Association of Museums, *For CEOs Only: Building an Effective Board and an Effective Relationship with the Board* (annual 2-day workshop)

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Building Board Capacity* (2-day workshop for board/executive director leadership teams from state organizations)

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