



Board of Directors Roles and Responsibilities

Facing History and Ourselves uses lessons of history to challenge teachers and their students to stand up to bigotry and hate.

At Facing History and Ourselves, we believe the bigotry and hate that we witness today are the legacy of brutal injustices of the past. Facing our collective history and how it informs our attitudes and behaviors allows us to choose a world of equity and justice. Facing History's resources address racism, antisemitism, and prejudice at pivotal moments in history; we help students connect choices made in the past to those they will confront in their own lives. Through our partnership with educators around the world, Facing History and Ourselves reaches millions of students in thousands of classrooms every year.

Independent research studies show that experience in a Facing History classroom motivates students to become upstanders in their communities, whether by challenging negative stereotypes at the dinner table, standing up to a bully in their neighborhood, or registering to vote when they are eligible.

Together we are creating the next generation of leaders who will build a world based on knowledge and compassion, the foundation for more democratic, equitable, and just societies.

Facing History and Ourselves' Board of Directors is responsible for the fiduciary, strategic, and generative governance of the organization. Composed of individuals with diverse professional and personal backgrounds, experiences and perspectives who are committed to the organization's mission, the Board plays a critical role in the organization's success, sustainability, and advancement. The Board of Directors, working with the President & CEO, is responsible for the strategic direction of the organization to help guide future growth. It oversees the affairs and exercises all powers of the corporation.

Members of the Board of Directors:

- Connect deeply with the mission and projects of Facing History and Ourselves;
- Offer expertise in areas including, but not limited to, finance, fundraising, education, strategic planning, and overall direction;
- Deliberate on the organization and talent strategies while reflecting on the broader context of the education sector, current events, technological trends, and other pertinent areas;

- Provide representatives to select and evaluate the President & CEO of the organization;
- Elect the Board Chair and Board members, appoint an Executive Committee, select the Chair (or Co-Chairs) of the Leadership Council and appoint Leadership Council members;
- Review, approve, and oversee the annual budget;
- Maintain and approve changes to the organization's by-laws.
- Fully commit to building a community of inclusion within the Board and the greater Facing History community.

Leadership in action:

- **Meetings:** The Board of Directors meets quarterly. Directors commit to attending all meetings—November & June meetings in person, and September & February meetings virtually.
- **Committees:** Directors serve on at least one standing committee, ad hoc committee or task force, or a regional advisory board, or lend their expertise on specific topics upon request. Committees include: Executive, Governance, Finance, Development, Audit, and Compensation.
- **Giving:** Directors make a personally significant gift to Facing History each year to support the organization's general operating and special funding priorities.
- **Programming:** Directors attend local Facing History events and participate in at least one of the organization's educational programs each year (classroom visit, online workshop, in person professional development, or other opportunity).
- **Advocacy:** Directors fulfill a highly visible and essential ambassadorial function, connecting Facing History to schools and teachers, community leaders, donors and potential new board members.
- **Length of Term:** Directors serve for three-year terms, which are renewable.

Approach to Our Work

Consistent with Facing History and Ourselves mission, values, and strategic plan we continuously strive to improve our performance and Directors experience by developing a diverse Board of Directors and upholding practices and policies that foster inclusion and full participation of all members. This enables Facing History to continue to benefit from the oversight and insight of Board members who bring the combination of expertise, lived experience and unique perspectives necessary to fulfill our roles and responsibilities as director and who act as a community that lives into our values.

Our Values

- We Stand Up
- We create space for each other

- We act with empathy and kindness
- We listen first and listen actively
- We are curious