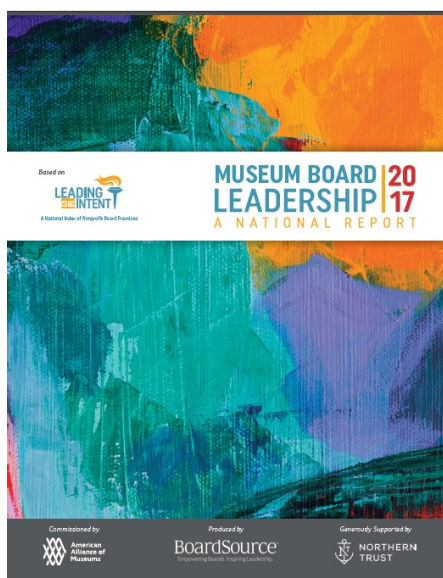


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BY JORDI BALTÀ PORTOLÉS
09 JUL 2017

New AAM Report on Museum Governance and Board Leadership



The American Alliance of Museums

(AAM) has recently published *Museum Board Leadership 2017: A National Report*. The report, which is available for free on AAM's website, results from the belief that **good governance is essential to the work of museum trustees and directors**. In this respect, the report grades museum boards in the United States on a wide variety of policies, practices and performance. Among the issues covered are **museum boards' composition and structure** (e.g. demographics, diversity, inclusion, recruitment practices), their **work and responsibilities** (internal work vs external work, advocacy, fundraising, etc.) and **leadership culture and board dynamics**. The report was based on a **national survey of 1600 museum directors and board chairs**.

Key findings

Key findings of the *Museum Board Leadership 2017* report include the following:

- Two-thirds of museum directors say their **boards have a positive impact on their job satisfaction**.
- Museum boards give themselves a B- grade overall, on par with other nonprofits; however, the vast majority of **museum boards do not formally assess their performance**.
- Museum directors and board chairs believe **board diversity and inclusion are important** to advance their missions, but have failed to prioritize action steps to advance these priorities.
- Eighty percent of museums give themselves a grade of C or lower on monitoring legislative and regulatory issues with potential to impact the organization.
- Museum board chairs are actively engaged in fundraising activities, and **identified fundraising as the most important area for improvement**.

The AAM has planned a number of public debates and regional discussions on the report and its implications for individual museums in the near future. *Museum Board Leadership 2017: A National Report* was commissioned by AAM and conducted in partnership with BoardSource, an organisation that researches and provides support to leaders in non-profit organisations, and Northern Trust, which provides investment and support to developments in the non-profit sector in the US. The report is available at <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/leading-with-intent-strengthening-museum-governance>

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