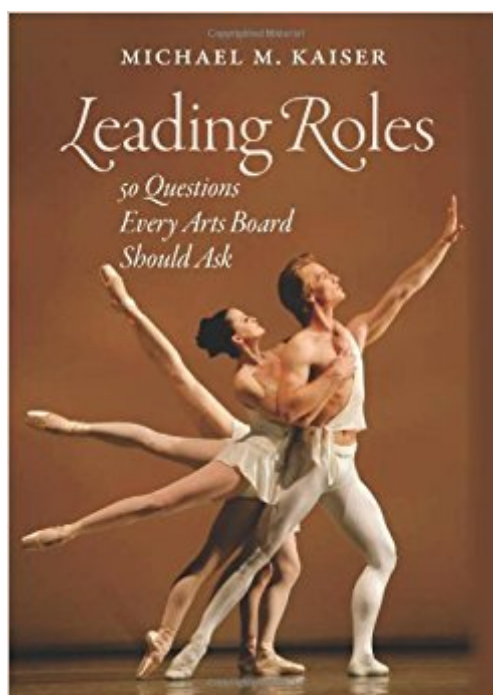


The book was found

Leading Roles: 50 Questions Every Arts Board Should Ask



Synopsis

Not-for-profit arts organizations struggled to survive the recent economic recession. In this increasingly hardscrabble environment, it is absolutely imperative that the boards of these organizations function as energetically, creatively, and efficiently as possible. Michael M. Kaiser's personal history with boards of arts organizations began when he served on the board of the Washington Opera (now the Washington National Opera) in 1983. Today, in his capacity as president of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Kaiser recently completed a 50-state, 69-city Arts in Crisis tour. Board issues came up repeatedly as central to the success or failure of the organization. Drawing on these and many other conversations, nationally and internationally, Kaiser's book offers members of boards and staffs the information they need to create the healthy atmosphere necessary to thriving arts organizations. Organized in a clear, readable, question-and-answer format, *Leading Roles* covers every aspect of board participation in the life of the organization, including mission and governance; fundraising and marketing responsibilities; the relationship of the board to the artistic director, executive director, and staff; and its responsibilities for planning and budgeting. Kaiser addresses boards in crisis, international boards, and boards of arts organizations of color. Throughout, he emphasizes the importance of transparency and clarity in the board's dealings with its own members and those of the arts community of which it is a part, showing how anything less results in contentiousness that can immobilize an arts organization, or even tear it apart.

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Customer Reviews

"Leading Roles is a rich yet tidy cornucopia of solutions for the challenges facing the American arts

scene . . . The author is compelling as he scopes the horizon, sizing up a future in which global cooperation will loom large for the arts." •Washington Post "The musicians of ICSOM must continue to be our own positive advocates in a managerial climate that is resistant to a positive message. Mr. Kaiser's new book is a powerful tool that can assist us in articulating our vision. •Senza Sordino, International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians newsletter "After years of distinguished volunteer board service in many arts associations, and a 50-state, 69-city Arts in Crisis tour, meeting with many other arts organizations, Michael Kaiser has committed his considerable wisdom and experience to paper, and written *Leading Roles: 50 Questions Every Arts Board Should Ask*. Although aimed at associations in the arts - dance, opera, theatre - the book Kaiser has written should be must-reading for every board member and staff executive of every association. *Leading Roles* addresses every aspect of board participation in the life of an association, including mission and governance; fundraising and marketing; the relationship of the board to the artistic director, executive director, and staff; and board responsibilities for planning and budgeting. •The Examiner, Washington, DC

"Michael Kaiser is very competent and far-sighted in dealing with the extremely complicated economic and organizational aspects of performing arts institutions, especially in this period of grave crises. In my capacity as General Director of Washington National Opera, which makes its home at the Kennedy Center, I have worked with Michael, the Center's President, and I share his approach to running not-for-profit arts organizations. I recommend his book to anyone who works in this area. (Plácido Domingo) "Michael Kaiser has made it his mission to help arts organizations around the world succeed. He is an ambassador and trusted authority for arts administrators everywhere, generously sharing his proven expertise that I've seen firsthand. Michael's book will take his life's work one step further, elevating the world of arts management with his wisdom. • (Judith Jamison, Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) "No one knows more about arts administration than Michael Kaiser. No wonder people the world over clamor for his attention and keen advice. The Kennedy Center's not-so-secret weapon is an international treasure. The book is a goldmine. • (Terrence McNally, playwright)

I am a great fan of Michael M. Kaiser. When I started a nonprofit arts corporation, I gave a copy of this book to every prospective Board member so we could have a common starting place. I highly

recommend the first book by Mr Kaiser that I read as I tried to aid an ailing community theater, *The Art of The Turnaround - Creating and Maintaining Healthy Arts Organizations* (a 5 star book). It's a great place to begin as one starts down the path of nonprofit, especially in the arts. He follows up with other books including *The Cycle - A practical Approach To Managing Arts Organizations*. Mr Kaiser has taken such organizations the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater and the Royal Opera House in London from the brink of extinction, to thriving success. He just ended his tenure as Executive Director of the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. He continues to help ailing arts organizations and his knowledge and easy to understand practicality is invaluable to all nonprofits and arts organizations. I hope that others working with such organizations will discover Michael M. Kaiser's work, and look at his interviews on YouTube. One could make a career out of the path that he has lead the way on.

This book is a must read for all volunteer and staff arts leaders and especially board members. The author has had a diverse career in the arts and shares his experiences in short, interesting stories that help illustrate his points. As someone who has lead organizations in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors, I think this book does a great job bridging the divide. It's short and easy read too.

If you are a member of the governing body of a non-profit arts organization and are looking for advice on how your organization should be run, this book is for you. It gives an excellent outline and lots of good advice. I found it very helpful for me in examining how I feel our symphony organization should proceed.

All good, fast shipping, exactly as described , thanks!

Kaiser has a tremendous amount of both knowledge and experience, and his writing style is so concise and accurate that he conveys a huge amount of information in a way that makes even the most complex concepts easy to understand. It should be required reading in any university arts management program.

for anyone on any non-profit board

Some interesting questions; others rather pedestrian; good for beginners

Great read

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