



CHICAGO WOMEN
in PHILANTHROPY

Navigating Board Service

January 23, 2026



Ember and Edge

Agenda

- Overview
- What Drives You to Serve?
- Board Service as Professional Development
- Finding Your Optimal Service Value
- Q & A

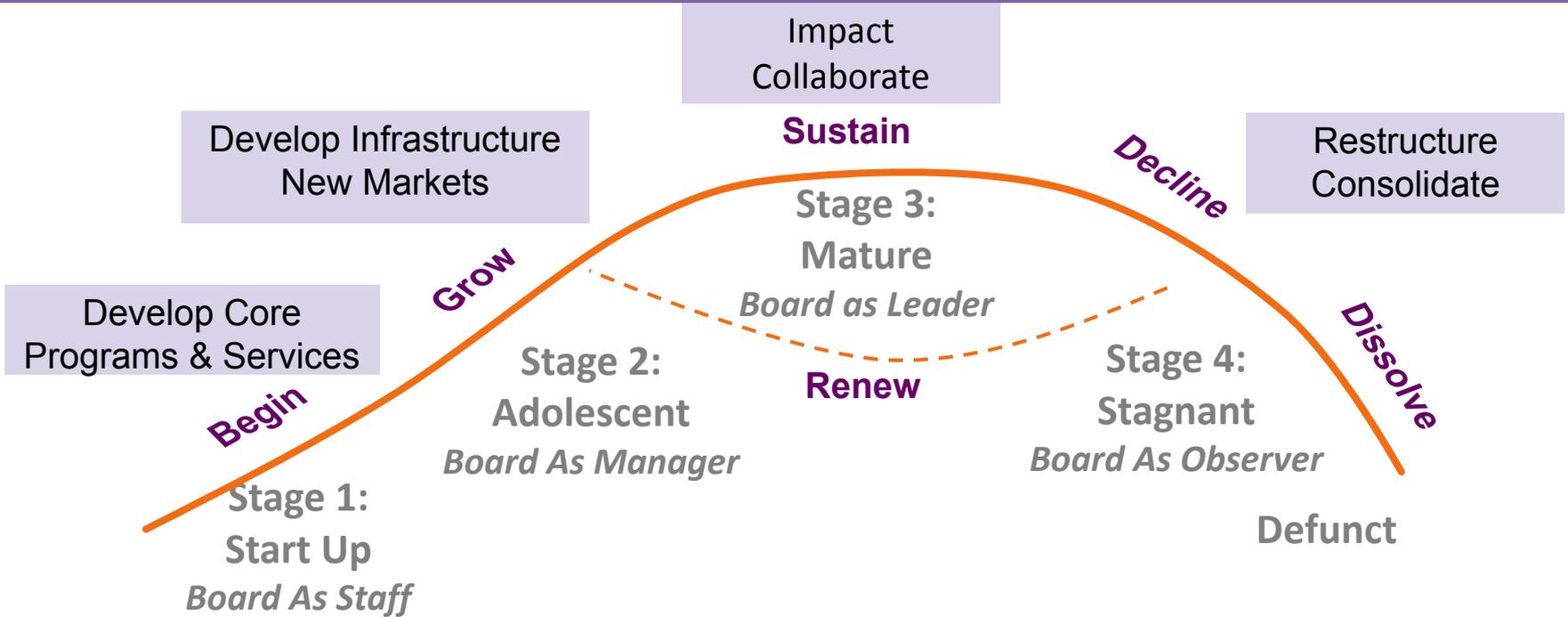
What Drives You to Serve?

- Skill strengths and weaknesses
- Professional goals
- Personal motivators



- Personal goals
- Interests
- Relationships

Organization Life Cycles – Your Fit As a Leader



Identifying the Mission and Organizations

FOCUS ON THE CAUSE



ASSESS IMPACT



SUSTAINABLE MISSION



VALUE OF YOUR TALENTS



BOARD CULTURE



OPTIMAL SERVICE VALUE



Board Service as Professional Development



- ● A nonprofit board is a practice space for leadership
- ● You learn by participating in real decisions, not simulations
- ● Board service builds skills that are not always explicitly taught in your job

Skills You Build Through Board Service

Strategic Thinking & Long-Term Planning

Financial Literacy & Fiduciary Responsibility

Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

Influence without Authority

Understanding Power, Governance, and Accountability



When Board Service Becomes Meaningful PD



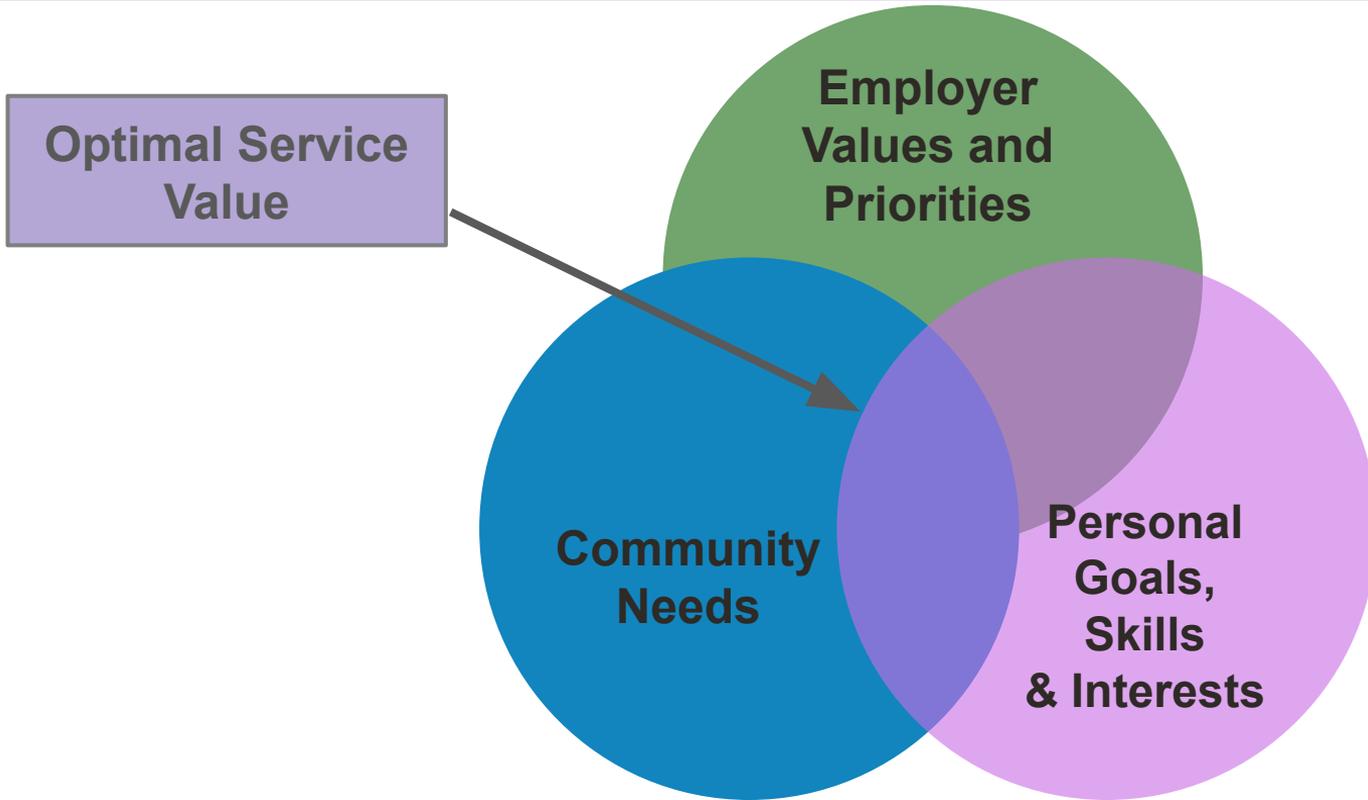
- What do you want to learn?
- What do you want to contribute?
- What does the organization actually need right now?

Breakout Rooms

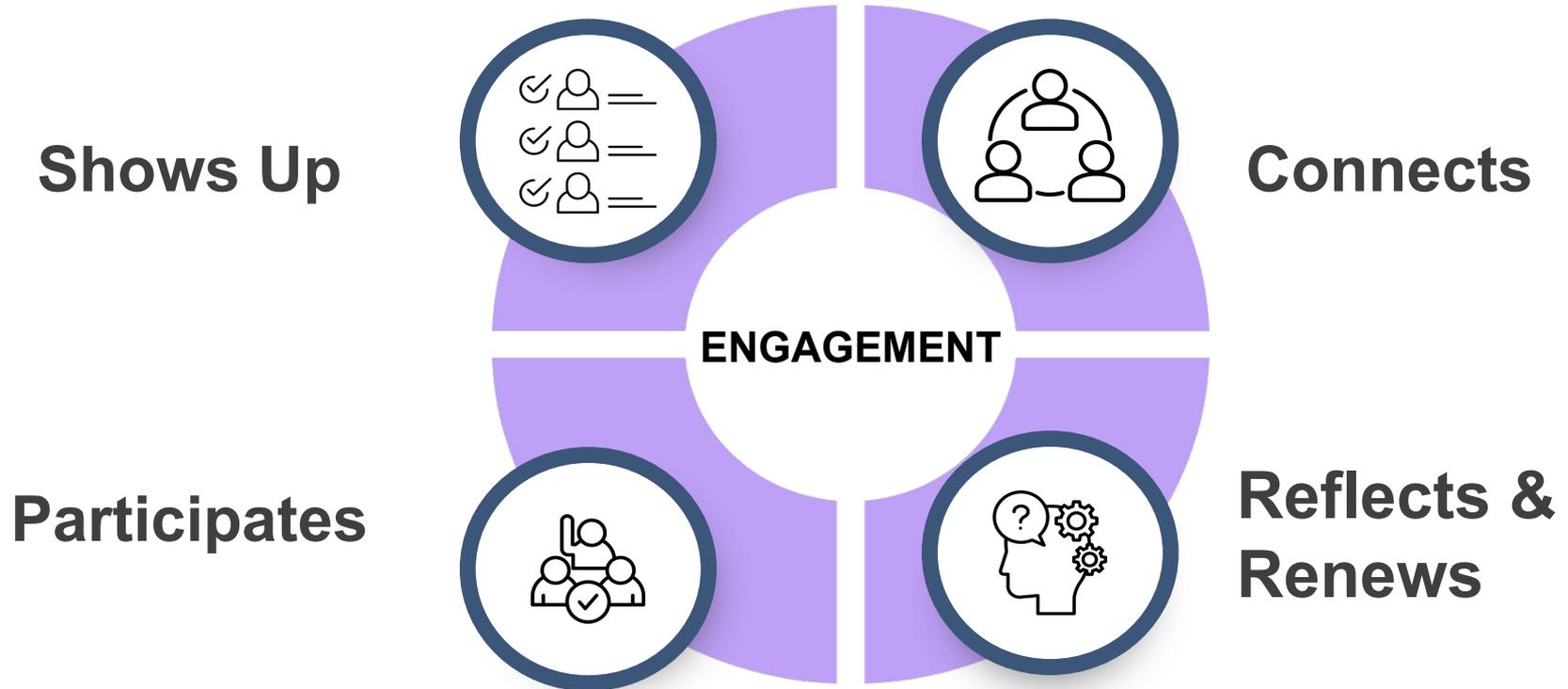
minutes
10

What do you want to contribute to a board,
and what do you want from the experience?

Optimal Service Value



The Engaged Board Member



Becoming An Effective Leader

Fundraising



Sustainability

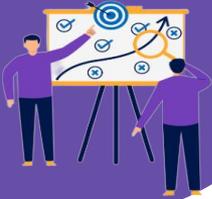


Advocacy



Becoming An Effective Leader

**Strategic
Thinker**



**High
Performance
Board Member**



Leader



Board Service Recap



What drives you to serve?

What mission and organization are good match?

Use your talents as an effective board member

Resources to Copy or Download:

[Board Service - Personal Interest Survey](#)

[Key Questions - When Considering Nonprofit Board Service](#)



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