



Organizations that provide support and training for women who want to be corporate directors and for women who are directors

There are many organizations that provide education, networking, and more to support women aspiring to join their first corporate board as well as women currently serving on public or private boards. For your convenience, we are listing a sampling of such organizations. This is by no means a complete list and we cannot vouch for their quality.

We note that while some are nonprofit ventures, others are for profit. The organizations target different niches and provide education ranging from how to get a board seat to continuing education for existing board members. Some also offer referrals to specific board seat openings or may provide access to an executive search firm. Price ranges for their offerings vary widely.

Finally, we suggest that those seeking corporate board seats be mentally prepared for a marathon and not a sprint. Getting your first seat may come easily if you know the right person, but it more likely will take diligent effort, even if you are fully qualified. Educational programs and certificates build your credibility, but they will not, on their own, be enough if you do not work the process in a disciplined way.



Table of Contents

1.	50/50 Women on Boards	3
2.	Anderson School Exec Education, UCLA.....	3
3.	Athena Alliance	4
4.	American College of Corporate Directors (ACCD)	4
5.	Better Boards Initiative	5
6.	Black Women on Boards	5
7.	Board Prospects	6
8.	Directors and Boards.....	6
9.	DirectWomen.....	6
10.	Harvard Business School exec education: Women on Boards course	7
11.	Him for Her	7
12.	Kellogg Exec Ed, Northwestern U: Women’s Director Development Program	8
13.	Latino Corporate Directors Association	8
14.	LinkedIn	9
15.	National Association of Corporate Directors	9
16.	Private Directors Association	10
17.	TheBoardList	10
18.	The Fourth Floor.....	11
19.	Thirty Percent Coalition.....	11
20.	Wharton, University of Pennsylvania – executive education: Women on Boards.....	12
21.	Women Corporate Directors	12
22.	Women Executive Leadership	13



1. 50/50 Women on Boards

[5050 Women On Boards \(5050wob.com\)](http://5050wob.com)

Description

50/50 Women on Boards is the leading global education and advocacy campaign driving the movement toward gender balance and diversity on corporate boards

Sample Programs

50/50 Women on Boards, prepares women to succeed as the next generation of directors. Resources include:

- **Networking Hub:** Peer to peer learning and resources include insights and best practices, interactive content with videos, case studies, thought leadership articles, reports, white papers and exclusive online events.
- **Board Fundamentals:** Learn board basics and how they operate - Interactive online course
- **Chart your Path:** Workshop is designed to boost confidence in communicating your unique value proposition.
- **Personal Brand:** Manage your reputation and create a brand strategy that tells your unique story for board candidacy.
- **Digital Presence:** Showcase your key leadership attributes and increase credibility to build meaningful board connections and elevate your board candidacy.
- **Get on Board:** Work with high-performing board members and build a roadmap for effective board service. In two afternoon sessions, build confidence and practice promoting yourself as a highly qualified board candidate among a diverse and supportive group of like-minded executive women.

2. Anderson School Exec Education, UCLA

[Anderson School Exec Education, UCLA](#)

Description

Targets senior Executives who are seeking to prepare for future board service and wish to expose themselves to a nuanced understanding of corporate governance strategy, financials, trends, and best practices

6-week live online program requiring 3-4 hours each week, last offered fall 2022; tuition \$4000

Sample Program

The current program is focused on three dimensions of board membership:



Developing your Board IQ - Understanding corporate board structure, roles, and committee responsibilities; deepening understanding of strategic goals, financial health, and ethical issues that the board faces. Case studies and first-hand accounts of board challenges will be presented.

Developing your Board EQ - Identify the persuasion and influence skills required to be an effective board member from the perspective of a woman in a male-dominated board environment.

Getting a Seat at the Table - Develop an individualized strategy and campaign for researching, positioning, and targeting board nominations. Special emphasis is placed on building networks and making connections, identifying expertise, and building a personal leadership brand.

3. Athena Alliance

[Home - Athena Alliance](#)

Description

Athena is a SaaS-based executive community that makes it easy and accessible for women leaders to learn from their peers. Athena delivers live and on-demand learning, coaching, networking, and access to career opportunities for the world's top women leaders. From preparing for a board seat or a career transition to scaling a company and growing your team, Athena members are one-degree separated from the most pressing business insights, connections to other leaders, and access to career-transforming opportunities.

Sample Programs

Membership includes access to coaching, salons, learning events, per groups and access to posted board openings. Fees range from \$2200 annually for membership to \$5500 for the accelerator.

4. American College of Corporate Directors (ACCD)

[American College of Corporate Directors](#)

Description

The American College of Corporate Directors™ is a networking, educational and credentialing organization for directors of publicly held companies. Its mission is to provide members with the highest standard of instruction, theory and practice surrounding the important, complex, and timely issues facing public companies today.

Sample Programs



ACCD offers a series of credentialing programs targeted toward different levels of tenure as a board member, from aspiring to first seat to many years of service. Charges are \$1500-\$2000 each.

ACCD also offers a “board ready” program consisting of personal coaching sessions to get ready to market yourself in this arena. Fees range from \$1600 - \$6000

5. Better Boards Initiative

Better Boards Initiative

Description

We draw upon our extensive board governance, leadership development and coaching experience informed by both experience and our ground-breaking research. We coach aspiring and new board members to contribute from day one. We consult with boards to create the culture and systems for better organizations and a better world.

Sample Programs

They recently release their first report: Advice to New Board Members. Based on interviews with 103 sitting corporate directors, this report has over 20 pages of actionable advice that would normally take years of hard-won experience from serving on boards. This report is now available. [READ IT HERE](#)

6. Black Women on Boards

Black Women on Boards

Description

Black Women on Boards (BWOB) is an organization that aims to remove the invisible obstacles that Black female executives face when pursuing board membership. Our comprehensive approach helps candidates build visibility, expand networks, prepare them for future board responsibilities, and gain sponsorships

Sample Programs

Members learn through regular meetings and special events, including workshops, webinars, individual coaching sessions, panel discussions and conferences. When board opportunities become available, we match candidates with businesses that offer the best fit, which in turn, propels these leaders as well as their companies to even greater success.



7. Board Prospects

[BoardProspects – Where Better Boards Are Built](#)

Description

BoardProspects is an exclusive community of board candidates, including c-suite executives, industry leaders, retired military leaders, university presidents and professors and current board members. These individuals join BoardProspects to network with one another, find the latest in corporate governance news and best practices, and avail themselves of highly compensated board recruitment opportunities. Corporations use BoardProspects to identify and recruit board members.

Individual Lifetime membership fee of \$500

8. Directors and Boards

[Directors and Boards | Company Leadership & Corporate Governance](#)

Descriptions

Directors & Boards is an information source in the field of corporate governance addressing immediate issues, news, and ideas in the corporate world.

Sample Programs

Directors and Boards offers conferences, webinars, magazine, and a newsletter. It includes a library of specific topic videos on its website.

9. DirectWomen

[Home - DirectWomen](#)

Description

Focus on female attorneys

Through its various programs, DirectWomen readies women attorney leaders for board service and serves as a resource for companies seeking qualified women board candidates.

Sample Programs

Board Institute: Each year DirectWomen identifies a small group of leading women lawyers from around the country to participate in the annual Board Institute based on an assessment of their ability to provide the experience, independence, and business judgment required for board effectiveness. The Board Institute provides working sessions designed to help participants develop their value proposition and personal board-search strategies.



10. Harvard Business School exec education: Women on Boards course

Harvard Business School

Description

An intensive on campus course designed specifically for top women executives, i.e., senior businesswomen who hold positions in large established companies ranging from division head to CEO—or who are retired from such positions, and Women in senior executive roles who currently sit on nonprofit or private boards who wish to serve on public corporate boards in any industry

Sample Programs

The week-long in-person program provides insight into navigating the board selection process and maximizing your success as a corporate director. Focused on the critical issues facing boards today, you will learn how to approach board selection strategically, raise your profile—and find your best match.

Tuition is \$13000.

Note that Harvard offers additional programs for current boards members

11. Him for Her

Him For Her

Description

Him For Her is a social impact venture aimed at accelerating diversity of both race and gender on corporate boards.

To bridge the network gap responsible for the sparsity of women in the boardroom, Him for Her engages business luminaries to connect the world's most talented "Hers" to board service.

Sample Programs

Him for Her offers webinars and roundtables for current and aspiring directors to demystify the boardroom and deepen board skills.

- Roundtable for networking and education
- Refers candidates to corporations
- Educational corporate programming
- Tracks diversity in private company boards



12. Kellogg Exec Ed, Northwestern U: Women's Director Development Program

Kellogg Center for Executive Women

Description

This highly customized program from the Kellogg Center for Executive Women provides a rigorous approach to corporate director training. You'll gain the skills you need to be an effective board member and practical tools for landing a seat at the table. In a collaborative atmosphere, you'll learn alongside other rising executive women.

Through one-on-one interactions with experienced directors, board advisors, senior Kellogg professors, and alums of this program currently sitting on corporate boards, you will discover how to make the leap onto nominating committees' radar screens, gain insight into choosing the right board opportunities for you and understand how to contribute meaningfully as a director.

This program is limited to women with specific business experience. You must receive approval from Kellogg to participate. This will require a completed Kellogg application and a recommendation from either your CEO or a sitting board member of your choice endorsing you as qualified for board opportunities.

3-days, in person; tuition \$11500

Note that Northwestern offers additional program related to board service.

13. Latino Corporate Directors Association

Home - Latino Corporate Directors Association

Description

LCDA is the national association of US Latino corporate board members that serve on publicly traded and large privately held company boards, as well as C-level and board-qualified executives. LCDA convenes US Latino executives at the highest levels of business leadership with the goal of promoting board diversity.

LCDA serves as an advocate and resource to corporate boards, search firms, private equity, and institutional investors interested in gaining access to exceptional Latino board talent.

Sample Programs

LCDA program areas focus on growing the supply of high-caliber boardroom candidates and providing quality corporate governance programming for experienced and aspiring directors.

Programs:



- **LCDEF's Board Ready Institute (BRI):** A comprehensive set of exclusive, in-person programs uniquely designed to prepare and position new and aspiring directors for boardroom success.
- **Board smart Online Service Webinar Series:** Offers LCDA director and aspiring director members timely discussions on governance matters, trending board topics, and tools to build their roadmap to the boardroom. Participants learn about the structure of boards within Federal Reserve Banks, Federal Home Loan Banks and Mutual Funds; the board member types and criteria for consideration; and gained practical tips on how LCDA members can position themselves for board service. LCDA is proactively working with the individual Federal Reserve Banks, the Council of Federal Home Loan Banks and their individual regional banks and Mutual Funds to serve as a resource to support their board diversity efforts, as well as connect them with exceptional executives.

14. LinkedIn

[LinkedIn](#)

This well-known site also provides an opportunity to you to search for new positions as a Board Member and Board Advisor. It appears that lists are more commonly posted by small or early stage companies.

Note: We recommend that your LinkedIn profile be a part of your board search branding effort.

15. National Association of Corporate Directors

[Home \(nacdonline.org\)](http://nacdonline.org)

Description

NACD arms today's directors and aspiring directors with insights and education that drive their mission forward, while preparing a new generation of boardroom leaders to meet tomorrow's biggest challenges.

Base membership fees are currently \$1400+ annually

Sample Programs

NACD delivers more than 400 programs annually nationwide that help ensure today's directors are well prepared for tomorrow's challenges.

The NACD Certification Program NACD Accelerate™ is a unique two-year program that creates a pathway for executives with little or no experience in the boardroom to prepare for board service. Participants will be provided with the tools, resources, and exposure that are essential to launching a successful career as a director. NACD



Accelerate™ is the only NACD program that does not require current board service. Current fee for 2-year certification program is \$5700.

16. Private Directors Association

[Home \(privatedirectorsassociation.org\)](http://privatedirectorsassociation.org)

Description

The close to 3,000 members of the nonprofit PDA support the mission of advocating for and teaching board formation and governance, enhancing private company value through high-performing boards, supporting the value of diverse and inclusive boards, and creating a national alliance of directors, executives, and private company owners interested in board service to learn, to network, and to identify and attract exceptional board members.

Individual member is \$350 annually

Sample Programs

The nonprofit PDA offers a range of rigorous [virtual and self-paced educational certification courses](#) coupled with mentoring programs where participants are paired with experienced private company directors.

PDA provides access to [thought leadership content](#), webinars, white papers, blogs, and podcasts delivered in-person or virtually across various topics essential to board governance. The program also includes a membership advisor, self-paced courses in governance for private company boards, ESOP boards, and private equity owned portfolio companies, plus webinars, hosted podcasts, access to several [global board recruitment services and platforms](#).

Certifications include courses on private company governance, ESOP boards, and private equity portfolio companies.

17. TheBoardList

[About | theBoardlist](#)

Description

Focus in on filling board candidate openings through a robust database, matching, and screening.

The organization's goal is to help companies create full and true representation in their leadership, so that they can better serve their customers, employees, and communities. With that in mind, it is not only a natural extension for theBoardlist to include all underrepresented minorities, regardless of gender, but an imperative. Whether you are an aspiring board director, looking for great board talent to join your board or know diverse candidates that you think boards should meet, we welcome you to join us in our mission.



Fees to search database of candidates are paid by the corporation, on a by search, or monthly basis. \$5000 for a single position search; \$15000 for an unlimited annual subscription.

Sample Programs

Board readiness coaching costs \$750 for 2 30-minute sessions

Board riser accelerator (small cohort) is \$5000 per seat

18. The Fourth Floor

The Fourth Floor

Description

The Fourth Floor's mission is to build a community dedicated to increasing the number of women on boards and cap tables of women-led startups so we can initiate and advance for profit board careers and investment portfolios, empower women entrepreneurs and ensure women's access to capital.

Membership levels range from free to \$1300 annually.

Sample Programs

The Fourth Floor is a market network for women founders, board candidates and investors:

- **Founders:** Find advisors, build out your boards & network with investors.
- **Board Candidates:** Find your opportunity to serve on a board & angel invest.
- **Investors:** Find deal flow and network with LPs

19. Thirty Percent Coalition

Welcome - Thirty Percent Coalition (30percentcoalition.org)

Description

The mission of the Thirty Percent Coalition is to advocate for diversity on corporate boards and in senior leadership, promoting women and people of color. Leveraging its nearly 100 public, private, nonprofit, investor, and government members, the Coalition is committed to the goal of women, including women of color, holding 30% or more of board seats across public companies.

Sample Programs

The Coalition's work is done through several committees such as corporate partners/Chief Diversity Officers, private equity firms, institutional investors that reach out to companies with no women on their boards, and state treasurers who advocate for best corporate governance policies. and public policy. These groups meet on a regular basis to review, refine and implement strategies



Many of the Coalition's members provide programs to assist women in seeking board positions. These organizations provide talent resources to companies, challenging the idea that qualified female board candidates are in short supply.

Organizations include Ascend - Pinnacle, Boston Club, Catalyst, Direct Woman, Diverse Director Data Source - 3D, Diversified Search, Diversity in Boardrooms, HACR -The HQ Companies, Latino Corp. Director Association, Women Business Leaders of the US. Healthcare Industry, Women in the Boardroom, Women's Leadership Foundation.

20. Wharton, University of Pennsylvania – executive education: Women on Boards

[Women on Boards: Building Exceptional Leaders - Wharton Executive Education \(upenn.edu\)](#)

Description

This is an intensive 5-day course, available live online. This program is designed for distinguished senior-level female executives who aspire to serve on a corporate board or have recently been nominated. Specifically, • C-suite level executives (CEO, CFO, CHRO, CSO) who are board-facing • Partners at accounting, consulting, and law firms • Recently retired or preparing for retirement and seeking opportunities to serve on a board • Successful entrepreneurs with a business track record or leaders of long-standing family firms or large nonprofits who aspire to serve on a corporate board.

Tuition is currently \$7800

Sample Programs

In this program you will learn how to identify the boards that are best for you, become knowledgeable about the fundamental obligations of directors, and discover the right questions to ask when executing your corporate governance duties. You will also acquire proven strategies and tools to enhance your professional resume and market yourself successfully to nomination committees, search firms, and corporate board consultants.

Note that Wharton offer additional courses targeting best practices for board service

21. Women Corporate Directors

[Welcome to WCD - US Chapters \(womencorporatedirectors.org\)](#)

Description

WCD members serve on thousands of boards across six continents. WCD members include CEOs, board chairmen, lead directors, C-suite executives, board members, and heads of global divisions in the major indices such as S&P 500, FTSE 250, DAX, Nikkei, and beyond.



Sample Programs

In addition to robust programs for current board members, WCD offers Board Next which is designed for experienced, highly qualified, board-ready women which offers educational programming, informational resources and peer group support to navigate the path to their first public corporate board. BoardNext members gain access to select WCD resources, education, networking opportunities, and search firm executives.

Direct is a new series of live virtual programming developed to inform, inspire, and connect our global community of members.

22. Women Executive Leadership

[Wel Florida Women Executive Leadership \(WEL\) - Wel Florida](#)

Description

The mission of the non-profit Women Executive Leadership is to promote gender diversity on corporate boards and in the executive suite by advocating, educating, and connecting accomplished Leaders.

Membership fees range from \$375 - \$1400/year

Sample Programs

WEL offers Digital Learning, In-Person Events, Podcasts and Workshops to create strategic connections and provide relevant education and networking opportunities.