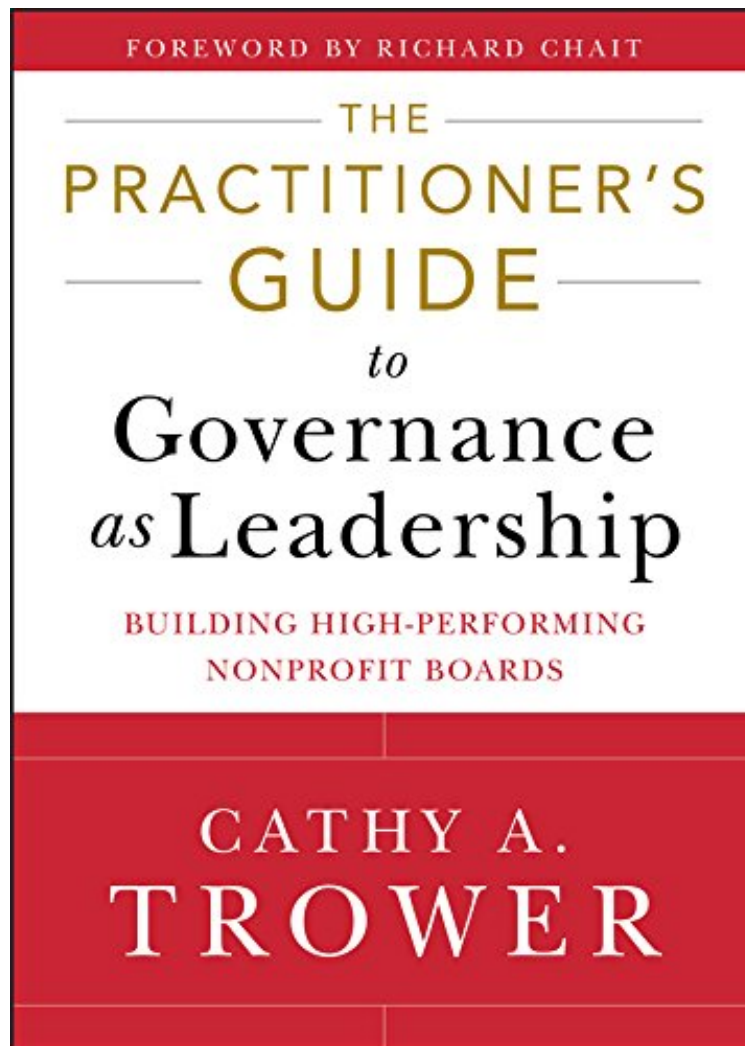


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# The Practitioner's Guide to Governance as Leadership: Building High-Performing Nonprofit Boards

*Cathy A. Trower*

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**Cathy A. Trower : The Practitioner's Guide to Governance as Leadership: Building High-Performing Nonprofit Boards** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Practitioner's Guide to Governance as Leadership: Building High-Performing Nonprofit Boards:

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principles.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very practicalBy JillSIt's a text book for me, but is impressive with practical steps and case studies to put governance as leadership into practice in my organization.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like the writing styleBy Rose V.Very informative and current information. I like the writing style, it is easy to comprehend.

Praise for *The Practitioner's Guide to Governance as Leadership* "With wisdom and insight, Trower has written the seminal guide for nonprofit boards. This is a must-read for every current and incoming nonprofit board member." —Joel Allison, president and CEO, Baylor Health Care System "For nonprofit chief executives who are ready for more engaged and purposeful boards and for board members who want to work more meaningfully and be true partners in leadership, Trower shows the way. She brings *Governance as Leadership* to life with case studies, theoretical frameworks, board exercises, and practical advice." —Susan Whealler Johnston, executive vice president, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) "It has never been more critical than it is today for nonprofits to engage their boards in ways that capture the full talent, experience and resources of those who govern the work. Yet, too often, we see organizations facing a substantial board-engagement gap. In this book, Trower shares the pathway forward for nonprofit and philanthropic leaders seeking to transform their boards in ways that will have an exponential impact on everything from strategy to fundraising. I've learned much from Trower's work on board leadership over the years—I'm thrilled she's now sharing it broadly through this valuable new resource for our sector." —Robert B. Acton, executive director NY, Taproot Foundation "At BoardSource, we value *Governance as Leadership* as a groundbreaking publication that has helped thousands of board leaders view governance in a new way. With this new book, Trower has taken on the important task of connecting the dots back to the boardroom, where nonprofits of all sizes are struggling with leading their organizations through these challenging times ... she deftly combines business, psychological, and sociological principles to help board members examine their own thought processes and raise the level of thinking and discourse in the boardroom." —Linda C. Crompton, president and CEO, BoardSource

From the Inside Flap*The Practitioner's Guide to Governance as Leadership* offers a resource that shows how to achieve excellence and peak performance in the boardroom by putting into practice the groundbreaking model that was introduced in the book, *Governance as Leadership*. This proven model of effective governance explores how to attain proficiency in three governance modes or mindsets: fiduciary, strategic, and generative. Throughout the book, author Cathy Trower offers an understanding of the *Governance as Leadership* model through a wealth of illustrative examples of high-performing nonprofit boards. She explores the challenges of implementing governance as leadership and suggests ideas for getting started and overcoming barriers to progress. In addition, Trower provides practical guidance for optimizing the practices that will improve organizational performance including: flow (high skill and high purpose), discernment, deliberation, divergent thinking, insight, meaningfulness, consequence to the organization, and integrity. In short, the book is a combination of sophisticated thinking, instructive vignettes, illustrative documents, and practical recommendations. The book includes concrete strategies that can help improve critical thinking in the boardroom, a board's overall performance as a team, as well as information for creating a strong governance culture and understanding what is required of an effective CEO and a chairperson. To determine a board's fitness and help the members move forward, the book contains three types of assessments: board members evaluate each other; individual board member assessments; and an overall team assessment. This practitioner's guide is written for nonprofit board members, chief executives, senior staff members, and anyone who wants to reflect on governance, discern how to govern better, and achieve higher performance in the process.

About the Author CATHY A. TROWER, PhD, is president of Trower Trower, Inc., a board governance consulting firm founded in 1998. Formerly a senior research associate at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, Cathy is nationally known for her expertise on board policies and best practices, leadership, organizational change, strategic thinking, group dynamics, faculty diversity/workplace satisfaction, and shared governance. She is in high demand as a speaker, consultant, coach, and advisor to boards and executives.