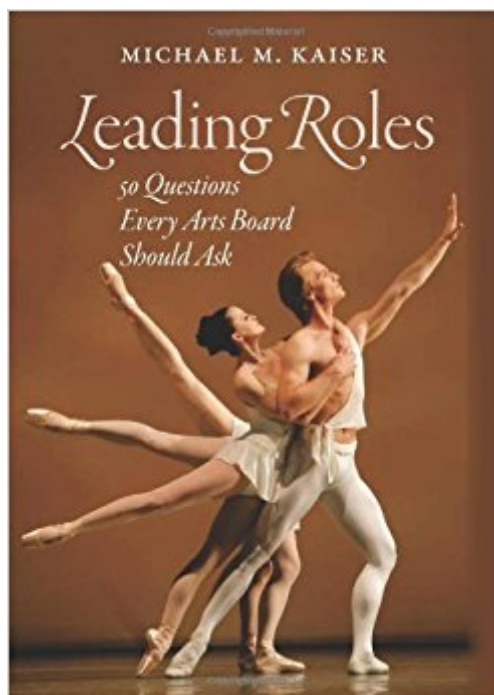


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Leading Roles: 50 Questions Every Arts Board Should Ask



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

I've read Michael Kaiser's writings and seen videos of his presentations, and he presents a thoughtful and extremely helpful perspective for arts organizations. I was really disappointed that the Kindle version of this book has no Table of Contents. Basically you have to either wade through the book to find what you want, or go back on and look at the TOC that is shown with the hard copy of the book.

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 other's 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.

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.

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.

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