CUP IS SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically under-represented communities.

We seek board members interested in and excited about our work, and who are invested in addressing issues of social and racial justice. Previous board service is not required; we are looking for individuals with skills, perspectives, and networks that can help increase our capacity and the impact of our work.

Currently, we have openings for board members in two areas of expertise. We are seeking:

A Board Member with legal expertise, particularly around intellectual property to:

- Help CUP develop robust policies and practices around our creative work, including securing appropriate legal protections for our intellectual property
- Work with Executive Director to strategize around new ventures and structuring appropriate partnerships as we expand our programming
- Work with Board and ED to identify areas in need of further development

Board Member with in non-profit management and/or human resources expertise to:

- Help CUP continue to develop its organizational capacity, especially around internal policies and procedures, ensuring we have the right level of structure as the organization grows
- Work with ED and Board to help the organization strategically prepare for growth
- Work with ED to continue to develop organizational human resources capacity, including creating more robust practices, securing external support where needed, and identifying short and long-term HR priorities and implementation strategies
- Work with Board Internal Committee to identify short and long term goals around areas in need of development

CUP is committed to addressing issues of inequity in our work and as such we seek board members from historically under-represented communities, including people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ, disabled candidates, and others who may contribute to the diversification of ideas. CUP is also committed to age and economic diversity.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and current resume to: info@welcometocup.org, with the subject, Board. The deadline is Tuesday, May 1st at 12 Noon Eastern. No calls please.

CUP strongly encourages people of color, women, LGBTQ individuals, people with disabilities, and others who may contribute to the diversification of ideas to apply.
About CUP

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. CUP collaborates with designers, educators, advocates, students, and communities to make educational tools that demystify complex policy and planning issues.

We believe that increasing understanding of how these systems work is the first step to better, more equitable, and more diverse community participation. CUP projects are collaborations of art and design professionals, community based advocates and policymakers, and our staff. Together we take on complex issues—from the juvenile justice system to zoning law to food access—and break them down into simple, accessible, visual explanations.

The tools we create are used by organizers and educators all over New York City and beyond to help their constituents better advocate for their own community needs. For more information, see CUP’s website at welcometocup.org.

About CUP’s Board

The Board supports the work of CUP and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by CUP’s Executive Director (ED), the Board-ED relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected. Service on CUP’s Board is without remuneration.

Board Member responsibilities include:

- Leadership, governance, and oversight
- Serving as a trusted advisor to the ED as s/he develops and implements CUP’s strategic plan
- Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by CUP for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics
- Approving CUP’s annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contributing to annual performance evaluation of ED
- Contributing to organizational fundraising efforts, including meeting the Board give/get requirement (see below)
- Attend quarterly Board meetings in New York City, and attending CUP events throughout the year
- Assisting the ED and Board Chair in identifying and recruiting other Board Members
- Partnering with the ED and other Board Members to ensure that Board resolutions are carried out
- Serving on at least one designated committee, and taking on special assignments as needed
- Representing CUP to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organization
• Ensuring CUP’s commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities CUP serves
• Reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings

Fundraising

CUP Board Members will consider CUP a philanthropic priority and make annual gifts that reflect that priority. So that CUP can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, CUP expects to have 100% of Board Members make an annual contribution that is commensurate with their capacity. Each Board Member is expected to give or raise a minimum of $2,500 per year.

Board terms/participation

CUP’s Board Members serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment for additional terms. Board meetings are held quarterly and committee meetings are held in coordination with full Board meetings. Board members are expected to attend a minimum of 3 of 4 quarterly Board meetings each year. Board members are asked to attend several CUP events per year, including the annual fundraising gala.

Qualifications

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about CUP’s mission and who has a track record of board work or related activities. His/her accomplishments will allow him/her to attract other well-qualified, high performing Board Members.

Ideal candidates will meet the following qualifications:
• Professional experience with leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector
• A commitment to and understanding of CUP’s beneficiaries and partners, preferably based on experience
• Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals
• Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of CUP’s beneficiaries and partners
• A commitment to social justice