

Recommended Reading & Viewing for Boards

These curated books, documentaries, and films can enrich board retreats, deepen group reflection, and strengthen your shared leadership. Each offers a lens into purpose, power, equity, strategy or culture in ways that are accessible and catalytic.

Books for Board Insight

- The Culturally Conscious Board – Russell West & Jennifer Jukanovich | Centering equity, voice, and culture in boardroom dynamics.
- Forces for Good – Leslie Crutchfield & Heather McLeod Grant | A research-based study of what high-impact nonprofits do differently.
- The Art of Gathering – Priya Parker | How intentional design transforms meetings into meaningful, results-driven experiences.
- Nonprofit Lifecycles – Susan Kenny Stevens | Helps boards recognize and respond to their organization's stage of growth.
- Leadership and the New Science – Margaret Wheatley | Reframes leadership through complexity, systems, and self-organizing behaviors.

Films & Documentaries for Retreats

- The Social Dilemma (Netflix) | Explores the ethics of tech platforms—great for governance discussions on mission integrity and public trust.
- Won't You Be My Neighbor? | Profiles Mr. Rogers and models values-driven leadership and gentleness in civic life.
- The Call to Courage – Brené Brown (Netflix) | Invites vulnerability, clarity of values, and honest leadership—ideal for board culture reflections.
- American Factory (Netflix) | A cross-cultural look at labor, power, and corporate values—useful for boards addressing economic justice or workforce development.
- 13th – Ava DuVernay | Unpacks systemic racial injustice through a constitutional lens—important context for equity-focused boards.

Board Take-Away

- Consider selecting one reading or film in advance of your next board retreat, using it as a shared lens to prompt reflection, connection, and renewed commitment to mission and impact.
- Recommend and curate your own resource and learning tools for board mission moments, board culture shaping and trend/issue awareness and enhanced decision-making in your sector.
- Reduce each resource to one action a board can contemplate and contextualize to enhance its decision-making quality.