

# Generative Thinking

*Incorporating Strategic Thought into Board Meetings*

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### *Incorporating Strategic Thought into Board Meetings:*

**Do your best conversations about board work happen AFTER the meeting? Do the ideas flow when you're in the parking lot, and NOT in the board room? Start scheduling time on the agenda for these conversations. Boards need not wait until the annual retreat to begin to think strategically. High functioning boards plan this into regularly scheduled board meetings. Here are four questions to get your board in the process of generative thinking. Use them all at once, or use one at each of your next four board meetings.**

**Facilitation Idea: Consider writing each question at the top of four flip charts posted in four corners of a room. Groups of 3-4 board members rotate to each question, recording their responses. Have each group rotate to each question for 5 minutes. Board members can then go back to their original question, and circle the common responses from the other groups. This activity helps the work of the board remain relevant, and allows the "parking lot conversations" to benefit the entire board.**

- Question 1: What are your personal aspirations for our community?
- Question 2: What is the public perception of our organization?
- Question 3: What should some of our top priorities be over the next year?
- Question 4: What challenges do we need to overcome to be successful?

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