



**Debate.
Grow.
Transform.
Lead.**

Governing Board

Amanda Amert
Kesner Bienvenu
Daniel Clary
John Hammond
David Nadig
Marguerite Dixen

Mandee R. Polonsky
Anders Wick
Eli Kay-Oliphant
Johnni Rodgers
Chris Buzachero
Chris Wheat

Dr. Toinette Gunn
Executive Director

Board of Directors Responsibilities, Qualifications and Commitments

Vision & Mission

We envision a world in which Chicago youth are empowered to build their voice, succeed in college and career, and become leaders in their community. Our mission is to bring our vision to life by advancing the educational achievement, community contributions, and life success of Chicago's youth through the transformative power of academic debate.

Board Overview

Members of Chicago Debates Board of Directors are committed to the mission of the organization, are actively involved in shared board responsibilities and assume individual duties and obligations. In all actions, decisions and activities, members of the Board of Directors support the mission of Chicago Debates and work for its growth and success.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

- Determine and articulate the organization's vision and mission.
- Select, support, and evaluate the Chief Executive ensuring that s/he has the assistance needed to further the goals of the organization.
- Ensure effective organizational planning.
- Monitor and strengthen the organization's programs and services.
- Ensure adequate financial resources through fund development activities.
- Protect assets and provide financial oversight.
- Recruit prospective Board members to build a competent and diverse board.
- Ensure the Board of Directors has the necessary skills, competencies and connections to ensure the organization's success and sustainability.
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity.
- Articulate and enhance the organization's public image.
- Assess its own performance as the governing body of Chicago Debates.

Board Member Requirements

- Commitment to the Chicago Debates mission.
- Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of serving on the Board.
- Familiarize self with programs and services in order to articulate them to the community.
- Contribute skills, expertise, knowledge and experience.
- Actively serve on at least one committee.

- Actively support the fundraising activities of the organization, specifically with a \$10,000 Give or Get.
- Serve as advocates and ambassadors for Chicago Debates and fully engage in identifying and securing the financial resources and partnerships necessary for Chicago Debates to advance its mission.
- Leverage connections, networks, and resources to develop collective action to fully achieve Chicago Debates' mission.
- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in all quarterly board meetings and applicable committee meetings.
- Attend at least two Chicago Debates events each year (other than Board and committee meetings), including the annual luncheon.
- Identify individuals as prospects for service on the Board or its committees.
- Maintain confidentiality about all internal matters related to the Chicago Debates.
- Be accessible, in person, by phone or by email, to the Board, its President, committee members and the Executive Director.
- Sign a conflict of interest statement annually and to avoid all conflicts and the appearance of conflicts.
- Fulfill commitments within agreed-upon deadlines.