



**Board Member Role
Description: Overview
of Terms, Culture &
Recruitment**



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Do you know someone who would be a good fit for the Yoga Alliance Board?

Visit the [Yoga Alliance Boards of Directors Recruitment page](#) to get started.



Mission and Vision

Yoga Alliance (YA) is a global, non-profit membership organization with a mission to advance the evolving profession of yoga teaching and broader connected community of students, individuals, and businesses by supporting the professional growth and development of yoga schools and teachers. Its related public charity, the Yoga Alliance Foundation, is an emerging field leader with a mission to leverage yoga for social impact, and foster an expansive, accessible, and equitable yoga community.

Together, these two organizations support yoga professionals to grow into their role more fully as leaders in their communities with a shared vision in which our collective wellbeing and human consciousness is elevated through equitable access to high-quality teaching and practice of yoga.

Learn more about Yoga Alliance's vision of crafting a bolder more compassionate world, grounded in yoga in the [2024-2030 Strategic Plan](#).



Overview of Board Service





Term Length

The term for a Director shall be three (3) years. A Director may be re-elected to serve up to two (2) consecutive terms; however, after completion of any two (2) consecutive terms, a Director must not serve as a member of the board for a period of at least three (3) years. [You can read more in the bylaws.](#)

Regular Meeting Cadence

Under the organizations' bylaws, board meetings are held quarterly each year. Spring and Autumn meetings are traditionally held in-person over an extended weekend near our headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Summer and Winter meetings are typically held remotely via zoom. Membership requires attendance at each quarterly Board meeting.

Committee Service

Each board member is expected to serve on one (1) committee. Under the current bylaws the standing committees are as follows: Executive, Finance, Audit, and Governance. Each committee meets two to six times per year between regular meetings.

Additional Duties

In addition to attendance at the regular board meetings and committee service, board members may be asked if they are interested in volunteering for particular ad hoc committees or working groups for a specific project.



Term Length

The term for a Director shall be 18 months. A Director may be re-elected to serve up to two (2) consecutive terms; however, after completion of any two (2) consecutive terms, a Director must not serve as a member of the board for a period of at least 18 months. [You can read more in the bylaws.](#)

Regular Meeting Cadence

Under the organizations' bylaws, board meetings are held quarterly each year. Spring and Autumn meetings are traditionally held in-person over an extended weekend near our headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Summer and Winter meetings are typically held remotely via zoom. Membership requires attendance at each quarterly Board meeting.

Committee Service

Under the current bylaws, the only standing committee is the Executive Committee. Other committees, particularly around fundraising/development, may be formed and meet quarterly. Members will be asked to serve on one (1) committee.

Additional Duties

In addition to attendance at the regular board meetings and committee service, board members may be asked to if they are interested in volunteering for particular ad hoc committees or working groups for a specific project.



Overview of Board Service

Yoga Alliance vs. Yoga Alliance Foundation Service

In our search for dedicated board members, we embrace a comprehensive approach to selection. We encourage potential candidates to understand that the application is not for a specific board, but for a position where their unique skills can best serve the collective needs of both Yoga Alliance and Yoga Alliance Foundation. Our commitment is to assemble a diverse and dynamic slate of candidates that embodies the full spectrum of expertise and perspectives required to guide each board effectively.

Applicants should be open to the possibility of serving on either board, where their contributions will be most impactful. This process is designed to ensure that personal aspirations align with the broader objectives of our organizations, fostering a culture of selfless service and strategic governance.



Overview of Board Service

Governance versus Management

At Yoga Alliance and Yoga Alliance Foundation, our boards of directors are the embodiment of governance and strategic oversight. Serving on our board is an opportunity to be a steward to the worldwide yoga community, ensuring alignment with our long-term vision defined in the 2024-2030 Yoga Alliance strategic plan.

As a governance board, we focus on the big picture, setting policies and defining goals that reflect our commitment to the yoga tradition and its future. We do not manage day-to-day operations; instead, we empower our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and their skilled management teams. The board's work is planned methodically throughout the year and divided at the committee level. Our culture is one of trust and conscious participation to build a healthy board where the diversity of each member's contribution is valued.



Overview of Board Service

Board Member Benefits

While serving on our board is an unpaid volunteer position, members gain invaluable experiences and benefits, including:

- Professional development through leadership roles and governance training;
- Opportunities to network with thought leaders in the yoga community;
- The fulfillment of contributing to the global advancement of yoga;
- Reimbursement of all travel expenses to the in-person board meetings.

Conflict of Interest

Whenever a director or officer has a potential, actual, or appearance of conflict of interest in any matter coming before the board, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest, and b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any person who has served as a director of Yoga Alliance or Yoga Alliance Foundation shall, during their tenure and for a period of two (2) years after the date of the termination of their tenure as a director, be ineligible to provide goods or services of any kind to the Yoga Alliance or Yoga Alliance Foundation.



Overview of Board Service

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

At Yoga Alliance, we value a diverse board and a culture of inclusivity and belonging.

We encourage applications from all individuals without regard to an individual's race, color, sex, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, family care status, marital status, domestic partner status, sexual orientation, genetic information, military or veteran status, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local laws. Women, Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.

Onboarding and Orientation

New board members will engage in an orientation from fourth quarter 2024 through first quarter 2025 to support them in understanding our organizations' structure, strategic plan, procedures, and board culture. They will be integrated into OnBoard, our board management software, which helps organize our contact information, meeting calendars and materials, resource folders, term tracking, messages, and actions (such as surveys, online votes, etc.). Ongoing training opportunities are also provided to support board members in their governance roles and personal development within the organization.



Overview of Board Service

Recruitment Skills

Yoga Alliance and Yoga Alliance Foundation Boards of Directors are very intentional about who we are seeking to recruit and have identified the following skills and attributes as priorities for recruitment for the incoming cohort of board members. (We do not expect any single candidate to demonstrate all these qualities):

- Knowledge of Yoga tradition: Honoring the ancient texts, land, and culture which yoga originates from, knowledge of various traditions, and the ability to combine spiritual guidance with business acumen in daily living
- Mental health expertise: A mental health professional.
- Finance acumen: Proficiency in interpreting nonprofit financial statements
- Legal background: Legal professional with knowledge of nonprofit law, compliance, policy development and/or crisis management
- Fundraising expertise: Proven fundraising skills and willingness to support with donor outreach to meet goals
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI): Individuals with a strong record of accomplishment in DEI initiatives.
- Connectors & Networks: An established leader with a decade of experience in the yoga/business/nonprofit sector to enhance outreach and networking.



Overview of Board Service

Call to Action: Nomination and Application

We are looking to fill up to 8 positions on our boards of directors. These directors will serve on the Yoga Alliance and/or Yoga Alliance Foundation governing bodies.

Nomination

We invite you to nominate someone you believe would be a valuable addition to our boards. To nominate someone, complete the provided [nomination form](#). Once submitted, we will be reaching out to your nominee encouraging them to take the next step in this process by completing an application.

Application

For those who have been nominated or wish to apply, we have an [application form](#) ready to capture more detailed information about your background and qualifications.

We are grateful to those willing to volunteer their time and experience to help ensure safe, accessible, and equitable yoga practices are available to all who wish to practice.

Learn more about board recruitment and how to get started at: https://www.yogaalliance.org/About_Us/Boards_of_Directors/2024_Board_Nominations

Or contact Kevin James Karas, Board Governance Manager, at kkaras@yogaalliance.org