

# The Four Roles of Directors



## Decider

Decide on policy, plan, review, etc.

Decision will often resolve outstanding issue that has passed through the explorer or advisor phase, or of standard governance.

Formerly known as “The Monitor”

## Advisor

Provide guidance, direction, input or experience on internal & external organizational issues. Topic may require decision.

Bring their ‘best selves’ to the table – not every board member is required to advise on every issue.

Have strong understanding of the context, strategy, and operations.

## Explorer

Engage in discussion on issues (often external) concerning organization.

Given background info via presentations, pre-reads, or experiences.

Exploration is structured, and best done if questions are sent in advance.

Effective conversations happen over more than a single meeting.

\*Exploring is not speculating\*

## Ambassador

Perform service on behalf of organization outside of standard role.

Example: advocate with funders or government, donate, open, introduce prospects, steward, promote mission/impact, participate in events, etc.

In this role, board members most often act as volunteers rather than board members.