SELF-EVALUATION
Take some time for self-reflection. What are your passions? What stirs your soul? What can you contribute to make an organization better? Can you contribute time, energy, or make a financial commitment to support an organization? Write down ideas of the types of issues you want to engage in.

SEEK
Look for organizations that match your interests. Ask friends and co-workers for ideas. Do a Google search. There are many places doing work that is meaningful to you. Find them!

RESEARCH
Once you’ve found an organization or two that meets your criteria, find out everything you can about them. Places you can learn more about organizations include:

- The organization’s website
- News articles or blogs
- Charity Navigator
- GuideStar
- Past and current volunteers and/or board members
- Visit the organization and observe who/what they do

CONTACT
After you’ve done your research, reach out to the organization’s executive director, CEO, or board president. Ask to meet with them and learn more about who they want to serve on their board. Tell them about your passions, and what you can bring to enhance their work.

VOLUNTEER
Not ready to serve on the board? Ask about volunteer opportunities or other ways you can get involved.

APPLY
Mindfully and thoughtfully, apply for board membership following the organization’s requirements. Be sure you are comfortable with the time, work, and financial commitment necessary to be a board member.

SERVE
Be prepared for meetings, and follow through on commitments. Look for new opportunities to learn and grow the work of your organization. Be a great ambassador. Above all, have fun!