

Inspiring Communities Board Member Job Description

Our Vision: Our vision is an Aotearoa where all communities are at the centre of creating and implementing change to improve their own hauora (wellbeing).

Our Mission: To build a platform for successful CLD in Aotearoa at both community and system level.

Background

Inspiring Communities exists to increase the capacity and capability of communities to thrive through community-led change. Since 2008 we have championed New Zealand's growing community-led development (CLD) movement. As a small, highly effective national organisation, we operate across sectors and levels, currently engaging and supporting a network of 4800 people, groups, and organisations across Aotearoa.

Through our key strategic roles (building capability, evolving knowledge, influencing change), we have effectively built momentum for CLD in Aotearoa. Our work focuses on promoting and catalysing locally-led change efforts and enabling systems changes that will better support local communities.

In terms of organisational structure, Inspiring Communities is supported by a Board of CLD passionate people from across Aotearoa and a team of contracted CLD specialists based in different parts of the country. We undertake a broad range of grant funded and enterprise activities to support our strategic goals, with around 40-50% of income typically generated from non-grants funded sources. Our consultancy arm Powerdigm, plays a key role supporting both our revenue generation and strategic influencing aims.

Inspiring Communities Board

Inspiring Communities is governed by a Trust Deed which makes provision for up to 9 Trustees from across Aotearoa, New Zealand.

As part of the Inspiring Communities organisational refresh of 2024, the Board agreed to move toward a membership structure with 6-7 members, that will include a dedicated position for tangata whenua, and the aspiration for at least 3 members to be Māori, a position for a Powerdigm representative and a position for a member from the CLD training contractors. Other positions will be filled with diversity of skills and backgrounds.

The Board provides a governance oversight to the organisation to:

- set of an effective strategic direction and budget for the organisation;
- ensure activities undertaken align with our overall vision, mission and goals;

- approve an annual plan and budget making best use of our resources;
- uphold our commitment to Te Tiriti and ensure this is reflected conceptually, structurally and practically in what we do; and
- ensure appropriate financial management practices are followed.

Board Member Role

As an Inspiring Communities Board member, there is an expectation that you will:

- actively participate in all meetings – share your perspective and expertise
- share information with networks and open doors – help expand the reach of Inspiring Communities and its consultancy arm Powerdigm, by sharing information through your networks, and where appropriate, make connections to help advance the work of Inspiring Communities
- be a good advocate – being a champion for CLD and Inspiring Communities in your networks and communities
- identify opportunities – be proactive in connecting the Inspiring Communities team to new opportunities or by sharing new information or ideas
- honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi – support Inspiring Communities’ ongoing journey to be an effective Tāngata Tiriti organisation

Meeting Commitments

The board meets every 2 months online and once a year for a full day face to face hui. Online meetings are typically 1.5-2 hours, while the kanohi ki te kanohi strategic meetings are full day.

Board members are expected to actively participate in discussion and decision-making processes. This means reviewing papers in advance, asking appropriate questions and thinking strategically about our goals, future opportunities and the changing environment around both the organisation and the national movement we’re supporting.

From time to time there may also be matters the Board wishes to discuss and progress by email, but most of the Board’s effort is focused around the scheduled meetings.

