

Talking About a Bucket List

Essentially a bucket list is another way of prioritizing action and activities, for a person or a nonprofit. Even the “countdown” association it has assumed can offer a hypothetical for ranking goals and highlighting accomplishments to aim for first.

Use these talking points for considering what your nonprofit’s bucket list might be.

Achieving Vision

- What’s in your organization’s vision statement and how are you working to realize that vision?
- What vision-related goal(s) or achievement(s) would you include on your organization’s bucket list?
- If your nonprofit lacks a vision statement, make creating one a point on the bucket list.

Building a Strong Board

- How well prepared is your board to lead your organization into the future?
- What board-development goal(s) or achievement(s) would you include on a bucket list?
- If your nonprofit lacks a diverse board, consider achieving greater diversity as a point on the bucket list.

Developing Partnerships

- How do you work with donors to build ongoing partnerships rather than one-time or occasional gifts?
- What fundraising-related goal(s) or achievement(s) would you include on a bucket list?
- If your organization operates with a tin-cup fundraising philosophy, consider getting out of crisis-driven mode as a point on the bucket list.

Ensuring Capacity

- How do you describe your organization’s effectiveness?
- What capacity-related goal(s) or achievement(s) would you include on a bucket list?
- If organizational effectiveness could be improved, brainstorm for ways to increase capacity and add the best ideas to the bucket list.

Assessing Impact

- How does your organization impact those it serves?
- What impact-related goal(s) or achievement(s) would you include on a bucket list?
- If you haven’t already, consider your nonprofit work and its place on your own personal or professional bucket list.