



The Essential Guide to Advocacy Boards: Empowering Community Change

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Summary

In today's interconnected world, the power of community advocacy cannot be overstated. Organizations across various sectors are harnessing this potential through advocacy boards, and the results are nothing short of transformative. Let's dive into the essential elements of creating and nurturing these powerhouses of change.

The Genesis of Advocacy

Advocacy boards don't just materialize out of thin air. They're born from a strategic vision, carefully cultivated resources, and a laser-focused market approach. The key? Finding the right people. Ideal board members are deeply connected to the mission, have a robust platform, and possess an eagle eye for opportunities. Meanwhile, the staff supporting these boards should bring real-world experience, excel at relationship building, and be thoroughly engaged with the community.

The Ripple Effect of Engagement

When advocacy boards hit their stride, the benefits ripple outward in remarkable ways. They serve as mini focus groups, providing invaluable qualitative feedback. They open doors to growth opportunities, generating leads, donations, and financial support. Perhaps most importantly, they harness the power of brand advocacy, creating social proof that builds trust and expands audience engagement.

Navigating Challenges and Emerging Stronger

The journey of establishing and maintaining advocacy boards isn't without its hurdles. The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, posed significant challenges in keeping members engaged. However, organizations that pivoted effectively—reimagining their boards and focusing on project-based initiatives—emerged stronger than ever.

BOARD BENEFITS

- Qualitative Feedback**
 - Mini focus groups
- Growth Opportunities**
 - Leads, donations + dollars
- Power of Brand Advocacy**
 - Social proof builds trust
- Expand Diversity**
 - Audience engagement



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AMPLIFY THE MESSAGE

- Brand advocacy**
 - Age of the Influencer
- User-generated content**
 - 92% trust over advertising
- Media relations**
 - Perceived social proof



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Amplifying the Message

In our digital age, brand advocacy has taken on new dimensions. We're living in the "Age of the Influencer," where user-generated content reigns supreme. In fact, 92% of consumers trust peer recommendations over traditional advertising. Advocacy boards can leverage this trend, creating authentic, relatable content that resonates with audiences and builds genuine connections.

Diversity: More Than Just a Buzzword

Expanding diversity isn't just about ticking boxes—it's about building community trust through authentic outreach. Initiatives like "Red4Life" demonstrate how advocacy boards can drive awareness for critical health issues like sickle cell anemia, while simultaneously fostering inclusivity and education.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, the potential of advocacy boards continues to expand. From campus initiatives to brewery partnerships, these boards are finding innovative ways to engage new demographics and drive meaningful change. They're not just raising funds and organizing blood drives; they're reshaping community relations and amplifying important messages.

In essence, advocacy boards are more than just a tool—they're a catalyst for community transformation. By harnessing the power of passionate individuals, organizations can amplify their impact, foster deeper connections, and drive real, lasting change. The future of community engagement is here, and it's powered by advocacy.

PINT CLUB

- Brewery partnership**
 - Years in the making
- Targets young donors**
 - Continuity from college
- Six partners = 199 units**
 - Targets centers + mobiles



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