



HELEN GIFFEN, ICD.D

SENIOR CLIENT PARTNER, BOARD ADVISORY AND EVENTS

“Healthy boards have high quality conversations – the kind that are fueled by high energy, engage everyone around the table, and lead to tight agreement and clear decisions. Governance effectiveness relies on that kind of conversation. You may have all the right policies and structures in place but without leadership that facilitates good discussion, your meetings can feel like you’re watching a bouncing ball that never quite lands. Today’s board leaders must be agents of change, skilled in the art of leading conversations that concretely and strategically move the organization forward.”

Helen Giffen is a Senior Client Partner, Board Advisory and Events, at Arlington Partners International. In this role, she leads Arlington education events and discussion forums, designed to engage clients in high quality conversations that broaden perspective, deepen understanding and strengthen capacity for meaningful action. Businesses in transformation have a thirst for learning at the highest levels, and a leadership commitment to catching changes in the landscape in time to help their own organization to adapt. At Arlington Partners International, emerging trends and changing practices in human capital development, business effectiveness, innovation and good governance inform and shape a program of education and networking events. In addition, Helen provides thought leadership and is a contributor to Arlington’s magazine. ARLINGTON is a quarterly magazine distributed globally to our network providing thought leadership and insights into key business and governance issues. It highlights leaders who are making an inspirational mark and difference in their industry sectors, organizations and communities on both sides of the border and beyond.

Bringing experience as both a director and C-suite executive, Helen brings a practical orientation, direct expertise and a collaborative approach to ensure that Arlington clients benefit from education and discussion events that are informative, engaging and expand possibilities for growth. Leveraging her skills as a strategic advisor, facilitator and coach, combined with specialties in board governance and leadership, human capital development and multi-stakeholder communication, she is a compelling speaker and keen advocate for creating robust organizations that thrive through change.

Helen currently serves on the board of the Museum of Contemporary Art_Toronto_Canada (Vice Chair, Chair Governance and HR) and previously with The Scarborough Hospital, DareArts, and OCAD University. In addition, she has held a variety of executive HR positions in financial services (Aviva Canada, Bank of Montreal, Manulife Financial) and in not for profit (Heart and Stroke Foundation), and has extensive leadership experience with strategic planning, board governance, executive development and change management. She is a writer, public speaker, commentator (BizTV-Canada) and former host of the city issues talk show, Politically Speaking. She holds her ICD.D designation from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.

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