

SARA A. PETERSON, JD – MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT



Sara has been a management consultant since 1998. In that time, she has assisted hundreds of organizations – from small, all-volunteer start-ups to a multi-billion-dollar funder.

Her work includes board development, planning and facilitation, program development and evaluation, organizational assessments, and related services. The bulk of her portfolio is with arts and culture nonprofits, local government, and – on her best days – where the two meet. It is a varied practice, but one that is always **dedicated to helping clients do their jobs better.**

Sara was part of a national consulting practice from 2000 to 2010. During that period, she led organizational development, planning, program evaluation, and search engagements; made numerous presentations on governance, evaluation and organizational change; managed the firm’s annual nonprofit conference; and managed marketing efforts within the firm’s nonprofit and government consulting group. She left the firm in 2010 to

set up her own business – **guiding clients in strategy, governance, and management.** In the years since, then she has been honored to serve new and old clients in a busy solo practice.

Prior to 2000, Sara developed expertise as a private funder and a government attorney, serving as program officer to the James Ford Bell Foundation in Minnesota and as a litigator for the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Sara’s education includes graduate study at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs master’s program with a concentration in nonprofit management. She’s trained in program evaluation, conflict mediation, and board consulting (the last by BoardSource). She received a *juris doctor* with high distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in French with a minor in music performance from the University of Iowa.

She is a partner member of the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) and stays sharp as a member of BoardSource (Nonprofit Board Consulting Cert., 2018), the American Evaluation Association, and the International Listening Association.

Her community service has included officer roles with WFIU Public Radio’s Community Advisory Board, the Monroe County Humane Association, the IAP2 USA Midwest Chapter, the Textile Center of Minnesota, and the Humphrey Institute Alumni Board; as well as work on the Nonprofit Alliance of Monroe County’s training/outreach committee, the IAP2 USA board of directors, the Charities Review Council’s marketing committee, and the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis’ advisory board.

“Best experience I’ve ever had doing a strategic plan, which may not sound flattering as strategic plans tend to be dry, but you made it fun, efficient, exciting and the deliverables are second to none. Thanks for showing me what a GREAT facilitator can do!”

Executive Director

“Sara has injected knowledge of the nonprofit sector, creative marketing and communications ideas, enthusiasm and a healthy dose of practical common sense. She’s bright, energetic and upbeat—an invigorating combination that, I can attest, makes those around her better.”

Executive Director

“Sara is a brilliant nonprofit management consultant that can help organizations move to a much higher level of governance and management. I highly recommend her.”

Executive Director

“Sara did a great job helping us get the Minnesota Channel up and running. She analyzed our successes and failures, so we could build on our early efforts. Sara’s work was timely, insightful, and always a great value.”

Chief Operations Officer

“I have appreciated her thoughtful approach to managing a diverse set of opinions in meetings, all the while working to promote meaningful conversations among the group. She is able to provide direction to a wide range of personalities in that setting, and she does so in a measured and unassuming way. She works to understand the subject matter at hand prior to the meetings, and provides insightful post-meeting feedback. I would wholeheartedly recommend Sara.”

Vice President

effective strategy, governance and management
for nonprofits, foundations, government, & community groups