To: Dwelling Place Board  
From: Governance Committee  
Re: 2021 Board Self-Assessment Survey Analysis  
Date: July 28, 2021

On Wednesday, August 4th, we plan to use a portion of our Board meeting to discuss the results of the 2021 Board Self-Assessment survey and consider how this information can help us to improve our Board governance functions.

To make the best use of our time, we would like to encourage each board member to review the survey results carefully leading up to the meeting, looking for themes that highlight what is working well and the areas where we might spend some time exploring for improvement.

To aid in that effort, we have copied an excerpt from the study’s introductory letter, that outlines the kind of inquiry we would like to engage in.

This report is organized into four broad categories, which provide a framework for exploring the relationship between who serves on the board (The People), the culture it cultivates (The Culture), the way it fulfills its work responsibilities (The Work), and how all these efforts come together to position the organization to achieve your important mission (The Impact). The report also benchmarks the board’s responses against other nonprofit organizations that have answered the same questions, which may be helpful as the board considers its performance relative to its peers across the country.

Please consider the following questions as you review the report:

1. What stands out?  
2. Is there anything in the report that is especially surprising, or that you’d like to understand better through conversations as a full board?  
3. Does the board seem to be well aligned in terms of its assessment of its performance, or are there indications that different board members are experiencing the board’s leadership performance differently? If the latter, why might that be?  
4. To what extent is the board meeting its own expectations?  
5. In what ways is the board happy with its leadership performance, and where is it signaling a desire to improve?  
6. Do any natural priorities emerge from the ratings?  
7. Based on what you see in the self-assessment, what are the top one to three areas where you think the board should focus its development efforts?

The Governance Committee expects to use the information gained from this exercise in creating an annual workplan that reflects a continuing commitment to excellence in board governance. Thanks so much for your dedication and engagement in this effort.