

2026 Board of Directors opportunity

SelfDesign® Learning Foundation (SDLF) is seeking two to three new directors to join our board of directors in 2026.

Our priority is to recruit individuals who are deeply aligned with our values and committed to advancing learner-directed education. We welcome leaders inspired by SelfDesign's vision who bring both the mindset and the skill set to contribute meaningfully to a high-performing, forward-thinking board.

To see who you would be joining on our board of directors, [click here](#).

A meaningful opportunity

Serving on the board of the SelfDesign Learning Foundation offers a meaningful opportunity to contribute to transformational, learner-centred education while engaging in thoughtful, collaborative governance.

Board members gain the satisfaction of shaping strategic direction, stewarding long-term impact, and working alongside values-aligned peers whose perspectives are respected and essential.

In return for their time and expertise, board members experience personal and professional growth through strategic dialogue, reflective learning and shared leadership.

Service on the board fosters a strong sense of purpose and belonging, offering the chance to align one's values and skills with work that creates lasting benefit for learners and communities.

What we are looking for

1. Primary criteria: values and learning orientation

Above all, SDLF seeks directors who:

- Demonstrate strong values alignment with SelfDesign's philosophy of natural, personalized and learner-led education.
- Are thought-leaders in alternative education or bring significant interest, lived experience, or subject-matter understanding in progressive, self-directed or community-based learning models.
- Show a genuine commitment to the growth and long-term sustainability of SelfDesign and the families we serve.

2. Secondary criteria: Skills and professional expertise

In addition to values alignment, candidates with one or more of the following areas of experience are encouraged to apply:

- **Finance:** Ability to interpret financial statements; CPA/CMA not required.
- **Law:** Legal training or experience (active practice not expected).
- **Leadership and Governance:** Executive leadership and/or board experience within a \$10M+ not-for-profit, education, or similarly complex organization.
- **Human Resources:** Experience with large, geographically distributed teams and associated labour/legal frameworks.
- **Information Technology:** Broad familiarity with systems, data management, cybersecurity and privacy concepts.

3. Baseline competencies (required of all directors)

Every director is expected to bring:

- Ethical integrity, a strong moral compass and a high degree of confidentiality
- Motivation beyond self-interest: a service-oriented mindset
- Collaborative approach and ability to work constructively in a team setting
- Financial literacy appropriate to board oversight
- Awareness of legal, regulatory, and fiduciary responsibilities
- Respect for diverse views, cultures, and learning philosophies

These competencies form the foundation of effective board service and contribute to a culture of trust, respect, and thoughtful governance.

4. Differentiators: What elevates a great director

While the baseline competencies are essential, the following attributes are desired:

- System-wide strategic thinking
- Courage and constructive candour—willingness to ask and respond to difficult questions kindly and responsibly
- Emotional intelligence and empathy
- Intellectual curiosity and a desire to learn continuously
- Adaptability in dynamic or complex environments
- Thoughtful, reflective contributions that elevate board discussion and decision-making

5. Diversity and representation

SDLF values diverse perspectives and lived experiences. The board seeks to enhance representation across:

- Age diversity
- Professional, cultural and experiential diversity
- Lived experience with SelfDesign (e.g., alumni and parents/guardians*)

*Importantly, individuals with SelfDesign connections (parents, alumni) are welcome on the basis of skills and experience, not as designated representative seats.

These perspectives enrich board deliberations and strengthen our ability to serve a broad and evolving community

Commitment and responsibilities

General board meetings are held remotely via video conferencing every month and typically last up to two hours.

The board holds one in-person meeting per year, consisting of a two- to three-day retreat and strategic planning session, typically held in the Spring.

Directors are required to participate on one or more board committees. Committees typically meet when required and can require an additional two to three hours of each director's time per month.

Application details

The application deadline is March 30. Interested candidates are encouraged to email their CV and a letter of interest to andreacampbell@selfdesign.org

You can also view the full [board primer here](#).