

## **WomenCorporateDirectors (WCD)**

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### **VISION**

WomenCorporateDirectors (WCD) is the only global membership organization and community of Women Corporate Directors. In this new era of responsibility, WCD is committed not just to good governance, but to governance with global vision. Smart boards are going global in members and mindset. Our members share information and insights in order to ensure best practices in corporate governance around the world.

WCD has connected women directors globally to form a network of powerful and influential decision makers. Our mission is to continue to expand the WCD community through leadership, diversity, education, and best practices in corporate governance. WCD fosters our international network by providing an intimate and trusted community to learn, brainstorm and problem-solve global issues. WCD offers local, regional, national, and international forums to generate candid, thoughtful and confidential dialogue on issues facing directors and their companies, learning from each other, and in the process, helping all members navigate the challenges of conducting business in a highly competitive and volatile global economy. The WCD network provides a platform of turning ideas into action.

WCD members comprise among the world's most powerful and influential business women—the global business elite.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, directors must not only develop a company's global strategy, but also be vigilant watchdogs who understand the hidden challenges of working around the globe. Corporate Governance today demands a world view. Boards need the right leaders, to adequately analyze risk, to have the in depth knowledge of their companies' operations, to help management to see beyond the next quarter to the bigger picture, regardless of the market. WCD is creating a network that can leverage local, regional, and global knowledge and perspective from other Directors and boards worldwide.

With over 700 members who serve on over 850 boards, the WCD program has served as a terrific catalyst for thought leadership, networking and new friendships. WCD has become a true champion for women directors and a vital source of expertise. Not only have we developed a trusted community for advice and experience to help women directors share best practices and learn from this valuable network, but we have also helped secure Board and Advisory Board positions for numerous women around the world.

### **WHO WE ARE**

WCD is the most powerful community of women corporate directors in the world. WCD was founded by Susan Stautberg the CEO of PartnerCom Corporation, which creates and manages Advisory Boards globally, and later joined by Alison Winter, former President and CEO, Personal Financial Services – Northeast for Northern Trust, and Director of Nordstrom, who became a Co-Founder. Henrietta Holsman Fore, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Holsman International, former Administrator for USAID, and former Board Member of Dexter Corporation and HSB Group Inc., has joined as a Global Co-Chair. There are Chapter Chairs in the US, UK, Delhi, Mumbai, Bogota, Lima, Sao Paulo, Beijing, and Hong Kong.

Members serve as directors of both the New York and NASDAQ Stock Exchanges. WCD members are usually very senior, influential executives (Chairmen, CEO's, COO's and other C-level executives). On average, each serves on 3-4 major corporate and/or non-profit boards. WCD's standard is that 85% of women in WCD are directors of public or large private company boards. The other 15% have or will soon serve on public boards and currently serve on private, mutual funds or major non-profit boards. **WCD's Founding Partners (Heidrick & Struggles and KPMG) and Strategic Partners (Northern Trust and Pearl Meyers & Partners)** provide experts in relevant areas of corporate governance, succession, executive search, finance, accounting, and the best in travel. (Some Chapters, such as Boston and Chicago, are 100% corporate directors, but others, such as DC have members who have left corporate boards to serve in major government roles.)

### **WHERE WE ARE**

WCD has chapters in **Arizona, Atlanta, Beijing, Bogota, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/ Fort Worth, Delhi, Hong Kong, Lima, London, Mexico City, Minnesota, Mumbai, New York, Northern California, Northern/Central Europe (Berlin), Paris, Philadelphia, Sao Paulo, Seattle, Shanghai, Southern California, South Florida, Toronto, and Washington DC.** Chapters in **Abu Dhabi, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Houston, Switzerland,** and **Tel Aviv** are in formation.

### **BACKGROUND**

WCD dinners are held 3-4 times a year in each city. Due to travel and various scheduling conflicts, typically 25-35 women attend each dinner. Members are allowed to bring other corporate directors as guests. As Directors travel constantly, each chapter usually has members from other cities attending as well. Our international Institutes attract directors from around the world and have between 80 and 90 women in attendance.

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COMING SOON: Abu Dhabi • Buenos Aires • Cairo • Houston • Switzerland • Tel Aviv**