

# IFT Candidate Leadership Guide

The Board of Directors engages in strategic thinking and planning to set the organization's direction, mobilize resources, and provide oversight to ensure IFT's progress in achieving its mission. The Board is responsible for cultivating a professional community committed to connecting global food system communities to promote and advance the science of food and its application. To achieve this, the Board of Directors upholds three impact areas in support of IFT's mission and on behalf of its members and community—support job-related challenges, address global food system challenges, and give visibility to what the future of food might hold.

## Board Fiduciary Responsibilities

IFT Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to the organization as required by law. These responsibilities are:

### **Duty of Loyalty**

Board members must put the interests of IFT above other personal or financial interests.

### **Duty of Care**

Board members must act prudently and diligently to protect and enhance the assets of IFT and further its mission.

### **Duty of Obedience**

Board members must obey the law and act in accordance with IFT's bylaws and policies, as legally enforceable documents.

## Terms

- Directors serve staggered three-year terms aligned with IFT's fiscal year, September 1 – August 31.
- Those selected as a member of the Office of the President have a three-year commitment.
  - Year one as President-Elect
  - Year two as President
  - Year three as Immediate Past President

## Commitment to the Science of Food Community

Individuals interested in applying for the IFT Board of Directors should demonstrate an interest in the global food system landscape, economic and political awareness, and an ability to see trends and new directions.

IFT is committed to ensuring members have access and opportunity to contribute to their fullest potential. Diversity and inclusion are key to our mission to connect global food system communities to promote and advance the science of food and its application. Therefore, we believe it is critical to attract and engage a diverse population of members and food science professionals to lead IFT through Board service. The Board strives to achieve broad representation of membership demographics and multi-representational factors, including career stage, education, areas of practice type and setting (e.g., academia, government, industry, consultancy), broad global and cultural experience, and diverse special interests and expertise (e.g., food safety, regulatory, engineering, agriculture, sustainability, etc.).

**[Please see IFT's Commitment to Diversity for more information.](#)**



## Expectations

IFT Board members are expected to collectively work in collaboration with staff to:

- Consider ways to increase member value
- Uphold its fiduciary duty including establishing the fiscal year and approving an annual budget
- Create an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming organizational culture
- Be active and positive supporters of IFT
- Come prepared for all meetings and discussions
- Actively and positively support IFT with its time and talent
- Hone expertise in environmental scanning, critical thinking, and resource allocation
- Apply leading-edge approaches to strategic thinking and planning
- Foster leadership development in self and others
- Serve as a communication champion for the organization
- Actively participate as Board liaison to assigned committees or task forces

## Time Commitment

Being a member of the IFT Board of Directors requires a commitment of time, talent, and expertise. It is critical that those interested in serving on the Board have support from their employer and colleagues regarding the time and financial commitment required.

By becoming a member of the Board of Directors, you commit to the following:

- Prepare for, attend, and actively participate in three Board meetings each year, IFT FIRST: Annual Event and Expo, and regularly scheduled Board calls
  - In-Person Meetings (when able)
    - Board of Directors Fall Meeting – November
    - Board of Directors Spring Meeting – March
    - Board of Directors Summer Meeting – July
  - Virtual Meetings (subject to change)
    - October, January, June, August
  - Additional Board calls may be scheduled as needed
- Attend additionally selected educational programs and/or association activities
- Ability and willingness to serve as a formal or informal mentor within IFT
- Support initiatives and/or campaigns of IFT's fund development program

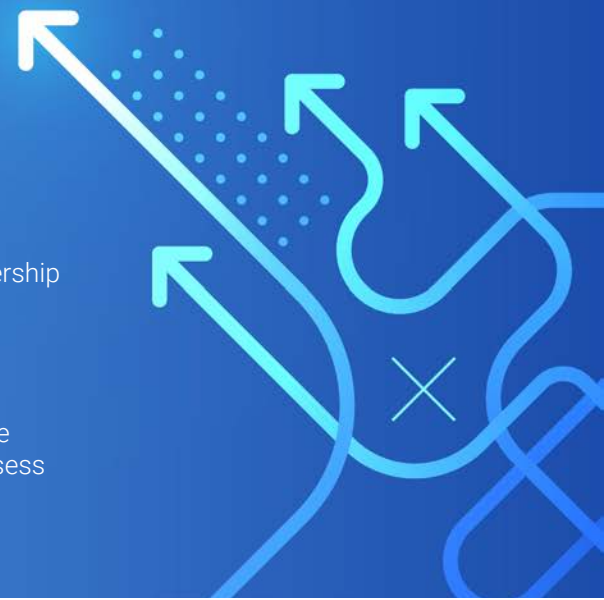
## IFT President-Elect

In addition to the competencies, experience, and expertise desired for all members of the Board of Directors, candidates for the office of President-Elect should demonstrate their ability in the following areas:

- Facilitate the Board's oversight of the organization's performance, risk management, compliance, and stakeholder relations.
- Promote a culture of openness, trust, and constructive debate among the Board members, encourage their active participation and contribution, and foster a collaborative relationship with the CEO and senior staff.
- Represent the organization and the Board in external events and engagements, and enhance the organization's reputation and profile.
- Demonstrated ability to lead, influence, and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, both internally and externally.
- Strong strategic thinking and business acumen, with a sound understanding of the organization's vision, mission, values, and goals.
- High level of professionalism, confidence, and credibility, with the ability to inspire trust and respect among the board, membership, and the greater community.

IFT utilizes a competency and multi-representational model of Board selection. The Leadership Development Committee has responsibility for reassessing the matrix annually. This recommendation provides clear responsibility for the Leadership Development Committee to analyze diverse competencies needed for the Board, identify gaps, and create a slate to fill current gaps that exist.

IFT's Office of the President, Board of Directors, and Leadership Development Committee have collaborated to identify competencies, experience, and expertise needed on the IFT Board of Directors and where gaps exist. Individuals who possess the competencies, experience, and expertise identified in this guide are highly encouraged to apply.



## 2024 Competencies, Experience, and Expertise

### Translational Connections

Experience working across, or partnering with, colleagues in a sector different from your own (i.e., industry to academia or government and vice versa)

*IFT has members across industry, academia, government, and other sectors, and it is increasingly important for IFT to articulate the value of connections across all segments of the science of food community.*

### Change Management

Responsibility for organizational change and transition

*A structured approach to change is critical to help ensure a beneficial transition while mitigating disruption.*

### Organizational Leadership

Experience working across, or partnering with, colleagues in a sector different from your own (e.g., industry to academia or government and vice versa)

*IFT is a complex, sophisticated organization and business that requires an understanding of governance, financial reporting, organizational structures and people management. The IFT Board of Directors has fiduciary responsibility to ensure the financial stability of the organization now and into the future. An understanding of financial principles is important for those interested in serving on the Board of Directors, however it is not required. Could be combined with any of the above areas.*

### Strategy Development

Role in leading strategy development in an organization

*IFT has a talented staff that executes with excellence and relies on the partnership with the IFT Board to set strategic direction to ensure IFT's relevance and ability to achieve its mission and vision. The Board will need to continue its efforts to being a more strategic board – this could and should be combined with other competencies.*

### External Leadership

Experience on other boards or with allied, industry, and/or academic organizations

### Food Systems Thinking

Experience looking at problems and solutions at a strategic level and with a systems mindset

### Global Responsibilities

Responsibilities working in the science of food community across the world

### Education & Academics

The future of the science of food community is developed through the expertise of our members who work in education and academia, thus, should be represented at the Board level.

### Government/Regulatory

Experience with both US and international regulatory affairs and/or developing future regulatory leaders

### New Technologies / Digital Transformation

Experience researching and commercializing new science and technology

### Nutrition / Functional Foods

Experience leading nutrition sciences, communications, and research

### Sustainability

Experience developing and leading sustainability initiatives and strategies related to the UN sustainable development goals.

### Marketing/Sales

Experience developing consumer-focused communications for broad and diverse audiences