



BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTRACT

I, _____, understand that as a member of the Board of Directors of Mitskof Dance Troupe (MDT), I have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in the purpose and the mission of the organization, and I will act responsibly and prudently as its steward. As part of my responsibilities as a board member:

1. I will interpret the organization's work and values to the community, represent the organization, and act as a spokesperson while maintaining confidentiality of committee, board, and organizational work (unless otherwise authorized).
2. In turn, I will interpret our constituencies' needs and values to the organization, speak out for their interests, and on their behalf, hold the organization accountable.
3. I understand that as a board member I share responsibility for assuring MDT remains fiscally sound.
4. I will attend board meetings (having reviewed the board packet), committee meetings, and special events or contact the Board President for an excused absence.
5. Each January, without having to be asked, I will make a personal financial contribution at a level that is meaningful to me.*
6. I will actively participate in fundraising activities and recital duties.
7. I will excuse myself from discussions and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
8. I will stay informed about what's going on in the organization. I will ask questions and request information. I will participate in and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies, and other matters. I will not stay silent if I have questions or concerns.

- 9. I will work in good faith with staff and other board members toward achievement of our goals.
- 10. If I don't fulfill these commitments to MDT, I will expect the board president to contact me to discuss my responsibilities with me.

The organization is responsible to the board members for . . .

In turn, MDT will be responsible to me in the following ways:

- 1. I will be sent, without having to request them, quarterly financial reports and an update of organizational activities that allow me to meet the "prudent person" standards of the law. (The "prudent person rule," applied in many legal settings in slightly differing language, states that an individual must act with the same judgment and care as, in like circumstances, a prudent person would act.)
- 2. Opportunities will be offered to me to discuss with the executive director and the board president MDT's programs, goals, activities, and status; additionally, I can request such opportunities.
- 3. MDT will help me perform my duties by keeping me informed about issues and by offering me opportunities for professional development as a board member.
- 4. Board members and staff will respond in a straightforward fashion to questions that I feel are necessary to carry out my fiscal, legal, and moral responsibilities to MDT. Board members and staff will work in good faith with me toward achievement of our goals.
- 5. If MDT does not fulfill its commitments to me, I can call on the board president and executive director to discuss the organization's responsibilities to me.

Signed _____, Board Member Date _____

and by _____, Board President Date _____

*From The Rasmuson Foundation: This policy has its roots in the banking principles of Elmer Rasmuson. He believed those seeking investment should demonstrate their commitment by having "skin in the game" – *before* they ask others for financial support. But what constitutes a "meaningful" donation? This is a measure that is specific to each individual. For one grantee, a board member who was homeless gave \$1. For others on the same board, the giving ability was much higher. While we leave it up to the organization and its board members to decide, this is a fair question for us to raise in the review process. If you're seeking a grant, be prepared to discuss it.