
Author: Peter C. Brinckerhoff  Publisher: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

This book examines the concept of “stewardship” and how it applies to running a nonprofit. Brinckerhoff argues that nonprofits are “stewards” who manage resources on behalf of others. Everyone from board members to staff to funders have an obligation to handle these resources in an efficient, effective, and responsible manner. To help nonprofits embrace a stewardship mindset, the book offers several anecdotes, strategies, and discussion questions that prompt staff to reinvent how they see their work.

Highlights

It’s not your stuff!

“In the not-for-profit sector organizations actually belong to the communities they serve.” (p. 3)

“Staff stewards constantly remind themselves and each other that ‘It’s not our stuff, so let’s do better.’” (p. 5)

A sustainable legacy

“Giving up the idea that the organization is yours to control, yours to fight over, can be a real achievement ... none of us will be here forever. So how can we make this year, this month, this meeting the most valuable to our mission outcome?” (p.42)

Nonprofits are businesses

“[Funders] are buying services ... but in most cases they are not ‘supporting the organization.’” (p.94)

“Never assume that the only way to appeal to [people] is by low cost ... set a price that expresses the value of your work.” (p.189)

Connections to NEW ...

managers/leadership retreat  all-staff meeting exercise  fee for service model