

IMPACT REPORT

Girls on Boards
Training & 2022
Leadership Forum





With your support, Fora is investing in Canada's next generation of decision-makers! On June 11, we welcomed 35 Young Directors from across Canada for leadership training, focused on preparing young leaders to participate as board members for the first time. On June 12, we welcomed our public – including young leaders, and leaders in the corporate and nonprofit sectors, for a full day of panels, workshops and networking at our Leadership Forum.

35 young leaders join their first Board of Directors

On June 11, Fora welcomed 35 Young Directors, selected to participate in the 6th cohort of Girls on Boards.

Each year, Girls on Boards places experienced, emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds at the board table. Designed for young women and gender-diverse youth, the program is putting forward a new vision of governance in Canada. Fora ensures they have the training, skills, networks and mentorship to be successful in these spaces.

Hands-on workshops

Young directors received a full day of program training, including workshops focused on navigating Imposter Syndrome and developing negotiations skills.

To date, 135 Young Directors have been trained, mentored and matched to 105 participating governance boards across Canada.

What Young Directors are saying...

"What I enjoyed most was being surrounded by diverse women who could understand and relate to my experience. I didn't feel like I stood out among the crowd because of how I looked."

"My highlight was hearing from incredible women on really important topics that really hit home for me and connecting with other Young Directors who have gone through many of the same things I have. I have a new community to lean on and find support in."



On June 12, we were joined by 130+ young leaders at our 2022 Leadership Forum.

Hosted in Toronto, Fora's 2022 Leadership Forum is designed to empower Canada's next generation of decision-makers!

The Leadership Forum brought together exceptional young women and gender-diverse youth, as well as professionals across the non-profit and corporate sectors, for a full day of leadership development, training, mentorship and networking.

Attendees participated in:

- Intimate and inspiring fireside chats
- Informative and dynamic workshops
- Networking sessions



This year's Forum facilitated powerful learnings and conversations about advancing equity in spaces of power, tackling topics such as:

- Lessons in Leadership with Caroline Marful, Anjum Sultana and Paul Taylor
- Decolonizing Spaces of Power with Jen Vachon, Kristin Murray, Janine Manning and Amy Desjarlais
- The Dynamics of Power with Sheliza Jamal
- Financial Wellness for Success with Saijal Patel
- Leading with Authenticity with Miriam Butt
- Advocacy 101 with Alexandria Bohémier and Maxime Matthew

Participants left with expanded networks and the skills and confidence to advocate for more equitable and inclusive leadership in decision-making spaces.



What participants are saying...

“One of the best (if not the best!), well thought out and executed conferences I have been able to attend.”

“[The Leadership Forum] helped me learn tangible ways for self-development (e.g. identifying how to lead authentically). It was a great opportunity to connect with peers and potential mentors”

“I have been equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to work on being the best version of myself I can be.”



Corporate Leaders tackle Power in the Private Sector

Panelists Cindy Chao (RBC), Talar Sarkissian (Oxford Properties Group), Betty Lu (Bain), and moderator Ashleigh Au, Founder of Ou & Company, discussed the significant work that remains to be done in closing the gender gap in the private sector. Panelists shared their experiences in navigating challenges and opportunities as women in positions of power, and how they advocate for greater gender diversity in leadership positions.

What participants are saying...

"I learnt to respect and value my priorities in workplace, my thoughts are valid. I learnt to reach out to people and share my opinion no matter how hard it seems. It helped me a lot to present myself the way I am. Professionally I learnt negotiation skills, counting on my achievements, leadership and taking ownership in workplace."

Naba Saeed
Cohort 6 - Young Director

"One of the best (if not the best!), well thought out and executed conferences I have been able to attend."

"I have gained a valuable network and learned about power in the corporate sector which I will definitely apply in my future endeavours. I also learned the importance of engaging in meaningful discussions to educate others on the importance of diversity and inclusion."



Made possible by the following partners and champions for gender equity:



Thank you for investing in Canada's next generation of leaders!

