



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 APPLICATION PACKET

Introduction

The Alliance Française d'Austin is a non-profit, self-financed organization that has served Central Texas for five decades. We offer meritorious French language classes, enlightening cultural programs and activities, and French-themed events that foster learning, community, and cross-cultural connection.

History

The Alliance Française d'Austin (AFA), part of a worldwide Alliance Française network founded in Paris in 1883, is a privately funded non-profit organization. AFA offers comprehensive French language instruction, enriching cultural experiences, and a calendar of Francophone events and activities. There are over 800 Alliance Française chapters around the world that serve 500,000 members and students. Every Alliance Française chapter is part of the international Alliance Française network, the Fondation Alliance Française. The network—founded in Paris—is recognized around the world as the leader and gold standard for superb French language instruction and French-themed cultural events and programs.

Communication. Culture. Connection.

French is the first language of 200 million people on five continents, and the second language of additional millions. The influence of French language, history, and culture are found around the world. French is a language of significance in the realm of politics, finance, art, business, philosophy, food, literature, wine, human rights, diplomacy, and world history. AFA is Austin's premier destination for French language and culture, and it is a proven, respected contributor to the city and residents of Austin, Texas. AFA is a dynamic organization that serves our members and students by celebrating French language, global connection and friendship, and francophone cultures.

Our Mission

The mission of Alliance Française d'Austin is to encourage the study and appreciation of French language and Francophone cultures, and to promote and share the language and cultures of the French-speaking world in Austin.

Our Vision

Alliance Française d'Austin is the premier destination for French language and culture in central Texas, recognized for delivering exceptional language instruction and engaging programs and events that enrich the lives of our members and students. Alliance Française is part of the fabric of Austin, a longtime contributor to the status, prosperity, relevance, diversity and culture of the city, and an important internationally-connected resource for Austin residents.



Our Organizational Values

- We value expertise and professionalism.
- We value and strive for excellence in all activities undertaken.
- We value community and are hospitable and welcoming.
- We value variety, diversity and diverse points of view.
- We value modernity, exchange and collaboration.

Board Member Duties and Expectations

The Board of Directors is the entity that is legally responsible for the enterprise. The Board holds the public trust and is the source of governance and policy. Board members are expected to be active, participatory, welcoming brand ambassadors who invest time, talent, and treasure in and on behalf of the organization. AFA Board member expectations include:

- Being a member in good standing with Alliance Française d'Austin
- Supporting AFA's purpose, mission, goals, programs, and Board decisions
- Completing AFA's Conflict of Interest Policy document
- Donating or securing a financial gift to/for AFA each calendar year
- Serving actively on at least one Board Committee
- Serving as a Brand Ambassador, expressing enthusiasm for the organization, and inviting people to learn about the organization
- Participating in all Organization fundraising endeavors
- Attending a minimum of four meetings annually and attending a majority of committee meetings held each calendar year

2024 Meeting Dates of the Board of Directors

While every effort is made to maintain the following meeting dates, please be advised that dates may be subject to change, based on the agreement of the members of the Board of Directors.

Monday, January 8th	Full Board Meeting (including Orientation)
Monday, April 8th	Full Board Meeting
Monday, July 8th	Full Board Meeting
Monday, October 7th	Full Board Meeting
Saturday, October 19th	Annual Meeting
Monday, December 9th	Full Board Meeting



AFA VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR BOARD AND STAFF

Leadership and Self-Management. The Alliance Française d'Austin expects team members to behave and grow as leaders, professionals, and self-managers. We all lead ourselves and others in various contexts. We strive to be open, communicative, self-aware, flexible, and to steer clear of blame and drama. We put biases aside, examine what is, and devise positive paths forward. We operate from a place of curiosity, enthusiasm, responsibility, accountability, and a commitment to serve others. We call upon each other to innovate, support, risk, learn, and lead.

Trust and Transparency. We do what we say we will do, admit mistakes, are willing to listen, learn, speak up, challenge, and to disagree, with an attitude and intention to improve, innovate, support, and grow. We value constructive comments. We are honest with each other and we invest in resolving issues in a direct, timely, positive manner.

Passion, Commitment, and Craftsmanship. We work with intent and persist in the face of difficulty. We celebrate wins, move on from failures, and learn from both. We love the art, craft, and purpose of our work. We invest time, money, thought, and energy to develop mastery. We are ambassadors and invite others to learn about AFA, our purpose, and mission. We attend to our own growth and mastery and mentor others when appropriate.

Empowerment, Autonomy, and Innovation. We value autonomy, empowerment, growth, and innovation. We show ownership and take responsibility for our own attitude, mindset, and work. We carry out responsibilities at a high level, independent of supervision. We seek ideas both internally and externally. We value creativity and praise team members for pursuing calculated risks and for trying new things aimed at improvement and learning. We don't allow fear or status quo to limit us. We get out of our own way.

Collaboration and Growth Mindset. We value team success and help colleagues achieve organizational goals. We leave egos at the door and seek team members who are thoughtful and open to new ways of doing. We value learning, growth, and growth mindsets. We value working with people who have talent and experiences different than our own. We seek out smart people, smart systems, and broad knowledge that can be applied to our purpose, mission, and industry.

Accountability. Every AFA Board and Staff member is responsible and accountable for the quality and content of their attitude, speech, behavior, actions, mindset, decisions, performance, and products. We are responsible and answerable for appropriate and thorough completion of deliverables and tasks, for carrying out the mission of our organization, for representing our organization and ourselves with a single on-brand, enthusiastic voice and for the stewardship and support of our organization's resources, members, staff, and Board of Directors.



Alliance Française
d'Austin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION (2024)

Submit by Friday, September 30th, 2023 at 12:00pm to boardnomination@afaustin.org.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

High School: _____ City/State: _____ Years: _____ to _____

University: _____ Years: _____ to _____ Degree: _____

University: _____ Years: _____ to _____ Degree: _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Employer Name: _____ Phone: _____ Years: _____ to _____

City/State: _____ Supervisor: _____

VALUES, EXPERIENCE, AND SKILLS

1. What values do you hold most high in your personal life?

2. What values do you hold most high in your professional life?

3. Do you consider yourself to be an entrepreneur? Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit? If so, in what ways does your mindset and/or behavior demonstrate your entrepreneurial spirit?



4. How would your co-workers describe you as a colleague? As a leader?

5. What do you love to do? What else should we know about you?

6. Please indicate skill areas that you possess and would use in support of AFA's mission:

_____ **Development and Fundraising**

Cultivating sponsorships, securing donations, and corporate support

_____ **Policy, Governance, and Operations**

Ensuring policies, procedures, expectations, and professional staff and systems are in place to support AFA's mission

_____ **Accounting and Finance**

Monitoring of AFA finances, development of annual budgets

_____ **Marketing and Social Media**

Communications, content creation, messaging, data analysis

7. Submit a typewritten biography (maximum 200 words) to boardnomination@afaustin.org. This biography will be shared with the AFA membership ahead of AFA Board member elections.

I have thoroughly read all the material contained in this year's application packet for the AFA Board of Directors, including the AFA mission, vision, values, and Board member duties/expectations. I affirm that the information provided by me in the foregoing application document is true and factual. I understand that any purposeful omission or misrepresentation may disqualify me as a candidate for the AFA Board.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your interest in the Alliance Française d'Austin!
Your interest and willingness to serve as a member of the Board of Directors are greatly appreciated.