Pro bono strategic consulting for community nonprofits at *an inflection point*.

The Inflection Point Checklist

How to recognize a genuine inflection point — and assess whether your organization is ready to pursue it.

I WHAT AN INFLECTION POINT IS — AND ISN'T

An inflection point is a moment when your organization has a chance to become significantly more impactful — not just a little better at what it already does. It changes your trajectory: a step up to a new level of operations and impact. You may already have something in mind!

What it can look like. Governance and organizational infrastructure that makes you credible to major institutional donors. A second high school campus, a summer “choir camp” for middle school students. A knowledge-sharing platform that extends your impact and shares best practices with a much broader community. A sophisticated management or operational approach, imported and scaled to your organization, that changes what you're capable of doing. An alliance or merger with a complementary organization.

What it isn't. Growth in general. A new email fundraising campaign. Operational fixes. Adoption of AI. Policy revisions, bylaws updates, or incremental governance improvements. Those things matter — but there are other resources better suited to them.

II RECOGNIZING YOURS

- ☐ Is there something you wish your organization could offer right now that it doesn't have the competencies or resources to implement?
- ☐ What new program or capability has stayed just beyond your reach — always visible, never quite attainable?
- ☐ Can you describe what “game-changing” would look like in concrete terms?
- ☐ Is there a gap in your community or an affected population that your organization is uniquely positioned to fill?

- ☐ Which organizations doing comparable work do you look to — and how do they model something you want to replicate?

If one of these questions has a compelling and specific answer, you may be looking at your inflection point.

III ARE YOU READY? A SELF-ASSESSMENT

This engagement works when four things are in place.

1. A leader ready to commit.

- ☐ Your executive director or board chair is prepared to lead a year of real change — not just endorse it.
- ☐ Leadership is stable: no transition underway or on the horizon.

2. A board that's bought in.

- ☐ Your board acts as a partner in endorsing the goal and setting direction, not a rubber stamp.
- ☐ Your board can describe the opportunity and the transformation with enthusiasm in their own words.

3. A passion to elevate the organization.

- ☐ You have an appetite for hard questions and honest self-assessment.
- ☐ The ambition belongs to the organization — it's “we,” not one person's “I.”

4. A genuine opportunity — not a bandaid for a symptom.

- ☐ What you're pursuing is an opportunity to reach a new level, not a problem to patch.
- ☐ If it succeeds, your organization's trajectory would visibly change.

IV SIGNS THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT MOMENT

None of these is a failing — they're a matter of timing.

— A leadership transition is underway or expected.

— The organization is in financial distress. Stabilizing comes first; strategy comes after.

— The decision has already been made, and what's wanted is validation.

— The real need is evolutionary growth, such as policy revisions, bylaws, or incremental governance work — organizations like BoardSource and pro bono legal resources are better suited to those needs.

V IF YOU CHECKED MOSTLY YES

Then it's worth a conversation. Nothing is committed by talking — the first phase of any engagement. Let us brainstorm, so that we can both decide whether there's an inflection point worth pursuing together.

Start at the contact form, or write directly: reid@reidadler.com