



# Welcome to the Commons

*Considerations for Governance*



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# Patterns of Practice: Community Building

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Intentional community with targeted, shared impacts.



Open door to a refuge for anyone and anyone doing social good.



Most fiscal sponsors operate in the middle.



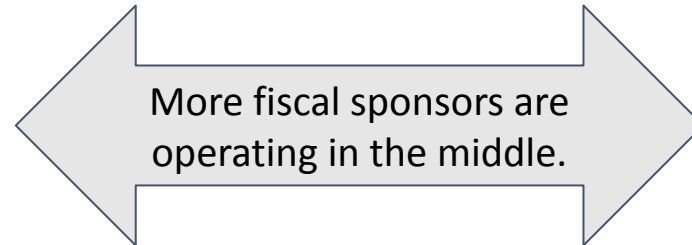
# Patterns of Practice: Sharing Power

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## Commons Management



**Shared power and intentional/relational:**  
Whole-systems support, trauma-informed,  
co-management with co-governance



## Corporate Management



**Consolidated power and transactional:**  
arm's-length focus on tactical, and technical supports  
based on project needs (not impact)

# Board Culture & Practice

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**How would you describe your board culture and its involvement in your fiscal sponsorship work?**

## **GENERAL CULTURE**

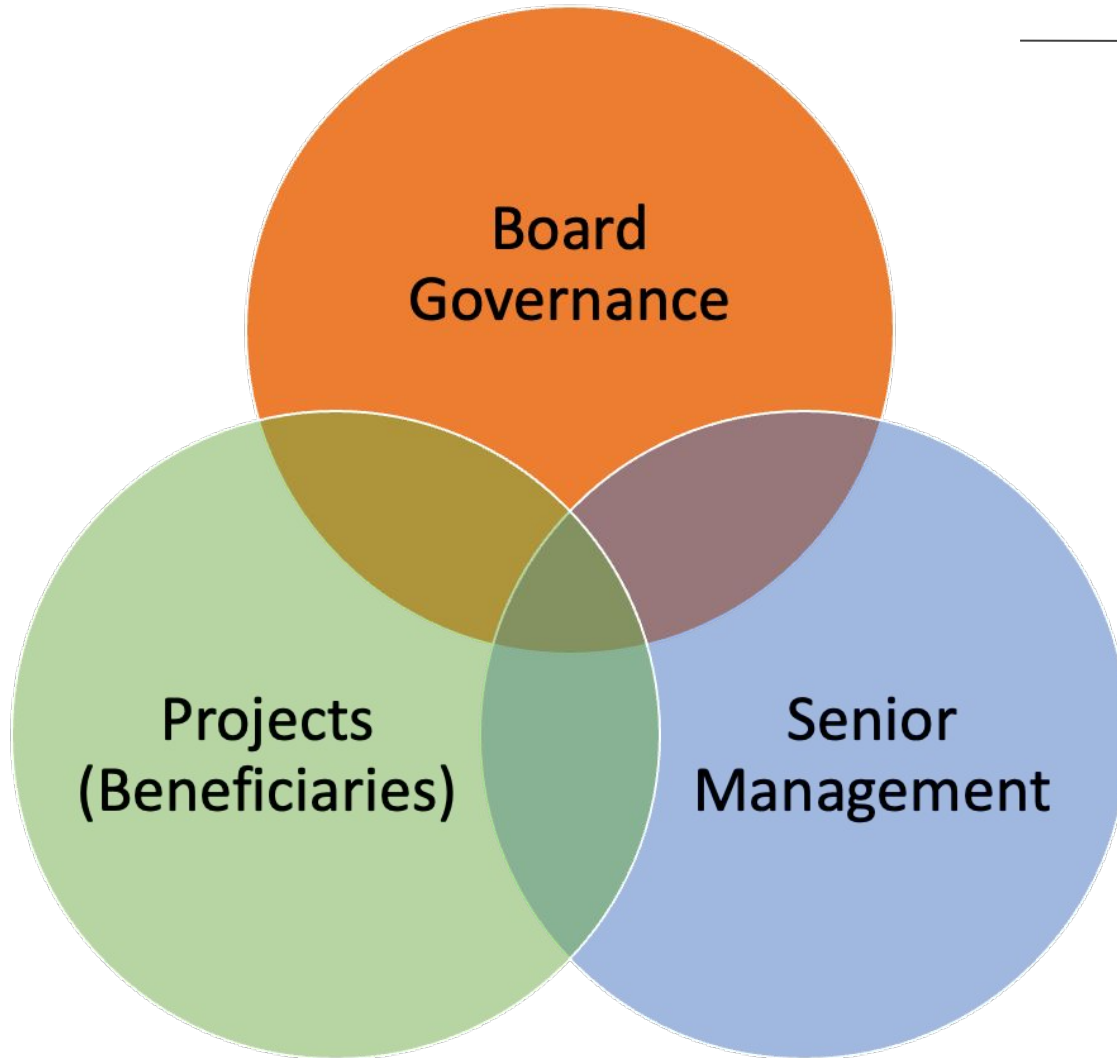
- **Formal**
- **Semi-formal**
- **Informal**
  
- **Advisory**
- **Management**
- **Fiduciary**

## **FISCAL SPONSORSHIP WORK**

- **Unaware**
- **Aware but not very involved**
- **Deeply involved in setting policy**
- **Deeply involved in deciding project intake**
- **Other?**

# Balancing of Power

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There is a dynamic balance of power in decision making between **Board**, **Management**, and **Projects** for sponsors. The question for each organization is about balance or intentional imbalance.

Where do you fall in these examples?

- Balanced between all three groups
- Projects lead collectively
- Senior management leads
- Board leads

# The Governance & Management Divide

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**Governance**

## How are decisions made?

- Bylaws and decision structures
- Reporting, evaluation, and accountability
- New program and project creation/intake
- Equity considerations (pricing, process)
  - Scale and financial model (right size)
- Operating and financial policies/practices
  - Risk appetite and management
  - Others...

**Management**

# Working with a Decision Rights Matrix

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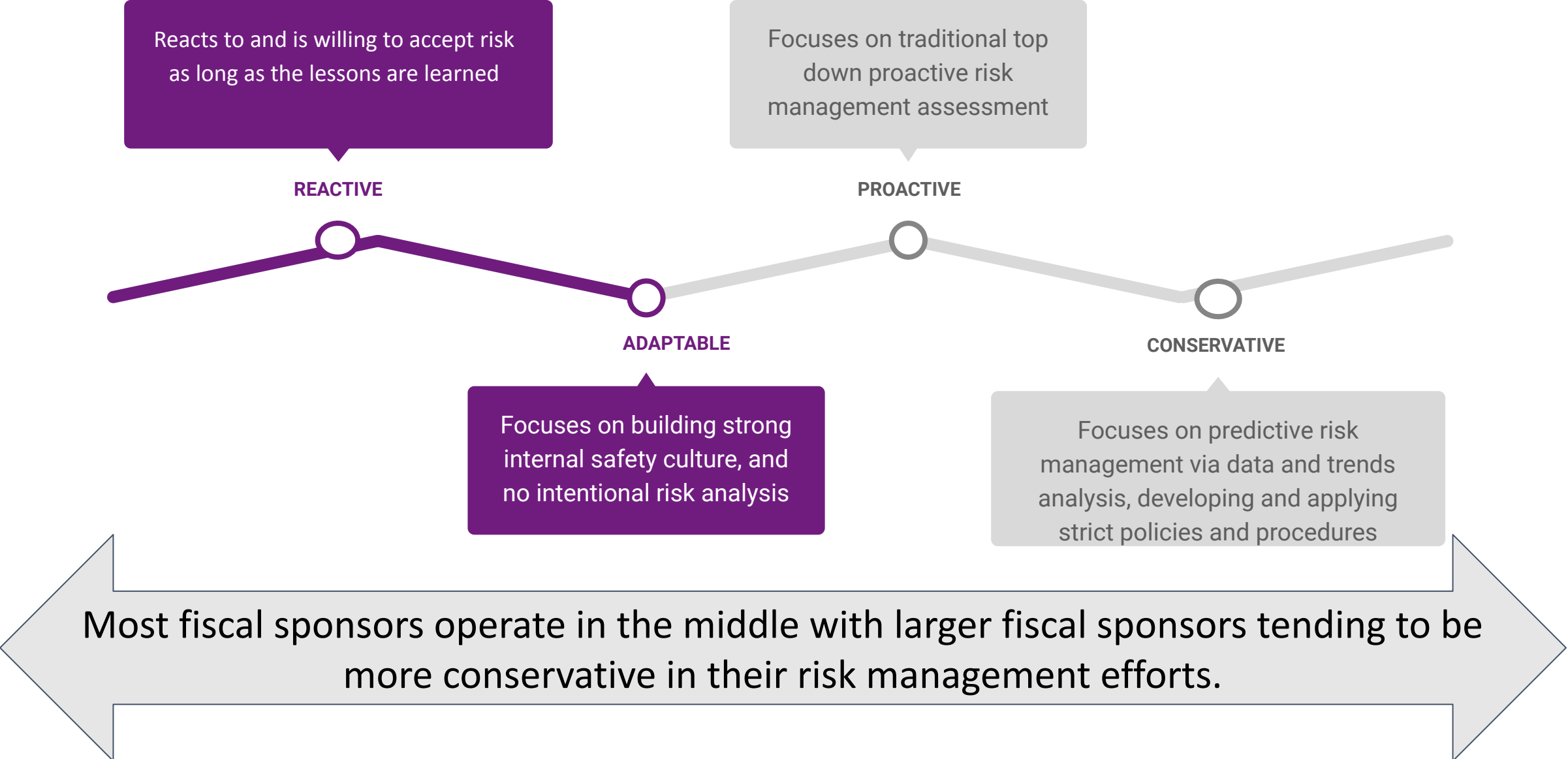
For example...

Decision Matter	Input	Ratify	Make
Cost allocation/pricing	Management (G)	Board (G)	Management (P) CFO
Conflict of interest policy	–	Management (G)	Board (G)
Compensation policy	Management (G)	Management (P) People Ops Director	Board & Management (G)
Financial mgmt policies	Management (P) CFO	Board (G) Exec Comm.	Management (G)

G = As a group (various consensus approaches)

P = As an individual position

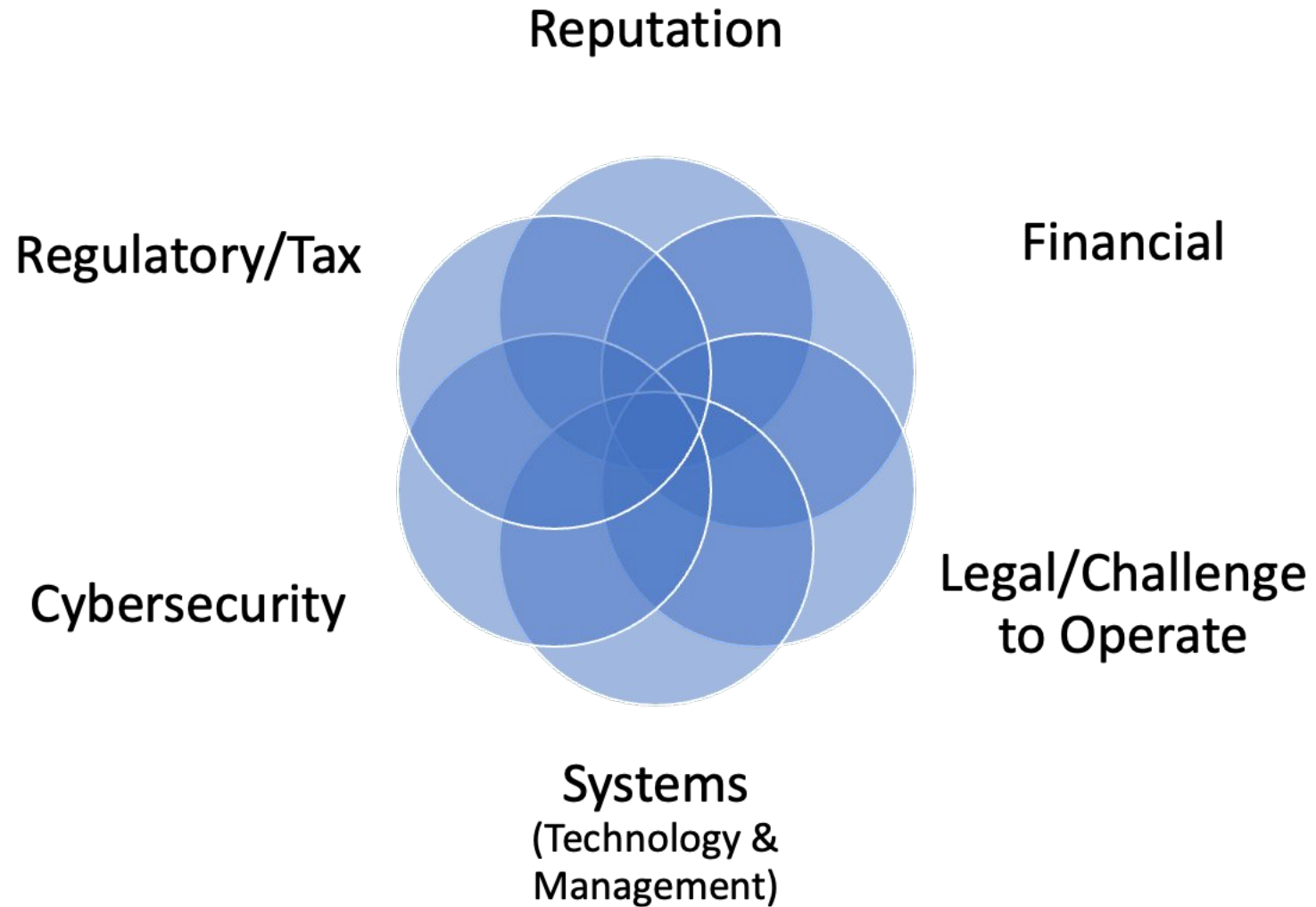
# Patterns of Practice: Risk Tolerance





# Patterns of Practice: Risk Management

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