

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



## Vasanth Ganesan, CGMS

Associate Director  
Guidehouse

### Background

I hold two masters degrees from Virginia Tech, and have been a Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS) since 2022. Over the past 15+ years, I have built a career in grants management and financial consulting, progressing from a grants specialist to my current role as an associate director at Guidehouse. In this capacity, I serve as a grants management subject matter expert supporting federal, state, local, and nonprofit clients. My professional experience spans the full lifecycle of grants, from program design and risk controls to compliance monitoring and closeout. This has allowed me to help grantors, pass-through entities, and recipients alike to manage and execute over \$600 billion in grant funds.

I am also actively engaged in the grants management community. I have hosted quarterly grants management forums with the National Academy of Public Administration and presented at national conferences such as NGMA's Annual Grants Training and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Through these educational, professional, and volunteer experiences, I have developed robust skills in financial analysis, regulatory compliance, and strategic program oversight, all of which I am eager to bring to the NGMA Board of Directors.

### Candidate Profile: Financial Operations

I have extensive experience in financial oversight and fiscal stewardship. I led and advised on grants programs totaling nearly \$600 billion throughout the span of my career. This involves interpreting financial reports, implementing internal controls, and ensuring transparency in reporting and compliance. I regularly review budgets and audit findings and hold the CGMS credential, which reflects my expertise in financial operations. I am prepared to contribute to NGMA's finance committee and mentor fellow board members on financial management best practices.

Additionally, for the DC Hokies, I have been part of our annual budget setting operations, reviewed annual profit & loss statements, and worked with our auditors and tax professionals in submitting our annual IRS Form 990 submissions and

### Candidate Profile: Policy Development

I supported both the U.S. Treasury and Department of Transportation in creating a department-wide federal grants policy and guidance document to ensure consistent compliance with 2 CFR 200 across all of their underlying organizations. Additionally, I spent the majority of the last two years drafting and refining governance processes and establishing operational frameworks for 10+ nonprofit clients preparing them to receive and execute multi-billion dollar grant awards. In my board service to the DC Hokies, I was also instrumental in the full redrafting of our board bylaws and governance policies. We continued to iterate and build upon these documents throughout my board tenure. While I am not an attorney, I am well-versed in legal and ethical considerations and have guided organizations on regulatory compliance and fiduciary responsibilities. I am ready to support NGMA's Governance or Ethics Committee by helping to review and strengthen policies and advising on governance practices.

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## Local Government, Nonprofit and Education

My career and service history span government, nonprofit, and education sectors. I have supported state and local governments, including helping the State of South Carolina disburse over \$100 million in COVID-19 funding to more than 60 hospitals.

I have also advised nonprofit organizations in pursuing federal grant opportunities, such as multi-billion-dollar Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs. Additionally, I served for eight years on the board of a nonprofit alumni association serving 50,000 members, which gives me direct insight into the challenges and opportunities faced by nonprofits similar in size to NGMA. These experiences equip me with the broad perspective NGMA seeks in its board members and allow me to represent the diverse needs of its membership.

In summary, I bring a combination of strategic thinking, financial literacy, and governance experience that aligns with NGMA's expectations for board members. My communication and leadership skills, demonstrated through leading multidisciplinary teams and delivering training to grants professionals, position me to contribute meaningfully to NGMA's fiscal oversight, policy development, and strategic planning.

## Board Experience

I have substantial experience in nonprofit board service and organizational governance. From 2015-2023, I served on the executive board of the DC Metro Area Virginia Tech Alumni Association (DC Hokies), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a constituency of nearly 50,000 alumni. During my tenure (three years as president, as well as vice president and secretary roles), I was responsible for establishing and refining governance structures essential to our chapter's success. This included developing formal board member role profiles, redrafting our bylaws, implementing committee charters, and instituting a succession plan to ensure continuity as board members rotated off. By putting robust committees in place and grooming future leaders internally, we created a pipeline that allowed for seamless transitions without disrupting the organization's operations. In practice, these governance improvements led to a more sustainable, effective, and diverse board by the end of my tenure.

Under my leadership, the board planned and executed a full calendar of programs and community initiatives each year, from networking events and community service drives to large-scale annual events. I personally spearheaded an annual job fair that attracted 50+ employers and over 500 job seekers that helped establish sponsor partnerships to support our fiduciary activities. Critically, our board's focus on strategic fundraising and outreach resulted in nearly \$200,000 raised over eight years, funding scholarships for over 60 local students to attend Virginia Tech, as well as doubling our chapter endowment funds.

Our chapter was recognized by the university multiple times for innovative programming and community engagement, a testament to the strong governance and dedicated team behind it. Beyond this direct board service, I have also been involved in governance structures through my professional work. I routinely advise clients on setting up program governance frameworks, including defining approval processes and accountability structures to ensure compliance and effective oversight for billions of dollars in federal funding. This experience designing governance systems in various organizations has broadened my understanding of how different structures (nonprofits, government agencies, and cross-sector partnerships) operate and sustain themselves.

Through these experiences, I have become well-versed in nonprofit board responsibilities, from fiduciary duties and ethical decision-making to committee work and strategic planning. I understand the importance of maintaining transparency, engaging stakeholders, and aligning an organization's activities with its mission. I will bring to the NGMA Board not only the hands-on knowledge of running a volunteer-driven nonprofit, but also a deep appreciation for good governance practices. In summary, my background in leading a thriving nonprofit board combined with my professional governance consulting has prepared me to be an effective, conscientious contributor to NGMA's Board of Directors.

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## **NGMA Experience/Volunteering**

I have actively participated in NGMA at both the national and chapter levels. I have co-presented two sessions: one at the 2025 Annual Grants Training (AGT), "Strategies for Better Stewardship of Grants Dollars Through Effective Subrecipient Oversight and Monitoring," and another in April 2024 as part of NGMA's monthly webinar series on the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Since 2022, I have served on the NGMA Education Committee, contributing to the review and scoring of session abstracts and presentations for NGMA's AGT and Fall Forum. Additionally, I have volunteered at NGMA events and represented NGMA CAPP partner Guidehouse at multiple AGT conferences.

## **Goal of NGMA's Strategic Framework That Most Resonates with Me**

Strategic Goal #1: "NGMA will elevate the vital role of grants management professionals in stewardship of grant funds and will promote the profession to future professionals and stakeholders." This goal reflects a mission that I have embraced throughout my career.

In my work with federal agencies and nonprofit organizations, I have consistently advocated for the importance of grants management as a cornerstone of public accountability and program success. I have seen how effective grants oversight and compliance can prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, especially when working with subrecipients that are new to federal funding. My experience leading large-scale grant programs totaling over \$600 billion has reinforced the need for clear standards, strong internal controls, and a culture that values grants professionals as strategic partners rather than administrative support.

This goal aligns with my belief that grants management should be recognized as a critical profession that requires specialized knowledge, ethical stewardship, and continuous learning.

Beyond my professional experience, my contributions to NGMA outlined in the section above have allowed me to share practical insights with peers and help elevate the visibility of grants management across sectors. My support of NGMA through volunteerism at events as a member and a CAPP volunteer further supporting NGMA's mission to build a robust and well-informed grants community. This strategic goal along with all of my varied thought leadership contributions speak to my passion for making grants management a respected and aspirational career path. I am committed to advancing this vision as a member of the NGMA Board of Directors.

## **Top Two Challenges Over the Next 3-5 Years for the Profession**

One challenge is adapting to evolving federal compliance requirements. The regulatory landscape for grants is changing rapidly, and grants professionals must stay ahead of new rules and expectations. For example, an August 2025 Executive Order on improving grant oversight directed OMB to revise the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200), streamlining application requirements and mandating that discretionary grants include termination-for-convenience clauses. This kind of reform gives agencies more authority to end or modify grants that no longer align with their priorities, significantly raising the stakes for compliance. At the same time, there is increased scrutiny on transparency and performance outcomes. Federal leadership is setting higher expectations for demonstrating results and accountability in grant-funded programs. Together, these shifts mean grants managers need to be exceptionally agile: continuously updating internal policies, training staff on new requirements, and strengthening oversight practices to ensure they meet the latest federal standards.

Another critical challenge is integrating technology and data systems into grants management. The profession is under pressure to modernize, moving towards automation, centralized data, and digital reporting. The President's Management Agenda (December 2025) underscores this priority by calling on agencies to consolidate and standardize systems, eliminate data silos, and deliver secure, digital-first services in their operations. In practical terms, this push for modernization means grants managers will need to develop new technical skills and work closely with IT teams. We must navigate the transition from legacy grant management systems to more integrated, cloud-based platforms, and embrace tools like data analytics dashboards and AI-driven processing to improve efficiency. Ensuring interoperability across federal and state systems will be key, as will adapting to real-time reporting and transparency requirements. While adopting new technology offers tremendous benefits for efficiency and oversight, it also requires a significant change management effort. Grants professionals will need to stay educated on emerging tools, champion data security and quality, and lead their organizations through the complexities of digital transformation in order to meet this challenge successfully.