

CEO

Masterclass Series

Brought to you by



www.leadersacademy.ie

Powered by



www.wheel.ie



CEO Masterclass Series

Brought to you by



Powered by



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.

The latest addition to our suite of offerings, The Leadership Academy is proud to be running the **CEO Masterclass Series** for leaders in our sector for the second year.

The Masterclass series is designed to provide a well-rounded and holistic programme of learning objectives for **both new and experienced CEOs in the nonprofit sector**.

We spent the summer liaising with trainers from across Ireland and the UK to curate a series of **nine Masterclasses** delivered by **nine experts in their fields**. Read on to meet about the scheduled workshops and our trainers.

What is the Timeline?

The Masterclasses will run from October 2026 until June 2027, taking place on Thursday mornings from 9am until 1pm every four weeks with a break for Christmas.

What is the Schedule?

The dates for the upcoming series are:

1st October 2026 In-Person, Dublin City Centre

5th November 2026 On-line

10th December 2026, On-line

14th January 2027, On-line

11th February 2027, On-line

11th March 2027, On-line

15th April 2027, On-line

13th May 2027, On-line

10th June 2027, In-Person, Dublin City Centre

1.		LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS
2.		STRATEGIC VISION & CLARITY
3.		LEADING PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONS
4.		MASTERING TOOLS & RESOURCES

We are still finalising the workshop schedule with the trainers. We will release the full schedule when we have it.

Wellbeing for Leaders In-Person Workshop

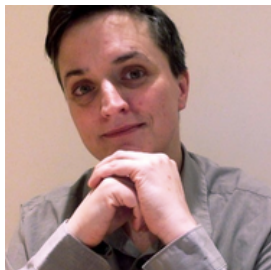
1 October

Preventing Burnout in You and Your Team

2026

This reflective Masterclass supports nonprofit leaders to identify systemic and individual contributors to burnout, and explore organisational strategies that support psychological safety, sustainability, and wellbeing in practice. A guidebook will be provided. Following this Masterclass, senior leaders will be able to:

1. Recognise signs of burnout and understand the systemic drivers that contribute to it.
2. Design organisational wellbeing systems and supports that align with their organisation's values and culture.
3. Build a sustainable leadership model that balances high performance with staff wellbeing & health.



Aoife (Dermody) Nic Dhiarmada

Co-CEO and Co-Founder, Quality Matters

Aoife has extensive leadership experience in non-profit service delivery, academia, non-profit consultancy, and political organising, preceded by a decade in front-line service provision in homeless, addiction and community education services. Aoife has researched, taught and supported implementation in evidence-based leadership, organisational culture change and trauma-informed practice.

Design Your CEO Agenda for 2027 On-line Workshop

Strategy and Leadership

This highly interactive Masterclass will enable CEOs and senior leaders of non-profits to design a top-line strategic agenda for 2027 – one that aligns organisational culture, leadership priorities, and bold moves for impact. Participants will work from targeted pre-work insights, peer exchange, and practical planning tools. The session will clarify where their greatest opportunities and challenges lie, boost their confidence in leading the charge to close the gaps, and equip participants to hit the ground running in the new year, with a renewed sense of purpose, ambition, drive and confidence.



Theresa Nanigian

Executive Coach

Theresa Nanigian has been training and coaching leaders and executives in the nonprofit and private sectors for over 8 years. Her executive training and coaching is backed by years of leadership experience, running a division as a Senior Vice President at American Express, management consulting at McKinsey & Company and driving strategy at GlaxoSmithKline.

Leveraging AI Opportunities On-line Workshop

Helping Irish non-profit CEOs

The Irish nonprofit sector stands at a critical juncture. With donor expectations evolving, operational pressures mounting, and digital transformation accelerating, AI offers unprecedented opportunities to amplify impact whilst managing resources more effectively. This Masterclass provides the strategic framework CEOs need to navigate AI adoption responsibly and successfully. Participants will gain the ability to demystify AI technologies in nonprofit contexts, identifying realistic applications while separating hype from practical reality, explore how to develop responsible AI governance structures appropriate to organizational size



Joe Houghton

Author, Educator, and AI Trainer

Joe Houghton is an author of eleven books, educator, and AI trainer. Assistant Professor at UCD Smurfit Graduate School of Business, he advises organisations on harnessing AI responsibly. With over 1,500 talks delivered worldwide, Joe equips Irish non-profit leaders with practical tools to unlock AI's potential for social good.

Leading with Influence On-line Workshop

Strategic Communications for CEO's

Every communication shapes trust, reputation and influence, yet many CEOs spend so much time leading their organisations that they have little opportunity to step back and think strategically about how they communicate. This practical masterclass will help CEOs become more intentional communicators by developing clear organisational messages, telling compelling stories and communicating with confidence in both planned and unexpected situations. Participants will leave with practical frameworks they can use immediately to strengthen their leadership voice, increase their influence and represent their organisation.



Olivia McGill

Media and Communications Trainer

Olivia McGill is a strategic communications consultant, executive coach and former international journalist with more than 20 years' experience helping leaders communicate with clarity, confidence and influence. She has worked on both sides of the story, as a journalist with organisations and as a communications adviser to senior leaders and organisations.

Building Leaders at Every Level On-line Workshop

Growing leadership capacity without increasing headcount

Many nonprofit organisations don't have a leadership problem. They have a leadership capacity problem. This masterclass offers practical strategies for developing leadership at every level of a nonprofit organisation. Participants explore how to create distributed ownership rather than centralised dependency with

- A leadership capacity diagnostic for their own organisation
- Practical approaches for developing leaders at every level without significant additional investment
- A succession planning framework that works for smaller and mid-sized organisations



Jackie Clifford

Learning & Development Specialist, Facilitator, Coach, and Author

Jackie Clifford is a learning and development specialist, facilitator, coach and co-author of The Coaching Handbook. With over 30 years' experience in L&D, she helps organisations create cultures where learning via coaching and mentoring can become part of everyday working life. Jackie supports leaders to design practical, people-centred systems that work for their context.

Data-Driven Decision Making On-line Workshop

Using Insight to Improve Impact and Performance

This Masterclass supports CEOs in non-profits and charities to lead with insight by embedding data use in strategic decisions, performance management, and communications. It will explore the principles and practices involved with data-driven decision making and introduce various types/sources of data available, including public data, organisational data, and evaluation data. It will introduce practice tools, frameworks, and resources tailored to the sector. A guidebook will also be provided to participants.



Philip Isard

Chief Operating Officer, Quality Matters

Philip has significant experience in non-profit research, impact measurement, data strategy, and organisational development. Philip is an accredited Social Return on Investment practitioner and is an Associate Faculty Member at National College of Ireland. Philip has worked on several large data-driven projects, where he helps create accessible data systems.

Strategic Partnerships On-line Workshop

Building Equitable and Impactful Alliances

Drawing on collaboration models rooted in shared leadership and equity, this workshop will look at developing alliance-building and strategic partnerships for organisations. The workshop will explore partnership building and address key issues such as:

Designing partnership structures with shared purpose and trust.
Addressing equity and power dynamics in collaborative work.
Managing conflict and maintain long-term strategic alliances.



Caroline Gardner

Co-CEO and Co-Founder, Quality Matters

Caroline has experience supporting strategic development and innovation across social services. Caroline led successful initiatives in several nonprofit sectors. She uses her ability to use resources effectively to attain high-quality outcomes in large consultation, research or change management projects, and is happiest when designing processes that make the world a little bit better.

How to ensure your organisation is maximising its value Online Workshop

6 Questions for Senior Leaders

This session will walk senior leaders through practical tools to plan, measure and understand impact in a way that supports both day-to-day delivery and long-term strategy. They will learn how to:

- Assist senior leaders to develop an evaluation framework that works for them and not just funders.
- Develop a theory of change
- Consider how they can develop indicators that provide evidence of change, that is realistic about what can be evidenced at different stages of the service's lifecycle.



Majella McCloskey

Centre for Effective Services

Majella has over 25 years' experience in the nonprofit sector. She is a director with the Centre for Effective Services, an all-island not-for-profit organisation working to improve the lives of people on the island of Ireland by supporting the implementation of excellent public services through evidence-informed policy and practice.

The Chair & CEO Relationship In-Person Workshop

Governance

**10th June
2027**

This peer-led working session explores the relationship between chair and CEO. The session treats the relationship as a spectrum, from dysfunction at one end to genuine partnership at the other, and uses the experience in the room to define what excellent looks like and to work through the points of friction that recur. Participants leave with a shared language for describing the chair-CEO relationship, a set of markers for an excellent partnership drawn from their own practice, practical responses to the failure modes that come up most often, and stronger connections across the network.



Dr. Clodagh O'Reilly

Founder at Social Enterprise Solutions

Dr Clodagh O'Reilly is a consultant, researcher, and practitioner specialising in scaling social enterprises. She holds a PhD and an MBA from Trinity College Dublin. Clodagh is founder of Social Enterprise Solutions Ireland. Clodagh delivers governance training, is a Board Trustee, Treasurer, & chair and has been a CEO of an Irish nonprofit organisation.

Who is this for?

This Masterclass series is designed for the CEO's or Executive leader of Irish nonprofit organisations; community, voluntary, charitable or social enterprise organisations. It will be useful for both new CEO's and those more tenured who are looking to refresh and update their knowledge of concepts pertinent to a senior leadership role. We will confirm with all participants that they are currently the most senior person in their organisation before they are confirmed on the course.

Where can I find more information?

You can [find more information on our website](#)

Who can I contact?

If you have any further questions please contact

Sharon Hughes, Leadership Academy
Sharon@wheel.ie

What is the investment?

The investment for this course is **€1,250 for members** of The Wheel, **€1,600 for non-members**. This is the fee for the full Masterclass Series of nine expert-led Masterclasses over the year including both in-person events.

Brought to you by



www.leadersacademy.ie

Powered by



www.wheel.ie

**Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.**

*Please note, Masterclass contents and dates may be subject to change as a result of unforeseen circumstances.