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Strategic Alignment without Redundancy

AI Governance vs Data Governance

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DATAVERSITY®

Welcome to Leading AI Governance – Session 2

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LEADING AI Governance

Leading AI Governance is an executive webinar series tackling the most urgent challenges in responsible AI. Each month, industry leader Kelle O'Neal cuts through hype to deliver clear, practical frameworks on oversight, risk, regulation, and enterprise-scale governance through a live, candid conversation with a guest executive.

Leading AI Governance Subject Matter Expert:

Kelle O'Neal

Founder and CEO,
First San Francisco Partners

Webinar Title	Date
Cutting Through the Noise: What AI Governance Leaders Really Need to Know	1/6/2026
How to Implement AI Governance: Lessons from Enterprise Leaders	2/3/2026
AI Governance vs. Data Governance Strategic Alignment Without Redundancy	3/3/2026
Human Oversight in AI: Designing Accountability for High-Stakes Decisions	4/7/2026
Governance in the Wild: Managing Shadow AI and Decentralized Models	5/5/2026
Governance for Multimodal AI: Text, Vision, Voice, and Beyond	6/2/2026
Synthetic Truth: Governing Generative AI in High-Stakes Domains	7/7/2026
AI Governance Meets Cybersecurity: Aligning Trust, Safety, and Resilience	8/4/2026
The Right to Explanation: Meeting Regulatory Demands for Interpretable AI	9/1/2026
Building a Framework for AI Assurance	10/6/2026
The Future of AI Governance: Forecasting the Next Five Years	11/3/2026
Scaling AI Governance: Enterprise Playbooks for Data and IT Leaders	12/1/2026

Hosted on the first Tuesday of each month

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Today's Topic

Strategic Alignment without Redundancy

At the end of this session, participants will:

- ✔ Understand the convergence/divergence of AI & data governance
- ✔ Learn how to leverage the data decision framework (DDF) to propel the efforts of both AI and Data Governance
- ✔ Clarity around new skillsets required for successful AI Governance

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Revisiting the Definition of AI Governance

What it is, what it covers, and who's accountable

AI Governance is:

- AI Governance is the organizing framework for establishing the strategy, people, and processes for responsible creation and management of AI solutions in support of organizational goals.
- A combination of visibility, decision rights, and controls that ensures AI aligns with business, risk, and regulatory expectations.

AI Governance covers:

- Decision making rights
- Use-case visibility and ownership
- Risk tiering and approval paths
- Ongoing oversight and escalation
- Evidence and accountability (not just intent)

AI governance turns AI ambition into accountable, repeatable, actionable decision-making.

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Revisiting the Definition of *Data Governance*

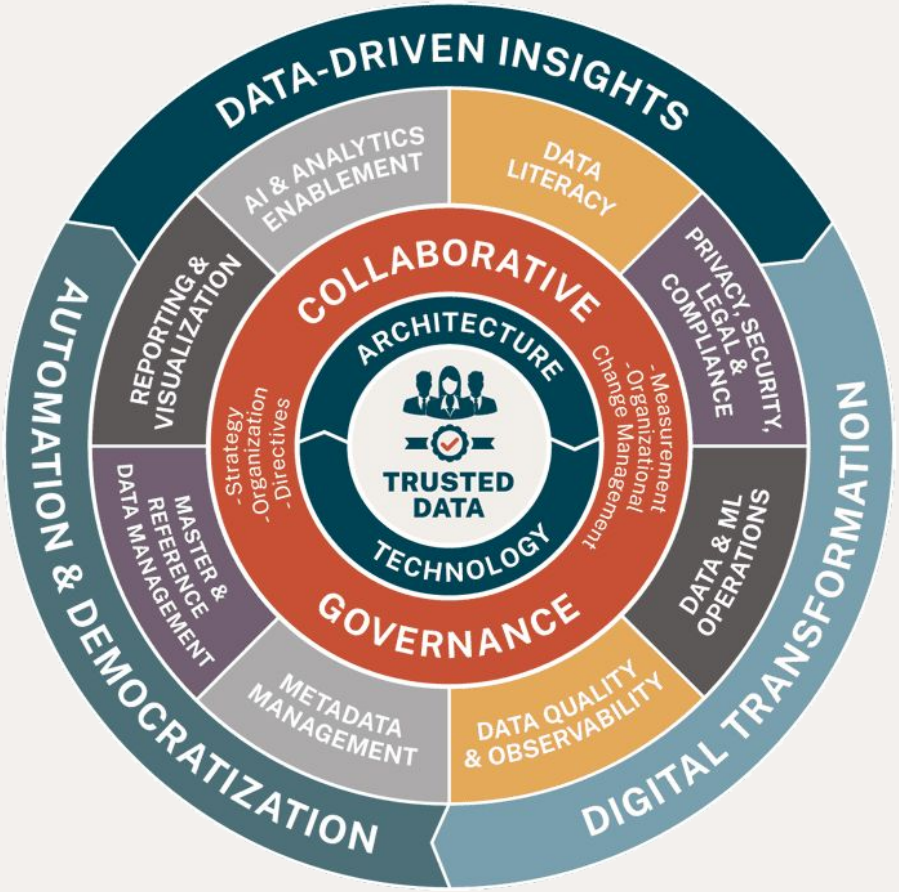
What it is, what it covers, and who's accountable

Data Governance is:

- Data Governance is the organizing framework for establishing the strategy, objectives and policy for effectively managing data, in all it's forms, across the enterprise.
- It consists of the processes, policies, organization and technologies required to manage and ensure the availability, usability, integrity, consistency, auditability and security of data.

Data Governance covers:

- Decision making rights
- Business alignment
- Risk tiering and approval paths
- Ongoing measurement and escalation
- Standards, Directives and Stewardship



Data governance ensures data is a value producing asset for the Organization

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Data Governance vs AI Governance – Comparison Matrix

DIMENSION	DATA GOVERNANCE	AI GOVERNANCE
Purpose	Organizing framework to establish strategy, objectives, and policy for managing enterprise data	Organizing framework to establish strategy, people, and processes for responsible AI solutions
Scope	Managing enterprise data assets	Responsible creation and management of AI solutions
Key Mechanisms	Policies, standards, accountabilities, and technologies POLICY-DRIVEN	Visibility, decision rights, and human-in-the-loop controls HUMAN-CENTERED
Decision Rights	Decision-making rights around data	Decision-making rights around AI solutions
Risk & Oversight	Risk identification and mitigation across the data lifecycle LIFECYCLE SCOPE	Risk/Ethics identification and mitigation across the AI lifecycle ETHICS + RISK
Accountability	Standards, directives, and stewardship	Evidence and accountability beyond intent EVIDENCE-BASED
Value Delivered	Trusted Data	Explainable Solutions

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Evolution of Data Assets under Stewardship

BUSINESS

Business Metadata

Describes data in business terms — ownership, definitions, and context that make data assets meaningful to non-technical stakeholders.

Data Definitions | Ownership | Business Rules

TECHNICAL

Technical Metadata

Captures the structural and system-level properties of data — schemas, formats, lineage, and infrastructure details.

Schema | Lineage | Data Types

OPERATIONAL

Operational Metadata

Tracks how data is used over time — job runs, access logs, processing history, and performance metrics across the data lifecycle.

Usage Logs | Job History | Performance

AI · NEW

AI Metadata

Documents AI-specific attributes — model provenance, training data, bias assessments, and explainability factors for responsible AI governance.
User prompts, tool calls and decision confidence remove explainability.

Model Provenance | Bias Tracking | Explainability

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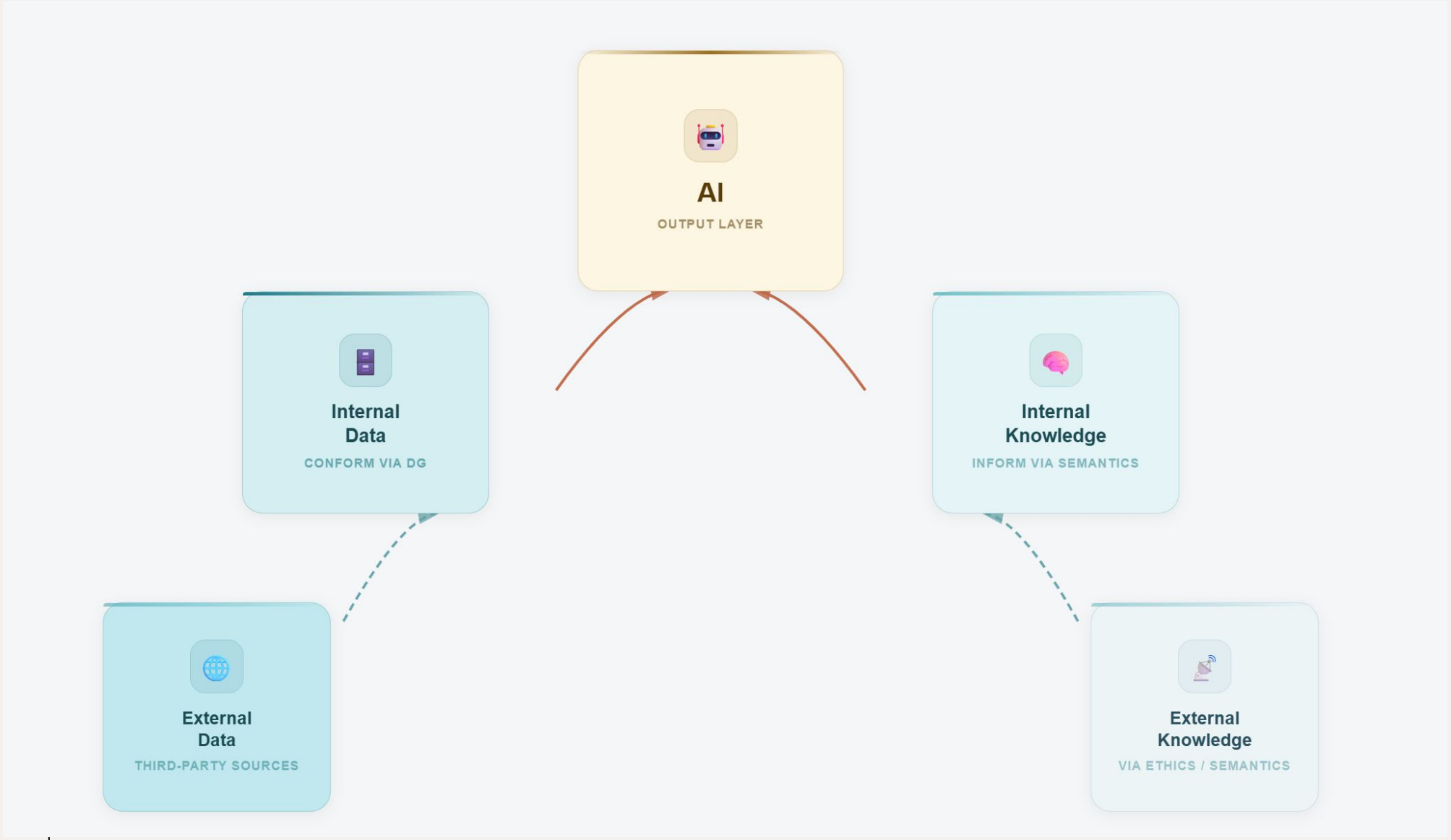
Governance Beyond the Traditional Input



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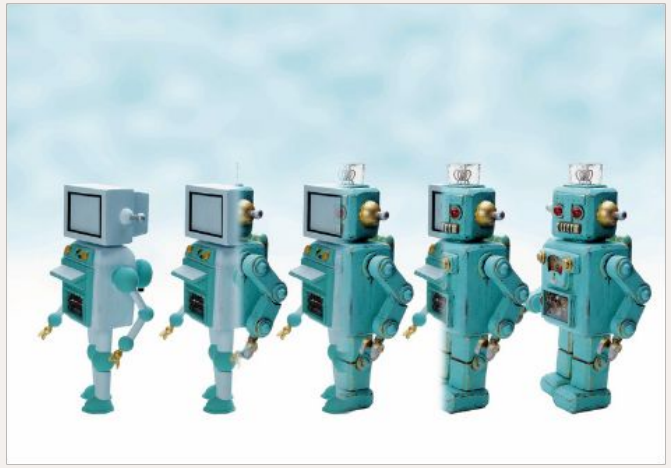
Three Critical Points

Addressing these three points will align your Organization to the capabilities needed to succeed with AI

AI Will Necessitate a DG Evolution



Decisioning Will be Refined

Decision Stewardship Will Emerge

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AI Will Necessitate a DG Evolution

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DG Will Evolve – But Not How we Expected

Initial Belief

Data Governance would evolve into AI Governance

✗ **Oversimplified**

Current Understanding

Data Governance evolves in service to AI. AI Governance runs in parallel

✓ **Correct Model**

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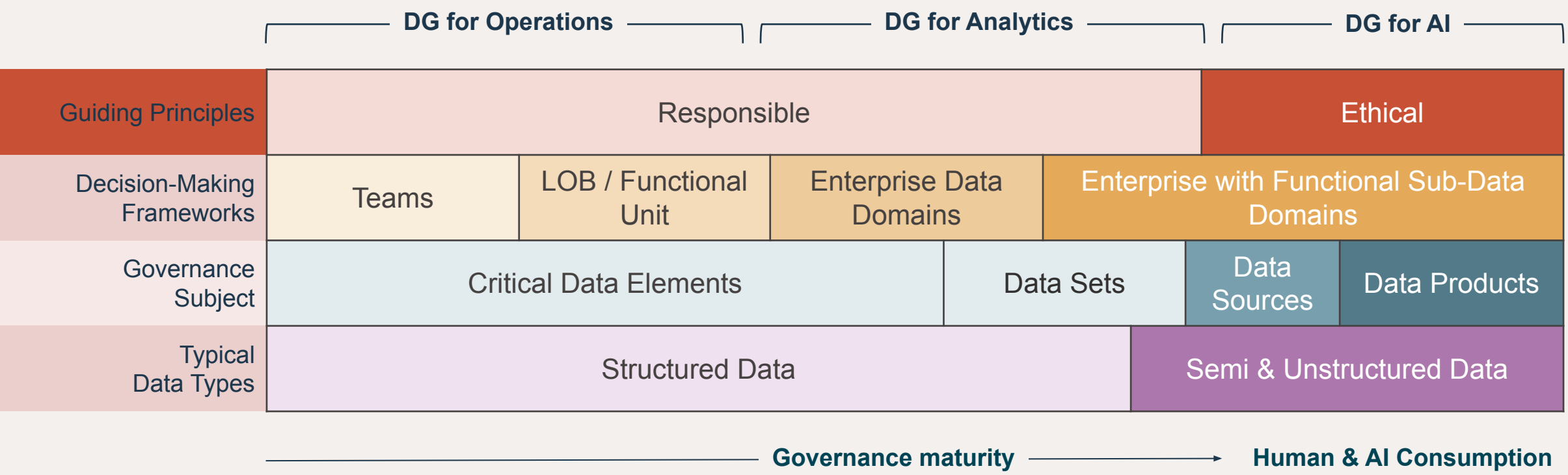
How Data Governance Evolves to Support AI

As data governance matures, so does the volume, richness, and comprehensiveness of the data it supports



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Decisioning will be Refined

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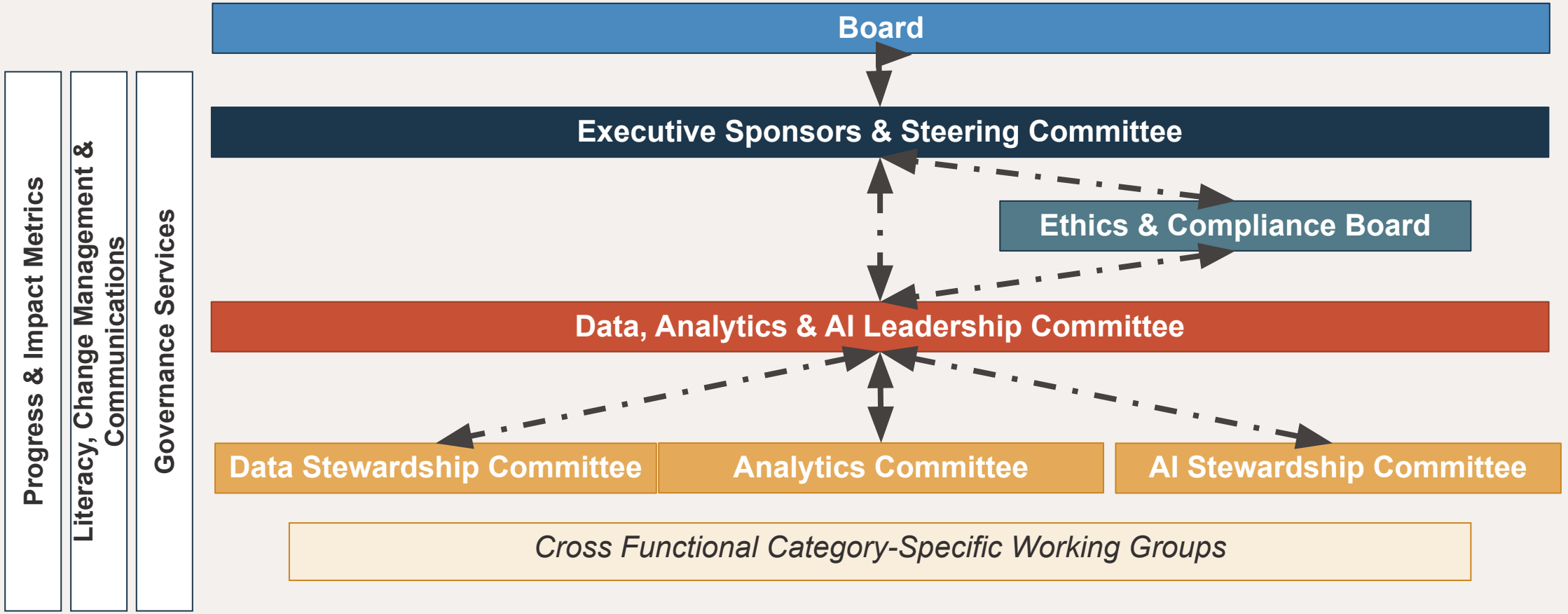
Aligned Decision-Making and Accountability



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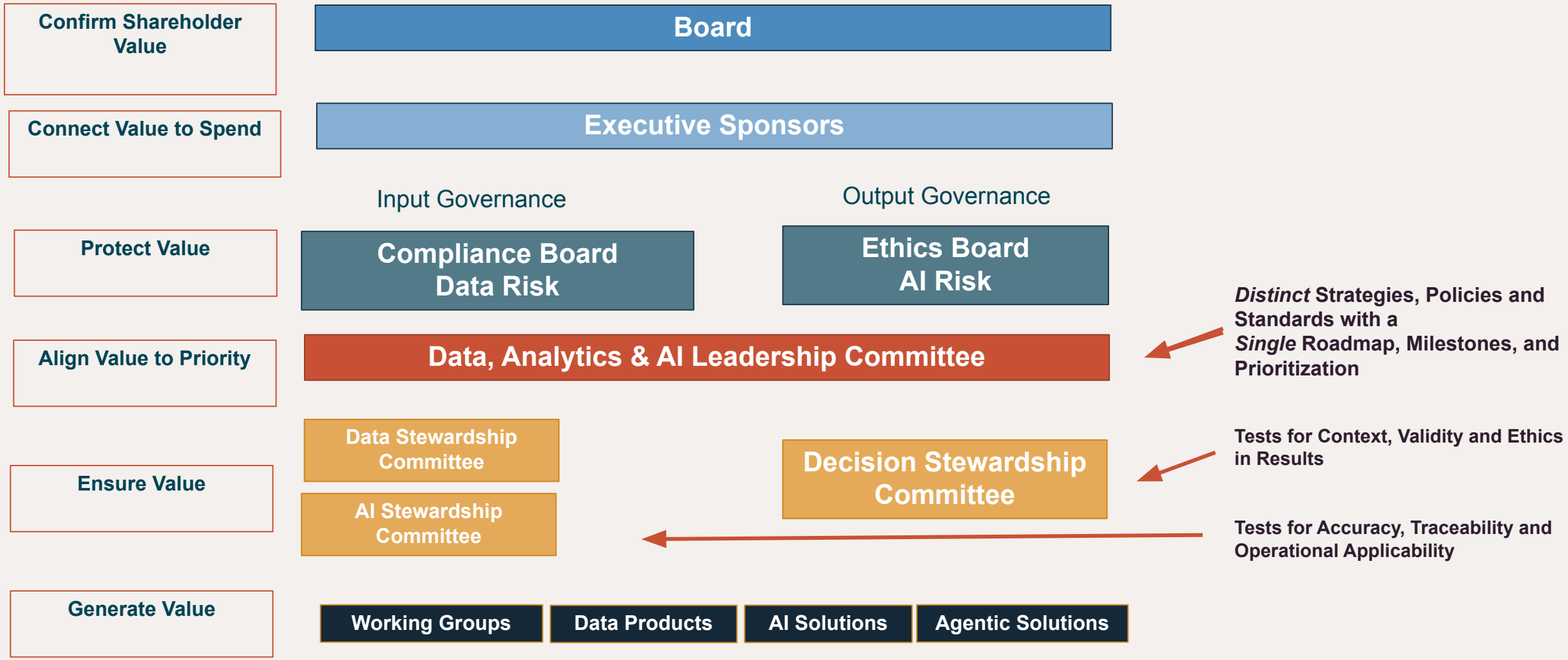
Decision-Making in an AI-Centric Organization



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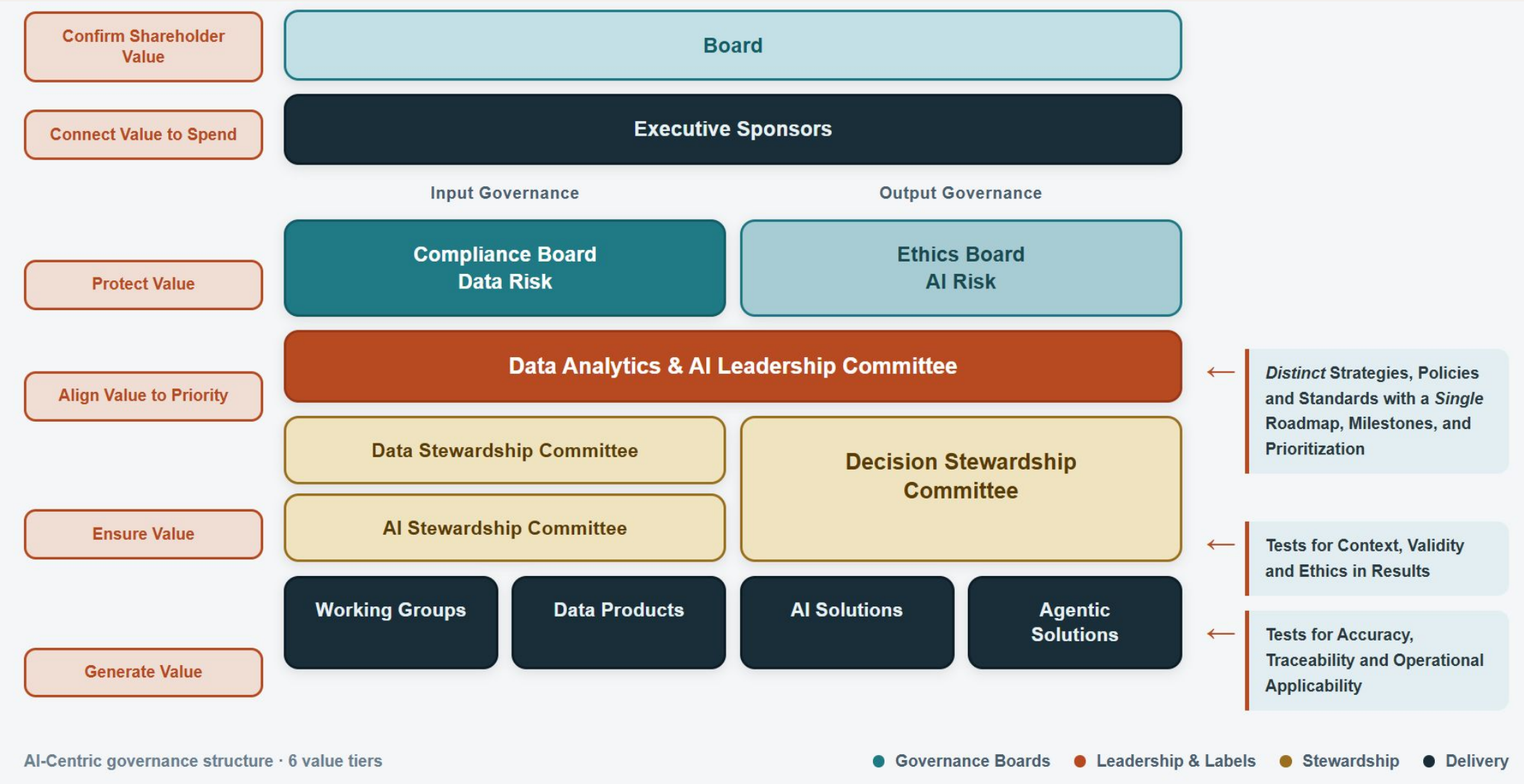
Decision-Making in an AI-Centric Organization



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Decision Stewardship will Emerge

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Decision Stewardship Defined

Decision Stewardship is:

- The critical examination of decisions to ensure alignment to organizational values, societal ethics, and government compliance.
- Ensuring logical and explainable results that are grounded in the specificity of the enterprise yet expansive to create new opportunities and advancements that can be leveraged for competitive advantage and growth.

Decision Stewardship Covers:

- Human in the Loop
- Reasoning
- Ethics Evaluation
- AI as a Co-Worker Assessments

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The Role of a Decision Steward

- Oversee and Validate AI decisions
- Verify “human-in-the-loop”, behavior, bias, societal impact
- Work with related functions/SMEs to validate context and grounding

Skills/Background needed:

* Not an exhaustive list

- Process
- Data
- Systems
- Culture
- Risk Tolerance
- AI Native
- Reasoning
- Bias recognition
- Standards and Acceptable Deviation
- Quality testing
- ML/AI Operations and Concepts

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Thought Starters and Takeaways

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Key Takeaways

1. Data governance evolves in service to AI — it does not become AI governance
2. The DDF is the convergence point where both frameworks align
3. Integration is necessary; redundancy is not — identify shared elements deliberately
4. AI carries higher governance risk due to automated, human-removed decision-making
5. Decision Stewardship is a unique capability that needs to be instantiated

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Next Steps

Take an honest look at your existing DG program

- What is the primary focus (tony article) governance is governance – so if your existing program is viewed as slow, bureaucratic, isolated or disconnected, that perception could carry over to AI Gov
- Reframe your program as an Enterprise Service that enables and accelerates AI; and be sure to articulate clear, relevant connection.

Understand the pockets of AI in your Organization that are already creating value

- Invite those people to the table first. Learn what's working and what's not – the most relevant and impactful support for AI Governance may already be there. If you don't find a seat at the table for this community, be prepared to battle "shadow AI".
- Talk to the Data Science team. AI was not invented last year; they will have some guidelines and best practices that could be a jump start for your program.

Consider an AI HRBP

- AI is most effective as a co-worker, support the decisions being made with the same ethics and values your Organization expects in its employees. What are the non-negotiables or standards that can be coded into AI solutions to ensure they are behaving in the best interests of the Organization

Recognize all the ways AI shows up in your Organization

- AI is rapidly being added to every application your organization uses, recognize and catalog what's being tested, promoted or deprecated in these tools – giving your stewards a view of the big picture helps to create validity and value in participation. Giving the app owners a seat at the table ensure that they see the value of responsible AI

Prepare to play offense as well as defense

- Build Enterprise momentum via process mapping to locate decision points that AI can be empowered to make. Process mapping also creates a path to the critical data that needs to be governed – creating a clear connection point back to Data Governance

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Thank you!

Kelle O'Neal, CEO & Founder
kelle@firstsanfranciscopartners.com
Lisa Wintrick, Executive Advisor
lisa@firstsanfranciscopartners.com

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