

# The Narcissistic Blueprint: How Toxic Leaders Infect Organizations and Rewrite the Future

A Case Study in Makerspace Corruption, Social Decay, and the Cost of Leadership Blindness



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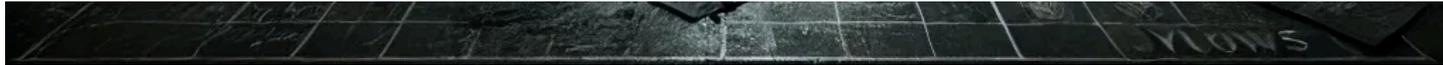
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There is a **pattern**.

It begins with a **vision**—a grand, ambitious dream built on passion, community, and shared purpose. **An idealistic structure** where innovation thrives, where people collaborate without rigid hierarchies, where leadership serves rather than controls.

And then, something happens.

Not suddenly, not in an obvious coup—but in small, insidious shifts.

**A parasite enters the system.**

Not with force, but with **charisma**. **With control disguised as competence**. With an ego that hides behind the mask of “leadership.” And once it’s in, the pattern begins.

## **Stage 1: The Idealist Builds, the Narcissist Waits**

At the beginning, there is energy—pure and boundless. The **founders** aren’t power-hungry; they’re builders, creators, visionaries. They establish bylaws with **good faith**, assuming that future leaders will share their values.

But the first fatal flaw of idealists is **believing that everyone shares their ethics**.

They don’t anticipate the **gameplayers**.

They don't see the future **narcissists lurking**, watching, waiting—until the system is big enough, influential enough, **worth taking**.

## **Stage 2: The False Champion Steps In**

When the organization gains traction, when its reputation solidifies, **the first infection takes root**.

The narcissist doesn't enter as an aggressor. No—**they enter as the golden child**. The most active volunteer. The most committed. The most involved.

They **mimic passion** until they are trusted. They **mimic leadership** until they are given a title.

They **mimic loyalty** until they no longer need to.

## **Stage 3: The Slow, Systematic Shift to Control**

Once inside, the narcissist begins **rewriting reality**—not through force, but through **subtle policy changes**, quiet purges of dissenters, and the slow **centralization of power**.

- **Rules that once encouraged community suddenly become about control.**
- **Open discussions are replaced with private backroom decisions.**

- **Accountability structures are slowly eroded, because "trust us" replaces transparency.**

The leaders who resist? Pushed out. Ostracized. Silenced. Their warnings reframed as drama. As paranoia. As instability.

The new culture forms: Compliance, or exile.

And the worst part? The infection doesn't stop at the top.

## **Stage 4: The Culture Shifts to Defend the Narcissist**

Once the narcissist locks in control, they don't need to fight battles themselves. The culture now fights for them.

- **Loyalists emerge—not because they agree, but because it's safer to align with power.**
- **Former friends of the narcissist begin justifying their abuses, convincing themselves that it's not really that bad.**
- **The organization itself becomes an enabler, normalizing toxicity under the guise of "stability."**

And here's the worst part: **The narcissist doesn't need to stay in power for their infection to survive.**

Because once the culture changes, once people **accept** that control is normal, once policies are rewritten to serve dominance over collaboration...

...the damage is permanent.

The narcissist can leave. **Their imprint remains.**

## **Stage 5: The Next Generation Carries the Infection Forward**

Here's the final, devastating truth about narcissistic leadership:

By the time people recognize the corruption, **it's too late.**

Even if the narcissist is removed, **the system they created remains.**

The **next leader** inherits a **corrupt structure**, and unless they actively dismantle it, **the cycle repeats.**

And this is why Dallas Makerspace still operates under the shadows of [Andrew LeCody](#).

Not because he's still in power. Not because he's still pulling the strings.

But because the **patterns of corruption and control he seeded never died.**

# Lessons from a Leadership Failure: How to Break the Cycle

The story of Dallas Makerspace is a warning. **It is not unique.**

This **happens everywhere**. In nonprofits. In corporations. In startups. In government.

Anywhere that power can be seized, **narcissists will attempt to take it.**

And if we don't change how we **recognize, prevent, and dismantle these patterns**, we will keep building things that get hijacked by the very people least qualified to lead them.

## How Do We Stop This?

### ● Codify Ethical Leadership

- Bylaws need more than just rules—they need firewalls against power centralization.
- Every position must have strict term limits. Power should never become indefinite.

### ● Public Accountability, Not Private Control

- No leader should be untouchable.

- Every decision should be transparent.
  - Leaders should be required to answer for their actions publicly.
- Red Flags Must Be Treated as Contagions
- If a leader rewrites history, dismisses critics as "crazy" or "obsessive," or controls information flow, they are a threat to the organization.
  - Do not excuse toxicity just because someone is "useful."
  - If an organization protects its leadership more than its members, it has already failed.

## Final Thoughts: The Cost of Looking Away

I was there.

I **built** Dallas Makerspace. I wrote the bylaws, mentored its leaders, **believed in its vision.**

And I failed to see the infection when it arrived.

By the time I recognized Andrew LeCody for what he was, **it was too late.** The system had already been rewritten, **and the people who could have stopped it had been silenced.**

If we don't study these patterns, if we don't name them, if we don't build systems that **resist their influence**, then we will keep **building things just to have them stolen**.

And that?

That is the true tragedy of every idealistic movement that **never realized it had been compromised until it was already too late**.

## **Now, We Decide**

- Will we keep excusing toxic leadership?
- Will we keep letting narcissists manipulate **idealistic structures into instruments of control**?
- Or will we **force accountability**, rebuild the rules, and make sure **the parasites never win again**?

The choice is ours. **But the cost of looking away is permanent**.

## **Discussion about this post**

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