

leadership evanston

We believe being a leader is about what you do, not your job title. We invite you to apply, whether or not you have a formal leadership role.



Who Should Apply

LE Signature Program is for you if you:

- Love Evanston
- Live or work in Evanston
- Want to learn more about the amazing things happening in our community
- Are committed to having a positive, lasting impact on our community
- Are eager to learn from and with a diverse group of community leaders
- Have a sincere commitment, motivation, and interest in the experience of the Signature Program

Program Overview

Leadership Evanston (LE) Signature Program is a 10-month program that brings together community leaders from a wide range of backgrounds & experiences to learn from each other and create lasting change together.

- This is a non-certificate program.
- Length of program: September - June
- During that time, participants:
 - Learn about the history of Evanston to understand how we became the city we are today.
 - Build relationships with each other and other community leaders.
 - Collaborate to problem-solve around our biggest challenges.

Important Dates

- Application for Class 33 opens May 1st, closes July 31st at 11:59 pm
 - Average of 25 participants per cohort.
- Tuition Support should be requested when completing your application.
- Applicant conversations take place in August.
- Notification by end of August.

Program Days

- We visit places in Evanston like local businesses, community organizations, and schools to learn about the strengths and challenges of our community.
- Community leaders and educators present on a wide range of topics, like communication strategies, civic engagement, and leading with a vision.
- Discuss topics like racial equity, economic challenges, and community safety to understand a variety of perspectives and find ways we can make positive change in our community.
 - We also have optional opportunities to go on tours and meet with other community groups outside of the Thursday meeting.

Class Dates

Virtual Meetings	In-Person Meetings
10/17 LE Virtual	Saturday, 9/14 LE Orientation 8:30am-2pm
11/7 LE Team Meeting	10/31 LE In-Person
12/12 LE Virtual	11/21 LE In-Person
1/9 LE Virtual	12/19 LE In-Person
2/13 LE Virtual	1/23 LE In-Person
3/6 LE Virtual	2/27 LE In-Person
4/10 LE Virtual	3/20 LE In-Person
5/8 LE Virtual	4/24 LE In-Person
Virtual sessions 3-5pm In-Person sessions 8:30am-1:30pm (breakfast and lunch provided)	5/22 Presentations
	6/12 Graduation Celebration

Expectations & Time Commitment

- Participation: Missing more than 2 sessions will compromise your experience in the program.
- Work outside class time: approximately 4 hours/month
- Opportunities for offsite visits/experiences.
- LE Alum Mentors
- Group work:
 - Participants also have a small group called their Project Team, that meets at least 1 hour each month. Project Team meeting times and locations are decided by the team members. Project Teams often choose to meet at a library, someone's home, or on Zoom/Slack.

Letter of Support for your Employer

- By request
- ECF can provide a letter to your employer outlining the benefits of your participation and request their support in you taking time away to engage in Leadership Evanston programming.

Tuition Support

- Tuition Cost: \$1,500
 - Covers cost of venue, meals, materials, honorariums for presenters
- Tuition Support: by request
 - ECF offers monthly payment plan options and a limited number of partial scholarships based on individual need and requests.
 - ECF offers a nonprofit discount for organizations that sponsor a participant.
 - No eligible candidate will be turned away due to inability to pay.
- If you are concerned about the program cost, there is a place to request financial assistance on your application.

Application Questions

- Contact Information, Pronouns, Demographics
- Volunteer/Civic engagement in Evanston or elsewhere. Role(s) held & approximate dates
- What are your current work/volunteer responsibilities?
- Do you live or work in Evanston? For how long?
- Can you attend all sessions?
- Do you plan to be living/working in Evanston in five years? If not, please explain.
- How will you cover tuition? Are you requesting tuition support?
- Describe your most significant accomplishments in any of these affiliations.

Application Questions (cont.)

- Describe why community engagement is important to you.
- What are your personal qualities you bring to the cohort?
- What leadership skills are you looking to develop?
- What, in your opinion, are the three most pressing issues in Evanston?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience? How will you bring it back to community?
- How did you get interested in LE?
- Anything else you feel is important to know about you?

Application Deadline
July 31st 11:59pm

Next Steps

- Submit your application by July 31st.
- Contact Karli Butler or Lauren Davis if you have any questions.



Lauren Davis
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Karli Butler
Senior Director, Community Leadership
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