



**Class XXXI  
Program Information  
2012 – 2013**

*"Leadership Houston is one of the most important institutions in this city, particularly in terms of stimulating civic engagement and strengthening collaboration across Houston's varied communities."*

--Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D., Rice University Sociology Professor

**Background**

Leadership Houston, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation with the mission *To Enlighten, empower and engage diverse community leaders through broadened knowledge and understanding of the greater Houston area.*

We accomplish this by educating, energizing and activating business and civic leaders in all sectors of Houston by providing knowledge of the community and key relationships to effect change. In order to be an effective leader, a broad understanding of the community is vital. Knowing what has happened in the past, what the current realities are, and where the region is headed are all areas of knowledge gained through participating in Leadership Houston.

In addition to providing critical civic information, we build on our class members' existing leadership strengths, providing them tools for dealing with complex business and social challenges while growing in their emotional intelligence as well as their personal and professional development.

Bottom line, we give people who already know they are leaders the knowledge and the tools to really affect their community and their professional environment in a positive way. And, as an added bonus, our alumni build a strong network of relationships throughout the region that they maintain throughout their careers. Leadership Houston alumni assist other alumni in accomplishing their goals.

We are proud of what we do. Over the past 30 years, our Leadership Program has graduated more than 1,400 individuals representing Houston's rich diversity. Most alumni still reside in Houston and are passionately living to their potential. They are the engaged and active decision-makers who help make our city and region great.

Collaboratively, Leadership Houston alumni represent a powerful dynamic resource that provides its members with access to leaders, decision-makers and ongoing mentorship.

We accomplish this by:

- Recognizing and attracting proven leaders who are committed to making a difference in the Greater Houston community
- Providing in-depth education about the social and economic working of our community
- Building personal, organizational and civic leadership capacities for those who participate in our broad range of programs
- Impacting the betterment of life in our community through participation in our programs and our community outreach initiatives
- Nurturing long term ownership and affiliation for the future prosperity of our community through insight, education and collaboration



*“Leadership Houston has opened doors, the fact that not everyone can get in adds a lot of credibility. My business and family schedules keep me very busy, but if someone from Leadership Houston gives me a call I will find time for them.”*

--Michael Garfield “The High-Tech Texan®”

## **The Leadership Program Experience**

The Leadership Program is our signature 10-month curriculum with an unequalled reputation for developing Houston's exceptional civic leaders.

Each spring, 50-55 individuals are chosen from a pool of applicants to embark on a leadership journey comprised of opening and closing weekend retreats and eight one-day per month classes. Class days are full eight-hour days covering subjects such as local government, Houston economy, demographic shifts, education, infrastructure, arts, healthcare and the environment.

The curriculum is fast-paced and dynamic, and derived from cutting-edge leadership models. Each class day includes a leadership component that hones class members' leadership strengths while providing a broad look into Houston's major community issues. Participants will interact with the current leaders in Houston and learn the intricacies of the city from the inside out.

From the Houston City Council chambers during Government Day, to the Federal Reserve Bank on Economy Day, to the majestic museums on Arts Day, to a ride on METRO Rail for a look at mobility issues and the Medical Center for insights on health and wellness issues – the Leadership Program uncovers Houston in a distinctive way giving the participant a real-life experience and access to the city's current leaders.

Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of Houston's history
- Know who our city's decision-makers are and how to access them
- Develop an increased knowledge of themselves and their leadership styles to better serve their current organizations and communities
- Form friendships among class members that provide long-lasting relationships across all sectors and demographic groups
- Understand Houston's community issues and how to be engaged at a level that can make a sustainable difference
- Have continued access to Leadership Houston alumni and continuing education programs