

YW Boston's

LeadBoston

Convene Connect Mobilize

Purpose and Benefits

LeadBoston is an 11-month, experiential education program focused on the inner workings of Boston, trends and issues that impact the city's social and economic vitality, and socially responsible leadership. The program is geared to corporate, public and non-profit leaders with at least 15 years of professional experience. It connects leaders across sectors, increasing their knowledge about the city and their capacity to lead within their organization and community.

Benefits for LeadBoston participants

- Build a strong network of high-caliber, influential and diverse professionals from a variety of sectors and industries throughout Greater Boston
- Strengthen leadership skills such as managing conflict, building consensus amongst divergent views, self-awareness and social-emotional intelligence
- Develop a deep understanding of metro Boston's socio-economic environment, as well as its impact on customers, clients, and employees
- Gain exposure to influential leaders in key institutions.

Benefits for their employers

- Participating employee is better equipped to understand stakeholders' needs, solve challenging problems, make better business decisions, and advance inclusive workplace practices
- Broaden employees' access to key leaders, institutions and professional contacts via the powerful LeadBoston network
- Reward high-potential individuals and prepare them for greater leadership responsibilities
- Advance corporate social responsibility goals
- Gain access to an intensive orientation for leaders new to Metro-Boston.

"LeadBoston helped me to understand Boston, its neighborhoods, and its people in an entirely new way. That knowledge provides a strong foundation for me as a civic and political leader." – Martha M. Walz ('02), Marty Walz & Associates

eliminating racism
empowering women

yw
boston

150 years

Curriculum and Schedule

LeadBoston is unique among mid-career leadership programs due to its experiential learning approach, cohort-based structure, and focus on equity. The program year is January through November and includes one overnight retreat, monthly program days, informal class gatherings, and alumni networking events. Program days include meetings with policymakers, corporate leaders, and academics, visits to Boston civic institutions, schools, health centers, corporations, correctional facilities and neighborhood, and candid exploration of Boston's inequities and how participants can have an impact within their professional roles and civic lives.

January 9	Orientation (afternoon reception)
January 16	Program Day: Exploring Boston's Neighborhoods
February 8 – 9	Two-day overnight advance: Identity and Leadership
March 13	Program Day: Class, Poverty, and Policy
April 10	Program Day: Education, Boston Public Schools
May 15	Program Day: Education, School Choice and Workforce Development
June 12	Program Day: Healthy Communities and Health Care Delivery
July 17	Program Day: Housing and Transportation
August 14	Program Day: Crime and Punishment: Arrest and Prosecution
September 11	Program Day: Crime and Punishment: Incarceration and Re-Entry
October 16	Program Day: Leadership Commitments
November 13	Graduation (evening reception)

Our Expert Speakers

LeadBoston participants and alumni alike engage with key thought leaders in intimate, provocative and in-depth conversations about the city and its challenges and opportunities. Presenters at program days for the current class are a virtual "who's who" of Boston leadership, including some who are LeadBoston alumni themselves. LeadBoston alumni engage with each other and other socially responsible leaders through quarterly professional development and networking events. Leaders in the cross-sector network include:

Government

Governor Deval Patrick
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Stephanie Pollack (LB '98)
Secretary of Transportation,
Massachusetts

Commissioner William Evans
Boston Police Department

Turahn Dorsey
Chief of Education,
City of Boston

Nonprofit

Wendy Foster (LB '10)
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Massachusetts Bay

Peter Slavin, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital

Rahsaan Hall
ACLU of Massachusetts

Dr. Paula Johnson (LB '96)
Wellesley College

Corporate

Kevin McCall (LB '97)
Paradigm Properties

Shawna Ferguson
Wellington Management

Regina Pisa (LB '93)
Goodwin Procter LLC

Paul Francisco
State Street

Participation Requirements

For LeadBoston participants

Participants should be mid-to-senior career professionals with 15 to 30 years of experience. LeadBoston is not a training program, and is targeted for leaders who have the ability to influence change within their organization, professional sector, or in the larger Boston community.

Consistent participation is vital to the success of the program, and participants are asked to devote the time and resources necessary to ensure full participation. The program commitment includes: 9 program days, 1/2 day orientation, an overnight retreat, and a graduation/closing celebration. The application process is competitive and participants are chosen thoughtfully to create a dynamic cohort.

For employers

Because LeadBoston may require time away from the workplace, sponsoring employers must be aware of the time commitment and supportive of the participant attending all LeadBoston program days.

An employer also supports the employee's participation by covering the cost of participation. There is a \$2,000 - \$6,500 sliding scale fee based on the type and size of the participant's sponsor organization. Flexible payment plans are available.

Fee Structure

Employers pay tuition on behalf of their participating employees. Cost of tuition varies by type and size of organization as outlined below and is subsidized by YW Boston.

Corporation (for profit)

15 employees or more:	\$6,500
Fewer than 15 employees:	\$3,500

Non-profit Organization or Public Agency

100 employees or more:	\$6,500
Between 15 and 99 employees:	\$3,500
Fewer than 15 employees:	\$2,000

Participants are also expected to contribute a \$300 tuition fee. All tuition and fee payments are non-refundable. Flexible payment plans are negotiable upon request. Tuition payment is available online at <http://bit.ly/2ssBOZU>.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Your organization can invest in the future of our city and demonstrate its commitment to racial and gender equity by sponsoring LeadBoston. Sponsorship enables LeadBoston to offer tiered, accessible pricing. Contact Sheera Bornstein at 617-585-5420 or sbornstein@ywboston.org.

FAQs

1) Who participates in LeadBoston?

Since 1991, LeadBoston has competitively selected more than 1,000 men and women as LeadBoston participants. Representing the gamut of Boston's professional, racial, ethnic, religious and gender diversity, LeadBostonians are typically executives with 15 to 30 years of experience, who have the ability to influence change within their organization, professional sector, and in the larger Boston community. Participants are sponsored and financially supported by their employers. LeadBoston is not a training program, and participants are required to have professional experience prior to participation.

2) Does LeadBoston cover topics of diversity, equity and inclusion?

Yes, although it is not technically a DEI program. Socially responsible leadership requires an understanding of identity, power, and the manifestations of inequities across Boston. As a part of the broader exploration of leadership, participants develop an understanding of how their race, gender, and other aspects of their identity enhance and inhibit their leadership. After LeadBoston, 93% of participants report that they are advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within their organizations. YW Boston offers other programming and workshops for organizations wishing to host staff-wide educational opportunities on issues of racial equity and inclusion.

3) What benefits are there for LeadBoston alumni?

LeadBoston has been graduating socially responsible leaders for over 25 years, and its robust alumni network is over 1,000 local leaders strong. Alumni are offered regular events including panel discussions, social gatherings, and professional development workshops. Alumni, and their employers, benefit from lifelong access to the network and connection with these leaders and influencers from a variety of sectors.

Application Process

To apply for LeadBoston, complete the online application form at www.ywboston.org/leadboston/apply. The form consists of personal and demographic information, and also asks for a written statement of commitment. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. **Apply by August 15th for early consideration and admission to the class.** The final application deadline is November 9.

Candidates may be invited for a personal interview following receipt of an application. Applicants will be notified of whether they have been accepted into the 2019 LeadBoston class no later than December 31.

Questions about LeadBoston, sponsorship or the application process may be directed to: **Sheera Bornstein** at 617-585-5420 or sbornstein@ywboston.org.