



# Leadership Columbia

A COLUMBIACHAMBER *Program*





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Leadership Columbia (LC) is the region's signature leadership program offered through the Columbia Chamber. Leadership Columbia is a skills-building program that aims to develop emerging community leaders while providing an educational experience with a strong emphasis on social and community awareness. Upon completion of the program, Leadership Columbia participants will walk away with the knowledge and skills to focus their talents in best service to the greater Midlands region.

## LC MISSION

LC's mission is to develop the leadership skills of current and emerging community leaders by providing diverse opportunities for professional development, community involvement, and networking.

## LC ADVISORY BOARD

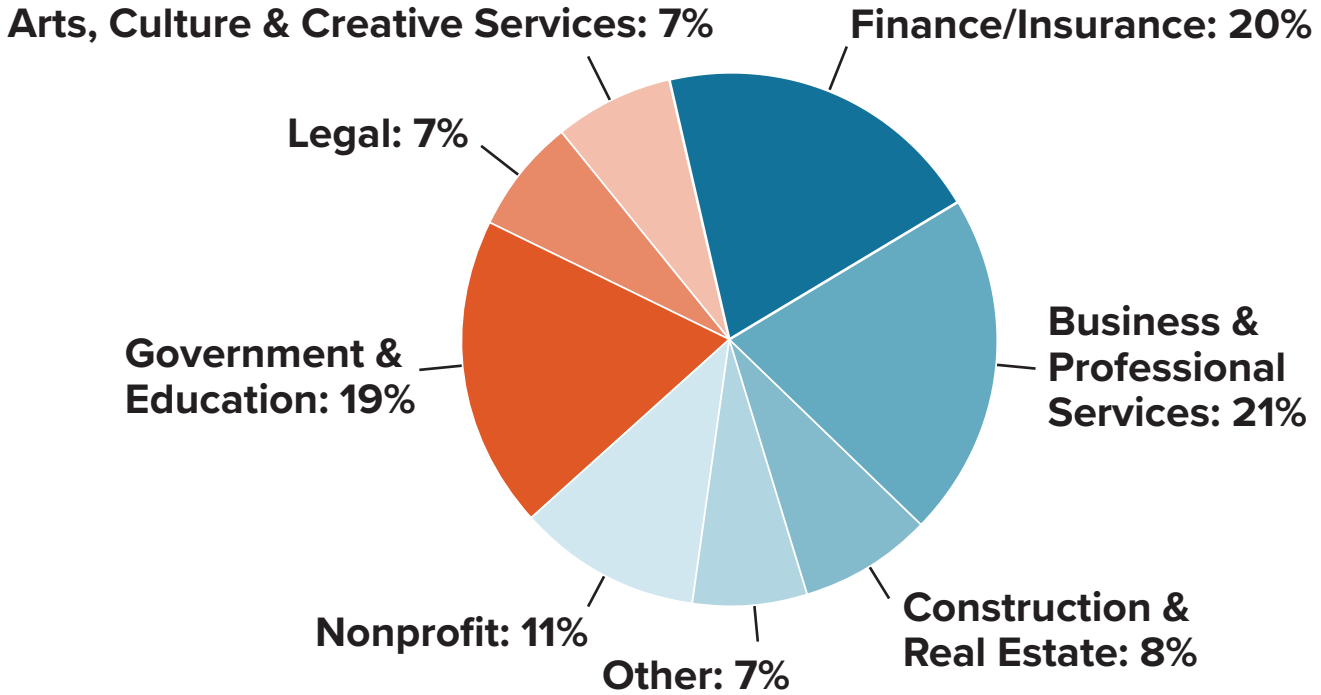
The LC Advisory Board (LCAB) is made of a group of volunteers who have successfully completed the requirements to graduate from the Leadership Columbia program. LCAB members work alongside the Columbia Chamber to maintain oversight of the LC program, develop monthly class days, and conduct the application and interview process for incoming participants.

## LC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Upon completion of the program, all LC graduates have the opportunity to join the Leadership Columbia Alumni Association (LCAA). LCAA provides a space for alumni to connect and network with over four decades of graduates, maintain active involvement in the greater Columbia region, and further strengthen leadership skills introduced during their time in Leadership Columbia.



# LEADERSHIP COLUMBIA PARTICIPANTS AT A GLANCE



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# LEADERSHIP COLUMBIA CURRICULUM

Throughout the 10-month program, Leadership Columbia participants must attend and complete a required two-day retreat, nine monthly day-long sessions, a collaborative class project, and a variety of enrichment activities all designed to educate them on critical issues facing the community while also providing opportunities for deeper involvement in and around the greater Columbia region.

## During the program, participants can expect to:

- Develop and fine-tune leadership skills
- Enhance knowledge of the greater Columbia region through educational hands-on experiences and exclusive interactions with community decision makers
- Gain valuable insight on critical issues facing the community and learn how to get involved to make a difference
- Build a lasting network of civic-minded leaders

## Who should apply?

Leadership Columbia is for anyone wanting to learn about and get more involved in the Midlands area. Class members are selected based on community involvement, capacity for leadership, commitment to improving the Midlands, and an interest in enhancing their leadership skills.

## Application Process

All applicants must complete an online application and an in-person interview. Applications and interviews are independently and blindly evaluated by the Leadership Columbia Advisory Board to ensure fairness and integrity in the selection process.

## Ready to Apply?

Email Leah Kelly at [leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com](mailto:leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com)  
or visit [columbiachamber.com/leadership-development](http://columbiachamber.com/leadership-development).



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# PROJECT

A crucial part of the LC program is the collaborative class project that facilitates team building while utilizing the class's unique areas of expertise to address a critical need in the community. LC prides itself on not only educating participants about critical issues facing the Midlands, but also providing an opportunity to put what they have learned into action.

Each year, the LC class seeks to partner with a local nonprofit to choose a project that will make a positive and lasting impact on the community. The selected nonprofit:

(1) will benefit from a dedicated team of individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds and skills and (2) must meet a predetermined set of criteria to qualify.



## What benefits should nonprofits expect to receive if selected?

- The opportunity to extend the reach of their mission and better address the needs of the community they serve.
- The ability to enact meaningful change in the community through a sustainable project that will provide enduring benefits.
- Increased community awareness through exposing LC participants to key issues facing the Midlands.
- An enhanced network of civic-minded leaders who are passionate about engaging with the community.

## Request for Proposal (RFP Process)

To submit a proposal, an organization must be a 501 c (3) nonprofit located within the Chamber's six-county area: Richland, Lexington, Fairfield, Kershaw, Calhoun, and Newberry Counties. The proposed project must address a specific need within the community while also having well-defined expectations and objectives. All applicants must complete an online proposal to be reviewed by the LCAB Project Committee and Columbia Chamber. The non-profit must also send a representative to present their proposals in-person at the class retreat in the fall.

***Ready to submit a proposal?***

*Email Leah Kelly at [leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com](mailto:leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com).*



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# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership Columbia is a unique opportunity for participants to be exposed to a variety of topics that provide insight into critical issues affecting the Midlands while also encouraging them to become active leaders in the community. Class days educate participants on topics including Arts & Culture, Education, Health & Human Services, Economic Development, Political Systems, Criminal Justice, Military Affairs, and Environmental Affairs.

A Leadership Columbia Sponsorship is a great opportunity to get your company's name in front of the Midlands' best and brightest leaders.

## **Class Day Presenting Sponsor | \$1,000** – One per Class Day

- Exclusive recognition as the Class Day Presenting Sponsor and announcement of sponsorship on social media
- Sponsor company recognized at the beginning of the class day
- CEO or representative of sponsor company invited to the class day
- Opportunity to address the class during the class day
- Company name & logo featured on Class Day agenda and materials
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to the class
- Opportunity to participate in the program's graduation celebration
- One (1) comped application for the following year's Leadership Columbia Class

## **Lunch Sponsor | In-Kind or \$650** – One per Class Day

- Sponsor company recognized at the beginning of the class day
- Company name or logo featured on Class Day agenda and materials
- CEO or representative of sponsor company invited to the class day lunch
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to the class

## **Supporter Sponsor | \$500** – One per Class Day

- Sponsor company recognized at the beginning of the class day
- Company name or logo featured on Class Day agenda and materials
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to the class

## **Beverage & Coffee Sponsor | In-Kind or \$200** per Class Day (\$2,000 for the entire year)

- Sponsor company recognized at the beginning of the class day
- Company name or logo featured on Class Day agenda and materials
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to the class

*To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Leah Kelly at [leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com](mailto:leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com).*



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# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership Columbia understands that barriers to resource access and financial strain can be a major hindrance for many rising leaders. In an effort to close this gap, the Chamber is pleased to offer needs-based financial aid for class members in the form of our Leadership Education Action and Development (LEAD) Scholarships. The LEAD Scholarships were created with the following values in mind:

**LEADERSHIP:** Participants develop and fine tune their leadership qualities throughout the course of the program, emerging with the necessary skills to become effective leaders in the community.

**EDUCATION:** Through the program's class days, participants are exposed to a wide range of critical topics and issues in the Columbia region, with a strong emphasis on social and community awareness.

**ACTION:** Leadership Columbia aims to provide an educational and skills-building experience that helps participants identify how their individual talents and passions can best be used to serve the community after the end of the program.

**DEVELOPMENT:** The program encourages professional and personal growth within participants through diverse opportunities for networking, community involvement and building lasting relationships with fellow leaders and the community at large.

## Who is eligible for a LEAD Scholarship?

LEAD Scholarships are awarded to recipients who are dedicated to the values and mission of the program. LEAD Scholarships are primarily needs-based and the Chamber strives to identify potential recipients who will represent a valuable investment in our community. As we aim to foster a more inclusive leadership development environment, individuals working in hospitality industries, small businesses, and non-profits are eligible to apply.

## Why should my company/business fund a Leadership Columbia scholarship?

Leadership Columbia scholarships are a unique chance for your business to invest in our community and retain quality local leadership in the Midlands by providing opportunities for current and emerging leaders to cultivate their leadership skills. By choosing to fund a scholarship, your company is providing an opportunity for a recipient to not only strengthen their skills, but to identify how their talents may be best used to serve the Midlands. A portion of your scholarship is also tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

*To learn more about scholarship opportunities or if you are interested in funding a LEAD Scholarship, contact Leah Kelly at [leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com](mailto:leadershipcolumbia@columbiachamber.com).*



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