



Class XLII: A Look Back

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION

Mission



Leadership Detroit provides the foundation for a lifelong commitment to leadership by creating awareness of key issues that affect the Detroit region and challenge emerging and existing community leaders to bring about positive change through informed leadership.

Class XLII

Ricardo Alexander, Manager, General Motors

Margrit Allen, Executive Director, The Urban Alliance

Kate Anderson, Director, Business Development, Ascension Michigan

Laurie Arora, Vice President, Public Affairs, Philanthropy and Organizational Development, PACE Southeast Michigan

Stephan Bobalik, Campaign Director, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Inc

Christopher Boll, Corporate Counsel, Global M&A and Corporate Development, Kraken Digital Asset Exchange

Amy Brown, Executive Director, The NOAH Project

Jarell D. Brown, Head of Analytics and Business Intelligence, The Henry Ford

Meagan Brown, Director, University and Community Partnerships, Central Michigan University

Myka Burley, Program Manager, Education and Employment, Rocket Community Fund

Julianne Cassin Sharp, Senior Principal and Attorney, Miller Canfield

Laura Chavez-Wazeerud-Din, Assistant Vice President, Comerica Bank

Mike Darga, Partner, Giffels Webster

Sean de Four, President and Chief Executive Officer, Southwest Solutions

Douglas Ditri, Chief Operating Officer, System Ambulatory, Henry Ford Health

Bob Doyle, President and Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants

Heather Eckner, Director, Statewide Education and Outreach, Autism Alliance of Michigan

Gabe Edelson, Counsel, Varnum LLP

Autumn Evans, Deputy Director, Digital Inclusion, City of Detroit

Marie Feagins, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools Community District

Nancy Gandelot, Chief Marketing and Outreach Officer, CNS Healthcare

Carolyn Geck, Development Director, Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program

Renji George, Director, Performance Office - Health Plan Business, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Nick Guttman, Associate Attorney, Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

Matt Hetherwick, Director, Individual Tax Programs, Accounting Aid Society

Esmat Ishag-Osman, Research Associate, Citizens Research Council

Krista Jahnke, Senior Communication Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Robert Jamerson, Area Business Manager CV, Pfizer

Kimberly Johnson, Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Developing K.I.D.S.

Ashley Kemp-Watkins, Compliance Coordinator, Magna International

Dr. Carmen Kennedy-Rogers, Senior Program Officer, The Skillman Foundation

Matt Kovack, Vice President, Bank of America

David Krysak, Director, Practice Development, Progressive AE

Tanisha Leonard, President, RTM360, Real Times Media

Kendra Lewinski, Senior Marketing Manager, Carhartt Company Gear™, Carhartt, Inc.

Clarke Lewis, Senior Development Manager; Principal Broker, The Platform

Steve Lorenzo, Vice President, Barton Malow Company

Shenique A. Moss, Director of Compliance, Michigan Department of Civil Rights

Nick Najor, Community Benefits Coordinator, Bridging North America

Van Nguyen, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Schoolcraft College

Janell O'Keefe, Senior Program Officer, Michigan Initiatives, Center for Community Progress

Kevin Patterson, Audit Office Managing Partner, BDO USA, LLP

Heidi Reijm, Program and Learning Officer, Hudson-Webber Foundation

Maggie Shannon, Michigan Director, Cavnue

Diallo Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Life Remodeled

Jeff Smith, Vice President, Information Services, Priority Health

Kate Spratt, Chief Financial Officer, Neighborhood Service Organization

Kristi Stepp, Partner, Sigred Solutions

Madiha Tariq, Deputy Director, Community Health and Research Center, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services

Khadija Walker-Fobbs, Chief Strategy Officer, Judson Center

Guiqiu Wang, Program Coordinator, University of Michigan

Patrice Washington, Director, STEM and Student Relations, Ford Motor Company

Kiana Wenzell, Director, Detroit Month of Design, College for Creative Studies

Boyd White III, Member, Dykema Gossett PLLC

Megan Wietfeld, Partner, KPMG LLP

Jay Williams, Manager, Public Affairs Strategy and Special Projects, DTE Energy

Tracy Wyman, Senior Director, Clinical Services, The Guidance Center

Laura You, Partner, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP

Rewind

During Leadership Detroit Class XLII, 60 distinguished regional leaders embarked on a six-month journey together. The class visited many regional sites throughout the year, including the Durfee Innovation Society, Detroit Institute of Arts, and Michigan Outdoor Adventure Center. Class members built a solid foundation for their future leadership and fostered relationships that will extend beyond graduation and last a lifetime.



XLII Issue Learning and Engagement Sessions



As the first Leadership Detroit class since the beginning of the pandemic, Class XLII had the unique experience of completing the entire program in six months through virtual and in-person sessions, designed to provide a behind-the-scenes approach to understand the inner works of the region and the people who make it work.

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|-------------|---|----------|--|
| JAN. 20-21 | Class Orientation
Virtual | APRIL 21 | Commitments No. 4 and No. 5: Candor and Gossip
Virtual |
| JAN. 27 | Introduction to Conscious Leadership
Virtual | MAY 5 | Commitment No. 6: Integrity, Agreements, and Decision Rights
Virtual |
| FEB. 10 | Commitment No. 1: Responsibility
Virtual | MAY 12 | Public Safety and Media
Detroit Police Training Center, Detroit |
| FEB. 17 | Economic Opportunity
Virtual | MAY 17 | Arts and Culture Tours
Detroit Institute of Arts and Michigan Science Center, Detroit
College of Creative Studies, Detroit
Simone DeSousa Gallery and N'Namdi Gallery, Detroit |
| FEB. 24 | Commitment No. 2: Curiosity
Virtual | MAY 19 | Commitments No. 14 and No. 15: Win for All and Being the Resolution with the Change Formula
Virtual |
| MARCH 10 | Team Building
Durfee Innovation Society, Detroit | JUNE 15 | Health and Human Services
Michigan Outdoor Adventure Center, Detroit |
| MARCH 17 | K-12 Education
A. Philip Randolph Technical School, Detroit | JUNE 16 | Transformational Leadership and Graduation
Marygrove Conservancy, Detroit |
| MARCH 24 | Commitment No. 3: Feelings
Virtual | | |
| APRIL 13-14 | Race, Diversity, and Equity
Day 1: The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit
Day 2: Focus: HOPE, Detroit | | |

“Leadership Detroit gave me a chance to stretch well beyond my comfort zone as a professional, learn much more about myself, meet many talented and passionate professionals, and receive a deeper understanding about the city of Detroit.”

Michael Darga
Partner, Giffels Webster

“I learned a significant amount about the challenges facing our region, the amazing and talented leaders working in every sector, and most importantly, about myself.”

Carolyn Geck
Development Director,
Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program

Challenge



“The Leadership Detroit experience gifted me the opportunity to connect with people who are leading, serving, and inspiring in various ways. My eyes and mind were opened to new information, narratives, and experiences that were impactful.”

Carmen Kennedy-Rogers
Senior Program Officer,
The Skillman Foundation

“It was a great benefit to learn from the diverse speakers we heard from during our various sessions. I found the opportunity to sit and listen was inspirational and helped recharge and re-center my focus in different areas of leadership.”

Khadija Walker-Fobbs
Chief Strategy Officer,
Judson Center



Inspire



Compassion



“I was honored to have engaged with such thoughtful leaders who brought their intellect, experiences, and ideas, evolving into a body of empathetic individuals who’ve become friends that are ignited to collectively impact this world.”

Kimberly Johnson

Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Developing K.I.D.S.





“My Leadership Detroit experience taught me that it is OK to be open – even vulnerable – as a leader! Responding to others in a state of wonder and curiosity leads to successful, conscious leadership.”

Julianne Cassin Sharp

Senior Principal and Attorney,
Miller Canfield

“I thought it was a great program to meet people from different backgrounds with diverse perspectives and to channel that energy to advance common goals. ”

Nick Guttman

Associate Attorney,
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP





Perseverance



“What I learned during Leadership Detroit made me proud of my city, determined to continue to address its challenges, and more equipped as a leader to make change.”

Heidi Reijm
Program and Learning Officer,
Hudson-Webber Foundation

“Leadership Detroit helped me see the wide path of opportunities and encouraged me to continue to leave a powerful and positive legacy in this world.”

Laura Chavez-Wazeerud-Din
Assistant Vice President,
Comerica Bank





Awareness

“Not being from Detroit, the Leadership Detroit experience gave me an in-depth perspective on where the city has been, currently resides, and the potential it has for tremendous growth!”

Kevin Patterson

Audit Office Managing Partner,
BDO USA, LLP

“As a transplant to the region, Leadership Detroit allowed me to better understanding of the history of the Metro Detroit region while looking forward together with some of the most influential rising leaders.”

Matt Kovack

Vice President,
Bank of America



Encouragement



“Getting to know so many smart, thoughtful people and having the opportunity to learn together, both about ourselves and the region, was a positive experience that will shape my leadership posture and approach for the foreseeable future.”

Krista Jahnke

Senior Communications Officer,
The Kresge Foundation

“The Leadership Detroit experience was enlightening. I learned more about myself as a person, and the sessions allowed me to be introspective about my decisions and interactions with others.”

Meagan Brown

Director, University and Community Partnerships,
Central Michigan University



Resilience

“I had the opportunity to network with like-minded, dynamic people, with the same core qualities. I was able to apply the learning outcomes of the program to my life, both professionally and personally. I learned to focus on resilience and not perfection.”

Van Nguyen

Chief Marketing and Communications Officer,
Schoolcraft College





“This was one of the most rewarding person-to-person experiences allowing participants (now friends) to not only learn about the City of Detroit and current policies, but to learn about each other, each other’s work, and backgrounds.”

Jarell D. Brown

Head of Analytics and Business Intelligence,
The Henry Ford

“Being a participant in the dialogue about our region with the amazing leaders in my class was a fantastic experience, and I look forward to the conversation continuing.”

Bob Doyle

President and Chief Executive Officer,
Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants





“This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to network with some of the best up-and-coming leaders in Detroit. I learned a lot about myself, the region, and how to be a better leader for my organization and the community.”

Sean de Four

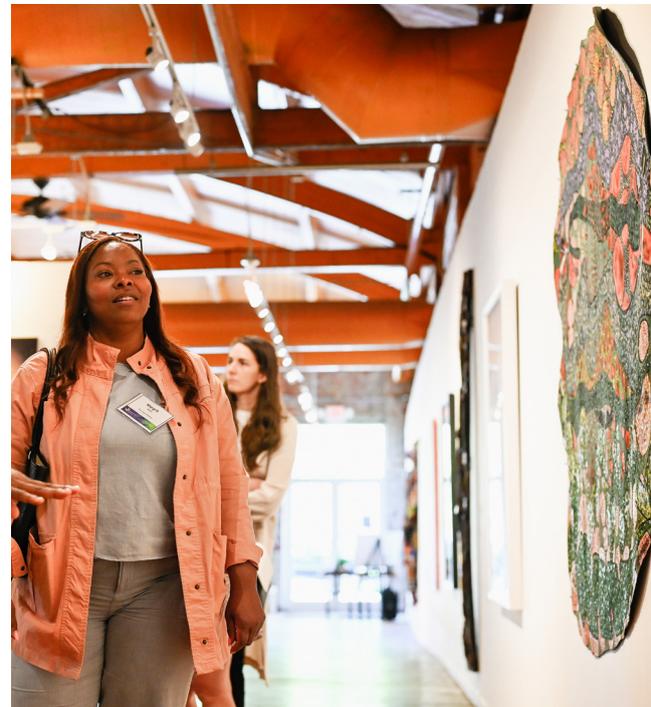
President and Chief Executive Officer, Southwest Solutions



“I came into this program curious and open-minded, but I left the program as a better version of myself. We laughed, cried, challenged each other, and united, leveraging the power of strong relationships and motivation to make our region even stronger.”

Jeff Smith

Vice President, Information Services, Priority Health



Strength

“I had a tremendous opportunity for personal and professional growth through Leadership Detroit. I gained a better understanding of the region’s challenges, invaluable relationships with classmates, and insight into each other’s lived experiences.”

Steve Lorenzo
Vice President,
Barton Malow Company





“The relationships we developed throughout the Leadership Detroit experience intertwined with the topics we discussed, which will be invaluable to me as I continue forward in my professional role.”

Heather Eckner

Director, Statewide Education and Outreach,
Autism Alliance of Michigan



Relationships



“The flourishing relationships that have evolved from Leadership Detroit networking events have been exceptional. Identifying like-minded individuals outside of my core business practice has been exceedingly rewarding.”

David Krysak

Director, Practice Development,
Progressive AE







Freedom Freedom, Kresge Partner

We collaborate with cross-sectoral partners to promote and expand long-term, equitable opportunity in Kresge's hometown by centering the priorities of its residents.

The Kresge Foundation is proud to be the presenting sponsor of Leadership Detroit Class XLII

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