



Downtown Denver Partnership

# Downtown Denver Leadership Program

## 2020 DOWNTOWN DENVER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SYLLABUS

### *PROGRAM PILLARS*

The goal of the Downtown Denver Leadership Program is to build the next generation of civic leaders and city builders. The Downtown Denver Leadership Program believes that our next generation of city building leaders will need to be skilled in three specific areas: Collaboration, Inclusivity and Innovation.

### *CLASS PROJECT*

Playgrounds can bring out the child in all of us, but all “playgrounds” don’t have to be just for children. How can building a city of fun, approachable and inviting experiences bring our community together and improve our city’s livability? This year’s Leadership Program class project will build upon the inspiration of the Partnership’s recent Urban Exploration trip to Copenhagen where trip participants discovered that innovation, inclusion and economic vitality can also be fostered through experiencing public spaces together. Leadership Program participants will build connections with a diverse array of Downtown Denver stakeholders – from students to property owners – to create a set of inspiring and impactful encounters that will give all of us a new way to experience Downtown Denver. Participants will organize themselves into small groups to study the project and prepare a presentation detailing their recommendations to the community at a forum in November 2020.

### *RETREAT*

The Downtown Denver Leadership Program Retreat will be an opportunity to spend a day with other program participants and focus development on the three Program Pillars: Collaboration, Inclusivity and Innovation.

1. Collaboration
2. Inclusivity
3. Innovation

### *MONTHLY SESSIONS*

Each monthly session will largely consist of:

- Suggested reading to help prepare for the session;
- An opportunity to connect with other Leadership Program participants over a light meal before the program begins;
- Presentations from leadership development professionals and civic leaders to help program participants develop leadership and analysis skills to better address issues impacting Downtown Denver;
- Peer-led presentations on city-building subject areas;
- Downtown Denver Partnership representatives to educate program participants on the Partnership’s activity in the session topic area; and
- Opportunities to explore the Class Project, either from outside speakers or time to work on the project as a team.



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## *SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES*

Session #1 – Your Future in Downtown Denver and with the Downtown Denver Partnership

- Recognize the body of work the Downtown Denver Partnership covers.
- Identify engagement opportunities with the Downtown Denver Partnership.

Session #2 – Denver's Downtown Area Plan

- Explain why a 20-year planning document is necessary.
- Recognize the impacts of the 1987 Downtown Area Plan.
- Describe the vision of the 2007 Downtown Area Plan and identify its early achievements.

Session #3 – Fueling Downtown Denver's Economy Through Attracting World Class Talent

- Recognize the challenges of attracting talent to Downtown Denver.
- Specify strategies by individual companies to attract and retain talent.
- Identify opportunities to build a more attractive downtown to potential and current employers.

Session #4 – Creating a Robust and Visionary Mobility Network

- Identify critical mobility infrastructure improvements in Downtown Denver over the past 15 years.
- Explain the concepts of induced demand and transportation demand management.
- Provide feedback on the current Denver Moves Downtown planning effort.

Session #5 – The Public Spaces Activate our Downtown

- Explain the concept of place-based economic development.
- Identify effective Place-Based Economic Development policies.
- Recognize how to build inclusive public spaces.

Session #6 – Tourism & Retail: Attracting People to Downtown Denver Nationally and Regionally

- Understand the relationship between Retail, Tourism and a high-quality public realm
- Identify key metrics that inform retailers in the site selection process.
- Recognize how the retail industry is changing with the growth of the online retail marketplace.

Session #7 – Development in Downtown Denver

- Learn about development trends in Downtown Denver since 2007.
- Describe the development process, step by step, in Downtown Denver.
- Identify unique development challenges and exceptions in Downtown Denver.



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## Session #8 – Building a City Everyone Can Call Home

- Understand how housing developments in Downtown Denver are built – from financing to receiving a certificate of occupancy.
- Recognize which partnerships are critical to making affordable housing developments successful
- Identify the amenities currently in place or need to be recruited to build a complete neighborhood in Downtown Denver

## Session #9 – Cities Will Lead the Sustainability Movement

- Understand the relationship between density and sustainability.
- Identify unique opportunities for cities to implement climate inspired policies.

## *HAPPY HOURS*

Program participants will be invited to join the DDLP Social Committee to plan monthly Happy Hours from April through October. Social Committee members will reach out to venues to confirm locations and solicit sponsors to help support the Happy Hour programs.

## *COFFEE CONNECTIONS*

The Capital One Coffee Connections Series will offer participants another opportunity to build relationships with each other outside of the monthly program sessions. Our host, Capital One Café, will offer complimentary drinks and treats and Partnership staff will get the conversation going with a question of the day.

## *LEADERSHIP LUNCHEONS*

Over the course of the program, eight Leadership Luncheons will be scheduled with prominent business and civic leaders who will provide leadership insights and lessons gained over the course of their career. Program participants will have the opportunity to sign up for at least one luncheon at the beginning of the program.

## *OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES*

Program participants will also have the opportunity to attend Partnership Member Forums, the Downtown Denver Awards and the Downtown Denver Partnership's Annual Meeting. These opportunities give participants the chance to build relationships with the broader Downtown Denver business community.