Each year, a diverse group of Chicago’s most promising professionals and leaders are selected as Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows. The LGC Signature Fellows Program is the area’s premier civic leadership development program, immersing participants in the major socioeconomic issues facing the City of Chicago and the Greater Chicago Region.

Looking back on LGC after 25 years, I can confirm the value of the many relationships forged within our class (’93), and the opportunity for new relationships with each class and program that emerges. LGC continues to be a resource for understanding the city and its trends. Being a Fellow is increasingly recognized as a badge of distinction and honor. I’m very proud of this network.

—ADELA CEPEDA (LGC FELLOW SINCE 1993)
The LGC Fellow Experience

THE NETWORK
As an LGC Fellow, you will gain access to high-level professionals in all sectors and join an engaged network of more than 1,200 accomplished leaders who are dedicated to improving the Greater Chicago Region.

THE KNOWLEDGE
Fellows immerse themselves in an intensive 10-month exploration of current socioeconomic issues that provides the foundation for a lifelong commitment to civic engagement. Through dynamic education and experiential activities, Fellows gain first-hand insights through discussions with leaders at the forefront of social change.

THE INSIGHTS
Fellows learn from a diversity of opinions, styles, and world views, and develop the capacity to approach and break down complex problems to drive transformative change in effective and collaborative ways.

Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC) is the region’s premier civic leadership incubator, delivering the knowledge and network to lead bold, transformative change.
About the Signature Fellows Program

Since 1983, the LGC Signature Fellows Program has equipped participants with the resources they need to understand how decisions are made, how complex policies are shaped, and how to influence meaningful change. Using the city as a classroom, LGC Fellows learn through interactions with private, public, and nonprofit decision makers, and work as a group to develop critical thinking, analytical, governance, and leadership skills.

Through retreats, full-day seminars, site visits, discussion groups, conversations with leaders and experts, service projects, and cultural events, Fellows seek to better understand the systems that influence how Chicago and the region function, as well as how an individual’s personal values, biases, and approaches to working with others can shape their impact and the outcomes they achieve. Together, LGC Fellows explore critical community challenges, examine themselves as leaders, and build transformative relationships of trust and collaboration.

LGC incorporates Human Centered Design as a critical component of the leadership development curriculum to foster creative problem solving skills in our Fellows and assist them in developing a toolkit to catalyze action in their communities.

Program Benefits

Through the LGC Signature Fellows Program, participants will:

• Develop a deeper, multi-faceted understanding of key socioeconomic issues facing the Greater Chicago Region, and build the connections that facilitate solutions
• Prepare for a lifelong commitment to civic engagement and to drive positive social change
• Gain access to the LGC Fellowship of more than 1,200 regional change agents and decision makers
• Build a network of diverse executive peers from all sectors and a variety of industries
• Leverage collective resources to make the Greater Chicago Region a more dynamic, inclusive, and collaborative community
Who Should Apply

LGC Fellows represent the broad diversity of Chicago. The LGC Signature Fellows Program welcomes candidates who are leaders from all sectors, including corporate, nonprofit, government, and education, as well as entrepreneurs. Ideal candidates fall between the ages of 30-45. They are collaborative, innovative, action-oriented, creative, humble, and demonstrate personal responsibility and integrity.

LGC welcomes candidates of all races, religions, political affiliations, gender identities, sexual orientations, national origins, and disabilities.

To be considered for the LGC Signature Fellows Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Live or work in the Greater Chicago Region
- Have been in their current professional position for at least one year as of Sept. 1, 2020
- Nominated and supported by their sponsoring organization, and seconded by at least one additional nominator
- Possess a clear capacity for leadership and growth in their chosen career
- Have a proven history of volunteering and civic engagement, and the passion and drive to tackle some of the major issues facing the Greater Chicago Region
- Demonstrate a clear willingness and ability to commit fully to the program

The LGC Signature Fellows Program requires significant investment from both the Fellow and their sponsoring organization.

Acceptance into the Program is contingent on a commitment to the following requirements:

- Attendance at Opening Retreat (September), Mid-Year Breakfast (January), and Closing Retreat (June)
- Attendance at all eight Friday Sessions (usually the first Friday of the month, excluding holidays, October-May)
- Attendance at five of seven Leadership Breakfasts (monthly, October-May)
- Active participation in recommended/optional programming, including discussion groups, site visits, cultural events, and social activities
The 2021 LGC Signature Fellows Program Application deadline is March 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. CST. For more information and to apply, visit lgcchicago.org/apply.

APPLICATION DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>Application Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>December to February</td>
<td>Informational sessions held; visit lgcchicago.org or Facebook event pages for details</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2, 2020</td>
<td>Deadline for all application materials and nominations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late March – April</td>
<td>Interviews with LGC Fellows, Staff, and Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late May</td>
<td>Applicants and Sponsors notified of selection decision</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Sponsor and personal contributions due</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23, 2020</td>
<td>Class introduced at Annual Fellows Recognition Ceremony</td>
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All candidates are required to be supported by their sponsoring organization. This includes a financial contribution (see Cost section) and the time necessary to participate in two overnight retreats (early September and early June), monthly full-day First Friday programs (first Friday of the month, October – May), and five of seven Leadership Breakfasts October – May).

COST

A financial contribution from the sponsoring organization of $20,000 (for private sponsors and large nonprofits; amount scaled for smaller nonprofits, government, educational institutions, and entrepreneurs), and an individual contribution from the Fellow of $1,500 supports approximately 200 hours of leadership development, individual coaching, travel, lodging, meals, and access to the LGC network and events. Payment in full for both contributions is required before the start of the Program.

SPONSOR A FELLOW

Organizations that sponsor LGC Fellows seek a competitive advantage through leadership that ignites transformation. The bar is rising for leaders to be capable of inspiring change, innovation, teamwork, and sustainable performance in their companies and organizations. By developing promising leaders with a broad perspective on the socioeconomic landscape of the city and region, and a commitment to positively impacting communities, your organization will emerge with the executive leadership needed for today’s world and our future.

The LGC Signature Fellows Program attracts leaders who are taking on increasing responsibility. The program is suited for individuals in your organization who are a key part of your leadership development plan, positioned to lead organizational change, interested in advancing their leadership development, and confronting challenges that require new approaches.

In turn, your organization will benefit from an employee who is:

- a more well-rounded, inclusive, and civic-minded leader
- better informed and involved in community issues
- part of a network of more than 1,200 of Chicago’s most influential changemakers
- equipped to serve beyond their organizational walls to transform our region and make Chicago a better place for all who work and live here

The Application Deadline is March 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. CST

Apply
#LeadGreat

APPLY OR SPONSOR TODAY!