



# LEAD LA

## A Professional and Civic Leadership Program For Greater Los Angeles Change-Makers

For over 60 years, Coro Southern California has equipped leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks to drive innovation and impact. Lead LA brings together professionals from across backgrounds and sectors to expand their individual and collective capacity for impact.

### WHAT IS LEAD LA?

A nine-month, part-time fellowship program mobilizing Coro Southern California's innovative professional and civic leadership development modules, Lead LA is designed for change-makers to expand their leadership capacity, knowledge, and networks in Greater Los Angeles.

By applying Coro's leadership development frameworks to issues facing Greater Los Angeles, participants come away with a deeper understanding of themselves, the region, the issues, and the stakeholders that all work in concert to create the region's unique fabric. Through this immersive and experiential dive, participants gain the tools and experiences necessary to enhance their and their organization's capacity to lead and direct change.

Lead LA runs from September to May with typically full-day sessions held about twice per month and periodic small group planning meetings. A description of program elements and a detailed program calendar can be found at [corola.org/lead-programs](http://corola.org/lead-programs).



The value I have gained from participating in Lead LA is very significant. The program seeks to arm those with an interest in leading through difficult challenges with the tools for thinking politically to inform mobilization strategies for adaptive change.

~ Achal Achrol, MD - Vice President,  
Global Head of Medical Affairs,  
Insightec, Director,  
Giloma Program and Brain  
Tumor Translational  
Research, Loma Linda  
University Medical Center



### WHAT IS CORO?

Founded in 1957, Coro Southern California is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to train a community of leaders who can engage in systems thinking and possess the ability to collaborate. To accomplish this, Coro's programs blend experiential, classroom, and cohort-based learning to develop key civic and leadership competencies, including critical thinking, self-awareness, communication, collaboration, and network-building.



## Who is a Lead LA Candidate and What Will They Gain from Participating?

A Lead LA candidate is someone who:

- ✔ Is committed to deepening their professional leadership capacity;
- ✔ Is looking to expand their professional and personal network;
- ✔ Wants to better understand the issues facing Greater Los Angeles and to take action to address those issues;
- ✔ Has a minimum of 5 to 7 years of professional experience, and
- ✔ Lives and/or works in Greater Los Angeles.

Lead LA participants engage in facilitated training and peer consulting, expert interviews and policy exploration, small group collaboration, and analytical and leadership exercises to broaden and strengthen their skills and knowledge in:

- ✔ Effective Inquiry,
- ✔ Civic and political awareness, and
- ✔ Group effectiveness.

Participants accomplish this all while also building lasting personal and professional relationships with other change-makers within their cohorts, among Lead LA alumni, and across the broader Coro Southern California community.



Being in Lead LA has shown me how to view and address policy issues in a completely different way than I have been, and has given me the tools that I need to apply this approach in my work. I apply what I [have learned] in Lead LA to better understand issues and involve all stakeholders to develop comprehensive solutions.

~ Elissa Konove - Undersecretary,  
California State Transportation Agency



## Learn More About Program Details, Cost, and Application Deadlines

To learn more about the Lead LA program, including program elements, program tuition and financial assistance, application deadlines, how to express interest or submit a nomination, and explore other details, visit us at [corola.org/lead-programs](https://corola.org/lead-programs).

You can also contact Callie Spaide, Recruitment & Alumni Relations Manager, directly to learn more about Lead LA at [callie@corola.org](mailto:callie@corola.org) or (213) 267-6497.

## Notable Lead LA Alumni:

### Elizabeth Cohen

Associate Director, Los Angeles County Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships

### Arianne Edmonds

Founding Director, J.L. Edmonds Project

### Audrey Handelman

Senior Associate & Director of Design Resiliency, Gensler

### Gustavo Hernandez

Site Lead, Forward

### Justine Johnson

Mobility Strategist, Ford Smart Mobility

### Vazken Kassakhian

Senior Advisor, Air & Climate Policy, Southern California Edison

### Alia Kate

Founder/Owner/Designer, Kantara: Moroccan Rugs | Fair Trade Design

### Thomas Liu

Deputy Regional Director, West Coast Region, United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

### John Lulejian

Assistant United States Attorney, United States Department of Justice

### Corey Matthews

Chief Operating Officer, Community Coalition

### Elvia Meza

Director of Activist Engagement and Development, American Civil Liberties Union Southern California

### Somjita Mitra

Chief of Economic Research, California Department of Finance

### Jennifer Quiñonez-Skinner

Associate Librarian & Faculty, California State University, Northridge

### Icela Santiago

Manager of Operations and Strategy, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

### Heath Seltzer

Vice President & Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

### Rachel Sumekh

Founder & CEO, SwipeOut Hunger

### Saúl Valdez

Program Officer, College Success, ECMC Foundation

### Casey Williams

Regional Marketing Manager, West, Lyft