

Coro Southern California

Fellows Program in Public Affairs (FPPA)



Coro Southern California

- Founded in the 1940s
- Five Coro centers: Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco
- Trains individuals for effective and ethical leadership across all sectors



Coro Training

- Experiential & Immersive: Learn by doing
- Cohort-Based: Engage with multi-perspectives & diverse experiences
- Intentional Ambiguity: Learn to confidently navigate uncertainty and change

Coro's Core Training Areas

- Empowered Professionalism:
Navigating Ambiguity
- Collaboration: Working Across Diverse
Perspectives
- Communication: Purposeful
Storytelling
- Critical Thinking: Inquiry & Systems
Thinking
- Self-Awareness: Understanding One's
Own Defaults



The Network

- Approximately 15,000 total Coro alumni across the country
- **Notable FPPA alumni:** US Senators Michael Bennett (CO), Dianne Feinstein (CA), Tim Kaine (VA), Alex Padilla (CA); CA State Controller Malia Cohen; US Rep Mike Levin (CA 49); LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell; former Mayors Kevin Faulconer (San Diego), Libby Schaaf (Oakland), and many others



Fellows Program in Public Affairs (FPPA)

- Full-time leadership development program for recent college graduates and/or young professionals
- 9-month Program (September through May)
- Cohorts of 10-12 Fellows
- Fellows gain invaluable professional experience, leadership skills, and meaningful networks

In Their Own Words

"The Fellows program provided me with an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the intricacies of Los Angeles, reflect deeply on my personal goals and values, and develop a toolkit to be an ethical and effective leader. The experiences I shared with my Cohort left an indelible mark on me—and I will continue to draw on the lessons I learned from them for years to come."



Nicolas Zevallos ('23 Coro Fellow)
Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy
Office of City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass



Program Components

Weekly Seminars

- Twice-weekly skills-building sessions with the entire cohort
- Fellows gain key leadership tools and framework, practicing in real-time as a cohort
- Closed door interviews with key leaders, exploring their motivation, method, and logic behind decision-making



Program Components

Placements

- Month-long professional placements in the private, public, labor, & nonprofit sectors (electoral placements occur if the program spans a campaign year)
- This is not an “internship” - Fellows engage with top organizational leaders while completing mission-critical projects



Focus Weeks

- Week-long explorations of critical issues impacting Southern California
- Fellows utilize experiential learning, interviews, site visits, and projects
- Topics vary by year; past topics include Water and Sanitation, the Arts Economy, and Transportation among others

Program Components



Program Components

Spring Projects

- Month-long projects planned and executed by each Fellow
- Completed in collaboration with external partner organization
- Culmination of the Fellow's leadership and professional development experience



Who Should Apply?

- Recent college graduates or early-career professionals with 5 or fewer years of experience
- Are US-based and/or have US work authorization
- Are committed to approaching the program with a strong work ethic and professionalism
- Want to create positive change in their communities



Selection Process: Step 1 - Written Application

- Written application is due on January 14, 2024
- Application requirements: two essays, college transcript, two recommendations and a video testimonial
- Recommendations should be from a mentor, professional, supervisor, or coach. Friends or family should not submit a recommendation.
- Applications are each reviewed and scored by a minimum of three judges

Selection Process: Step 2 - Selection Day

- From the applicant pool, 36-42 finalists are chosen to participate in Selection Day, an all-day judging event in March 2024
- In most cases, candidates will be invited to the Selection Day of their FIRST preference Center as indicated on their application
- Selection Day Finalists are notified of their selection status in April 2024



Cost and Financial Assistance

- **Tuition-free** (*subsidized down from \$50,000 thanks to the generosity of Coro's supporters*)
- Finalists can apply for need-based stipends (*intended to help off-set expenses incurred during participation*). Monthly stipends averaged \$1,500-\$2,500 for the 2023-24 Cohort
- Monthly reimbursement for health insurance

IMPACT

“I owe much of who I am and how I got here to the enriching experience that Coro—and my fellow Coro Fellows—gave me. As a Coro Fellow, I learned the value of being an effective leader using critical thinking skills. I benefited from being exposed to real-life situations and diverse schools of thought. I also experienced amazing personal growth, and an opportunity to meet new friends & colleagues that have helped carry me through life’s journey.”



Holly Mitchell

Los Angeles County Supervisor (District 3)
Fellows Program in Public Affairs '87

Thank you!

*Questions? Please email Callie Spaide, Senior Manager of
Recruitment and Alumni Relations, at callie@corola.org*

