

# LEADERSHIP ST PAUL

*We're looking for 8 nonprofits to partner with our Leadership St. Paul (LSP) participants in our 'Nonprofit Engagement Program' in 2025*

Leadership St. Paul (LSP) is the premier program in the Twin Cities for emerging and current civic and business leaders that prepares, challenges and engages them to strengthen the St. Paul/East Metro region.

Our program objectives are as follows: CONNECT with other leaders. CULTIVATE skills and knowledge. CONTRIBUTE to the vitality of the St. Paul/East Metro.

We are looking to recruit 8 nonprofits from the following areas that loosely correspond to our content days, so the LSP Class of 2025 can CONTRIBUTE, and learn more about important issues and organizations in St. Paul: Government, Media & Communications, Arts & Entertainment, Human Services, Public Safety, Healthcare, Education, and Community & Economic Development.

Our hope is that this will be part “friend-raising” for your organization, with the possibilities of long-term board or committee engagement from the participants, and also that your organization would get some needed volunteer help as well as new ideas brainstorming business solutions for your business.

**Please let Kathleen Lohmar Exel ([kathleen@stpaulchamber.com](mailto:kathleen@stpaulchamber.com)) know if your organization would like to be considered by filling out the questions as the end of this document and emailing it back to her.**

## Details

**Overview:** LSP participants will choose one of 8 nonprofit organizations to learn more about, engage in a “think tank” activity of your organizations choosing, volunteer in one or more ways (either by volunteering on site if you provide those opportunities or by conducting a “donation drive” on your behalf with the class).

**Benefit:** Have a group of professionals with extensive networks get to know your organization while also providing some fresh ideas and meaningful service. Connect with leaders looking to make a difference in St. Paul/the East Metro striving to make a difference in the community and hopefully will lead to long-term leadership development opportunities for your organization! Get a \$500 donation for your organization.

**Duration:** February 2025 – November 2025.

**Expectations of the nonprofit organization:** Organizations are expected to have a defined primary contact to work with students, can be two people if needed. Organization contacts are expected to connect with participants a minimum of four times over the duration of 2025. A good primary contact would be a volunteer coordinator if the organization has one, but it could also be a board member or an executive director depending on the size of the organization.

**Format:** Participant/Organizations will be completed in-person for at least four of the five sessions as laid out below. The “think tank” portion could be held in-person or virtually.

**Cost:** There is no cost to the nonprofit organization to participate in this program, in fact those organizations that participate will get a \$500 donation from the St. Paul Chamber Foundation in or before November of 2025.

## Organization Commitment/Key Dates – 5 total

- **1st Meeting & Lunch – February 13 at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
Project contact joins us at LSP Orientation to eat lunch with and meet with your small group of 5 to 8 LSP Participants to introduce them to your organization and work through a short process to get you started on completing your next three meetings.
- **Tour of Organization – April, May or June**  
On a Date TBD as determined by the Organization and schedules of the LSP Participants -- host the small group for 1-2 hours at your organization's office to give them a tour and help them get familiar with the issues facing your clients and what kinds of service are most impactful/donations are most needed. If you don't have physical offices, you can host a tour at where/how you connect with clients – some examples of this: invite them to your temporary art exhibit, host a tour for them at the MN Capitol Building where you do most of your work, invite them to a fundraiser/board meeting to see how those are handled and have them get to know about your board.
- **Check-in Meeting at LSP Human Services Day Over Lunch on July 10, 2025**  
Meet up with your team of LSP Participants to make sure all is on track for your Think Tank Date & Volunteer Drive/Event to take place later in the year. This is meant to be a touch point for you to enjoy lunch with your group once again and also be a working meeting to flesh out any logistics or planning that might be helpful to do in-person in advance of your Think Tank & Volunteer Drive/Event.
- **Meeting: Think Tank + Decide on Service, Donation Drive or Event to Attend – July or August**  
On a Date TBD as determined by the Organization and schedules of the LSP Participants--gather in-person or virtually to have the participants do the following over 1-2 hours:
  - 1) Help the organization think through an issue important to the organization. Example: help the organization figure out a new strategy to reach a new donor base, market a new product, or recruit volunteers for an event. LSP staff can help organizations brainstorm “think tank” ideas and provide framework/process for discussion.
  - 2) Decide on a time for the group to come and volunteer in September/October\* or do some sort of “donation drive” with the class. Example: pick a date for the small group to volunteer at a ‘produce distribution’ event OR pick a date to have the whole class or one/all of the participants work-places participate in a “donation drive” such as toiletries for the Dorothy Day Center or books for the Minnesota Women’s Book Project – something connected to your nonprofit. Another example would be to have them attend an event as a group, an event such as the Neighborhood House Revel for a Cause Gala.
- **Volunteer, Donation Drive, or Attend Event – September or August\***  
On a Date TBD as determined by the Organization and schedules of the LSP Participants—have the LSP small group volunteer at your organization, hold a donation drive, or attend an event. LSP staff can assist with any donation drives happening on scheduled LSP days. Expectation would be 2-4 hours of volunteering on-site (could be longer if shifts allowed and the participants wanted to do more) or 2-4 hours of volunteering on the donation drive or a 2-4 hour event.

## Participant Commitment/Key Dates – 7 total

- **All of the Above 5 Dates**

LSP participants are expected to take part in all of the above key dates/activities.

- **May Arts & Entertainment Day Quick Meeting of Teams for Participants**

Just the participants will spend some dedicated time during our May 8<sup>th</sup> session connecting with each other and making sure they are on track with all of the above key dates/activities. This will be an informal quick session in which representatives from the organizations are not required to attend.

- **Report by the Participants**

By November 13, which is our final day of LSP 2025 (AKA Wrap-up Day). Each small group will fill-out a one-page report on their organization, their think tank issue, and their volunteering. The reports will be shared with the class so the whole class (all 55 participants) will learn about all the nonprofit organizations and hopefully connect with the organization in the future.

\*Could be an earlier volunteer date, if the organization has an event you would like the LSPers to volunteer for during the summer.

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If your organization would like to participate in the program, please fill out this form and return to [Kathleen@saintpaulchamber.com](mailto:Kathleen@saintpaulchamber.com) by January 22<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person for the Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Will You Be in Attendance for Lunch on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> & July 10<sup>th</sup>? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, who will you send in your place? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you or the person attending the lunches have any dietary requirements and if so, what are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any ideas for what volunteer, donation drive, or event the LSP Participants could help with in September or October? \_\_\_\_\_. It's okay if you don't know yet and once the participants are assigned you might all decided to change to something not on this list, but knowing what they might get to work on, sometimes helps them rank which orgs they'd like to work with.

Please three skills or types of professionals that would be helpful to have on your team of participants:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Some examples of skills or types of professionals are as follows: communications or fundraising professionals, people who like to throw a fun event, people who are organized, people who like research (not an exhaustive list). There are no guarantees we'll be able to match folks exactly to what you are looking for, but this will help participants rank which group they'd like to work with by what skills they have and what you are interested in.