



LEADERSHIP FORUM

**Class of
2026**
Application



US Chamber of Commerce

Five-Star Distinction

Accredited





Class of 2026

Schedule of Sessions

CALENDAR

---2025---

Thursday, July 17

Class of 2026 Welcome Reception

Thursday, August 21-22

Opening Retreat - San Antonio

Wednesday, September 10

Understanding Differences

Wednesday, October 8

Infrastructure/Economic Development

Wednesday, November 12

Municipal/County Government

Wednesday, December 10

Health & Social Services

---2026---

Wednesday, January 14

Criminal/Judicial

Thursday, February 12-13

State Government – Austin

Wednesday, March 4

Education

Wednesday, April 15-17

National Government – Washington, D.C.

Thursday, May 14-15

Ending Retreat – Galveston



Dear Leadership Forum 2026 Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Fort Bend Leadership Forum, a program organized in 1987 under the direction of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce. This program is designed to nurture and engage the leadership skills of potential and current leaders by providing an atmosphere that stimulates and fosters diverse viewpoints, resulting in innovative answers to the critical questions facing our community. The program strives to create awareness and to connect leaders with issues; it is not an academic leadership training program. Fort Bend Leadership Forum includes community immersion, leadership training, and educating participants in “how things work” in our community and our county.

The Fort Bend Leadership Forum offers learning opportunities in an atmosphere that stimulates creative thinking and encourages participants to work together to utilize both new and proven tools to meet the challenges of today and to prepare for tomorrow.

Fort Bend Leadership Forum is designed to provide the participant:

- ★ An awareness of community needs, challenges and opportunities, and
- ★ An opportunity to promote and establish relationships and share resources with other community stakeholders, and
- ★ The challenge to examine, practice and develop leadership skills and techniques

The Fort Bend Leadership Forum is a ten-month program, August through May, exclusively offered to members of the Fort Bend Chamber. The opening retreat is followed by six one-day sessions covering criminal justice, diversity and inclusion, education, economic development/infrastructure, health and social services, municipal/county government, and a two-day trip to Austin for the state government session. In addition, the class will participate in a special three-day national government session in Washington D.C. and is completed with the ending retreat and graduation ceremony in Galveston.

The success of each Fort Bend Leadership Forum class lies in the commitment of each participant not only to the program but also to the class as a whole. Therefore, participation and attendance at each session is essential.

FORT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

445 Commerce Green Boulevard • Sugar Land, Texas 77478 • 281-566-2158 • Fax 281-491-0112

Participants missing any of the following will be unable to continue enrollment or graduate from the program:

- ★ Any portion of the Opening Retreat, State Government, Ending Retreat or National Government in Washington D.C.
- ★ More than two one-day sessions or 16 total hours

A tentative schedule of program dates is enclosed. Tuition for the ten-month program \$3,500. The tuition covers all expenses for the program including transportation, hotel accommodations (double-occupancy rooms) and meals for all sessions including San Antonio, Austin, Washington D.C. and Galveston. **Make all checks payable to Fort Bend Forward.**

Completion of the enclosed application is an important part of the selection process. A selection committee will review each application for the Fort Bend Leadership Forum with acceptances beginning in May and the completed class confirmed by June. It is important to complete and submit your application to **admin@fortbendleadershipforum.org** or deliver to the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce as soon as you have made the decision to apply. Each year more applicants apply than can be accepted, so please complete and return your application as soon as possible so that it may be placed in consideration for the Class of 2026. Tuition is due in full within sixty days of receiving acceptance notice or before June 27, 2025, whichever comes first.

Sincerely,



Keri Schmidt

President & CEO

Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce

Enclosures

Audi
Sugar Land

A SEWELL COMPANY

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FORT BEND

LEADERSHIP FORUM

Thank you for your interest in the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Forum. We are positive that this will prove to be one of your best investments of both time and money into your future and personal growth within Fort Bend County.

Individuals that have had the most success with our Leadership Forum are ones who demonstrate the following characteristics:

- A sincere commitment, motivation and interest to serve the community
- Have demonstrated leadership in past activities or intend to seek future leadership roles
- Individuals who understand leadership is more than just a title or position and strive to reach their maximum potential
- People who enjoy learning about others; ethnic differences, career paths, etc.

Applicants should attempt to address these criteria in answering the questions on the application.

..... **LEADERSHIP PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**

Date_____

I. PERSONAL

1. Name_____ Preferred name on nametags_____
2. Home Address_____ City_____ Zip_____
3. Home Phone_____ Cell Phone_____ Home Email_____
4. Age_____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Ethnic Group_____ Number of years lived in Fort Bend_____
5. *Social Security #_____ *Date of Birth (month/day/year)_____
6. *Driver's License #_____ *Name as appears on TDL_____
7. *Place of Birth_____ Spouse's Name_____
8. Please list three of your interests or favorite recreational activities. 1)_____
2)_____ 3)_____
9. Are you a Veteran? ☐ Yes ☐ No

II. EMPLOYMENT

1. Present Employer_____ Date of Hire_____
2. Business Address_____ City / State / Zip_____
3. Phone_____ Fax_____ Email_____
4. Type of Business_____ Title_____
5. Briefly describe your responsibilities_____

Send correspondence to: ☐ Home address/email ☐ Work address / email

III. EDUCATION & TRAINING

- High School_____ City_____ State_____
- College_____ Major_____
- Graduate School_____ Major_____
- Technical / Professional Training_____

Please submit a headshot with your application for use in our class directory

*** Required information that is used for background checks for access into secured venues and flights ***

IV. PARTICIPANT GOALS

List civic, professional, religious and other organizations in which you have been actively involved (in order of their value to you during the past five years.

V. PARTICIPANT GOALS

What would you like to gain from the Leadership experience?

Why do you want to participate in the Leadership program?

VI. APPLICANT AGREEMENT

Tuition & Funding: If accepted into the Fort Bend Leadership Forum, you or your company, if members, will be billed \$3,500 for the tuition fee. Tuition is due in full by June 27, 2025. **Make all checks payable to Fort Bend Forward. Withdrawal from the program at any time, for any reason, will not create cause for return of any portion of the tuition paid. I have completely answered each of the application questions, and to the best of my knowledge, the answers to the forgoing questions are true and correct.**

I understand that the Fort Bend Leadership Forum has a mandatory attendance requirement. To graduate, I cannot miss more than sixteen (16) hours total from any sessions or ANY PORTION of Opening Retreat, Austin, Ending Retreat or Washington D.C. Hours missed in each session including time not focused in the session will count as hours absent. If I do not meet the attendance requirements, I will not be able to continue with class or attend graduation.

Applicant's Signature

Date

This applicant has the full approval of this firm/organization in the participation in this program and understand the attendance requirements to complete and graduate from the program.

Employer's Signature

Date

Application may be submitted to **admin@fortbendleadershipforum.org** or delivered to the **Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce** with checks payable to Fort Bend Forward.