



CLASS OF 2026-2027

Information & Application



Our Mission:

Leadership Fort Bend is a comprehensive leadership Development program designed to identify resources and educate individuals to assume leadership roles within the community.

Our Vision:

Because the quality of a community depends on the capacity of its leaders, graduates emerge as potential community leaders and individuals who seek to contribute their particular skills, knowledge and expertise to the betterment of Fort Bend County

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Dear Leadership Fort Bend Class of 2027 Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Leadership Fort Bend. Our program was organized in 1986 under the direction of the Central Fort Bend Chamber. Leadership Fort Bend has a long history of developing leaders for Fort Bend County, and we are excited that you desire to become part of that legacy.

Through engaging sessions, community discussions, and hands-on learning experiences, participants explore key topics impacting Fort Bend County and gain practical tools to strengthen their leadership abilities. Just as importantly, the program creates a space for business and community leaders to build strong personal and professional relationships with fellow class members—connections that often last well beyond the program. By the end of the experience, participants leave with a deeper understanding of where they live and work, a strengthened network, and the confidence and motivation to become actively involved and make a lasting impact on the future of Fort Bend County.

Leadership Fort Bend is a nine-month program, September through May, with a Welcome and Alumni Reception held in August. The success of Leadership Fort Bend hinges on the active participation and dedication of each class member. With that said, any participant missing more than two one-day sessions or any one of the overnight retreats will be deemed ineligible to graduate from the program. Tuition for the nine-month program is \$2,950 for members of the Central Fort Bend Chamber. The tuition covers expenses for the sessions including accommodations, transportation and meals. A tentative 2026-2027 session schedule is included. The application for 2027 Leadership Fort Bend class is available on our website at cfbca.org. Applications will be reviewed by the Central Fort Bend Chamber and applicants will be notified of acceptance within 3 business days.

We look forward to having you as a member of our Leadership Fort Bend 2026-2027 Class!

Sincerely,

Melissa Toon

President and CEO

Central Fort Bend Chamber

Leadership Fort Bend Class of 2025

Program Overview



Leadership Fort Bend is a program of the Central Fort Bend Chamber and was founded in 1986 to cultivate future leaders for Fort Bend County. Program participants are chosen from business and community members that wish to take an active role in the future of Fort Bend County. A maximum of 45 participants will be selected from a cross-section of the community.

Candidate Requirements:

The program utilizes professionals from the business community during the session as presenters and trainers and they require the full attention of the class in order for the program to be successful. Therefore, applicants must have the full support of the organization or corporation they represent. Attendance at monthly sessions is mandatory and is monitored. Those who fail to attend and miss more than two one-day sessions or any overnight session will be asked to withdraw with no refund of tuition. It is also understood that Leadership Fort Bend is a professional development program. Participants in the program are required to conduct themselves professionally at all times.

It is understood that adherence to the program conduct is required and any violation is subject to removal from the program.

- Always act with fairness, honesty, integrity and openness; respect the opinions of others and treat all program participants, Chamber Staff, Chamber Volunteers and Community Members with equality and dignity without regard to gender, race, color, creed, ancestry, political beliefs, religion, marital status, disability, age or sexual orientation.
- Do not engage in activities that endanger the life, safety, health or well-being of yourself, program participants, Chamber Staff, Chamber Volunteers or Community Members associated with Leadership Fort Bend while on any of the local sessions or overnight retreats.
- Refrain from any act of verbal, physical or sexual harassment toward program participants, Chamber Staff, Chamber Volunteers or Community Members associated with Leadership Fort Bend.

Leadership Fort Bend is a nine-month program consisting of six (6) all-day local sessions and three (3) overnight retreats. Regular attendance and adherence to the attendance policy is required of all attendees. Graduation from the program requires the following:

- **Attendance at all three (3) overnight retreats including:**
 - Opening Retreat, State Government Session and Closing Retreat. Missing any of these session (or a portion of) will result in dismissal from the program.
- Attendance at all local sessions. Attendees are allowed up to two (2) absences to local sessions only. Missing more than one-third (1/3) of any one-day session will constitute a full day absence. It is the participants responsibility to alert the Chamber staff and program chairs of any possible absences.
- Participants are expected to arrive on-time for all sessions. Facilitators and Program Liaisons will depart at the time listed on the agenda. Participants arriving late are expected to meet up with the group at the first destination for the day.
- **Any exceptions to the attendance policy must be made in writing and submitted to the Chamber Staff Liaison.**

Session Schedule

Welcome Reception/Cornhole Classic
Friday, August 7, 2026

City & County Government Session
Wednesday, January 6, 2027

Opening Retreat at Camp Allen*
Wednesday, August 26 -
Thursday, August 27, 2026

State Government Session in Austin, TX*
Wednesday, February 3 -
Thursday, February 4, 2027

History Session
Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Infrastructure & Manufacturing Session
Wednesday, March 3, 2027

Education Session
Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Health & Human Services Session
Wednesday, April 7, 2027

Judicial Session
Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Closing Retreat in Galveston*
Thursday, May 6 - Friday, May 7, 2027

Leadership Fort Bend Alumni Testimonials

"I am honored to have been part of the Central Fort Bend Leadership Class of 2024—the Best Class Ever! This program provides invaluable insight into our community, covering infrastructure, government, health services, and more. Beyond the knowledge gained, it fosters meaningful relationships with leaders across both for-profit and nonprofit sectors. The instructors are top-tier, the Chamber's structure is excellent, and the friendships formed will last a lifetime. I am grateful for this opportunity and highly recommend it to anyone looking to grow, connect, and make a lasting impact in Fort Bend County.

- Alan Bagwell

Frost Bank, Leadership Fort Bend, Class of 2024

Ft. Bend Leadership was a game-changer for both my business growth and social connections—it truly rewards the effort you put into it. Each month, I looked forward to learning more about my classmates and discovering how we could collaborate to make a meaningful impact in our community. The experience deepened my understanding of leadership and strengthened my commitment to serving others. As a small business owner, investing in this program was a decision I made for my personal and professional development—and it was absolutely worth it. Today, I feel empowered to advocate for our business community, and I'm grateful for the lifelong friendships and connections I've gained. I hope everyone gets the chance to experience something this transformative.

- Laura Rosilez

Texas Party Box, Leadership Fort Bend, Class of 2024

APPLY HERE
OR VISIT CFBKA.ORG

Please reach out to Vanessa Mancinas at
vmancinas@cfbca.org or 281-342-5464 with questions

