

# Leadership Pasadena

More than a dozen years ago, a group of civic, government and business leaders came together to discuss options for tackling issues in Pasadena. Their initial conversations were around the issue of gang violence. However, quickly it became apparent that they were also concerned about a number of other challenges Pasadena was facing: education, homelessness, affordable housing, development, and equality, to name a few.

But then they had a broader vision, a larger dream. Why not develop a program to address not only one of these issues, but any issue or challenge that might confront the Pasadena community?

Leadership Pasadena was the answer, a community-based leadership program that, since 1999, has provided a rich atmosphere bringing together people from all walks of life. Through its signature 8-month, professionally facilitated program, professionals, business owners, public servants, educators, non-profit staff have the opportunity to learn about city issues, develop and practice leadership and team management skills, and dialogue and implement solutions.

**MISSION:** help emerging and accomplished leaders reach their full leadership potential.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** The Leadership Pasadena 8-month program has already produced over 200 alumni – a highly diverse group, all now with enhanced leadership skills and deep knowledge of the community, and connections to all elements of the Pasadena community. One of the pillars of the Leadership Pasadena program is the class project, an opportunity for class members from diverse backgrounds to come together and decide how to strengthen their community. One example is Inspire Pasadena, a transformational youth development program for at-risk teens that uses an arts-based curriculum to provide first-hand leadership experience, while engaging students in comprehensive problem solving. The project expanded their life skills, placing them on a path toward personal, academic and career success. At the conclusion of the 8 week program, the students demonstrated significant improvement in attendance, grades, and engagement.

**PERSPECTIVE ON PASADENA REGION:** The scope and scale of challenges facing Pasadena — as a subset of today's complex world — require that resources be harnessed with concerted effort if significant progress is to be realized on priority issues. Leadership Pasadena provides opportunities for dialogue on critical issues to foster enhanced understanding and better working relationships among its stakeholders. The common thread binding the Leadership Pasadena stakeholders together, and indeed the entire Pasadena community, is commitment — personal, professional, economic, and civic — to work toward achieving a better community.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** The Leadership Pasadena Class of 2012 is executing two linked community service projects:

“Community Connection” & “Collaborate Now.”

The “Community Connection” Project Team (Team members: Erin Johnson (lead), Charel Bailey, Val Dantzler, Ariel Kirkland, David Liu, Jessica Martinez-Bowles & Ann Wendland) will work to establish sustainable support mechanism by piloting a community engagement program directed at meeting the needs of a PUSD school that would benefit from additional community resources. At the PUSD Board of Education meeting held November 8, 2011, Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry expressed his frustration at the “lack of a mechanism for involving the [Pasadena] community” in PUSD schools. To address this challenge, Leadership Pasadena’s Class of 2012 “Community Connection” team will work to identify the nexus between educational needs, personal passions, and community resources in order to create and employ a model for equitable resource distribution among PUSD schools.

The “Collaborate Now” Project Team (Team members: Patrick Briggs (lead), Tamika Farr, Glenn Gomez, Larry Hammond, Christina Kuo, Gena Persons & Katherine Walters) will help pilot the COLLABORATE NOW platform through local educators and community members before it is launched on a wider scale throughout Pasadena, Los Angeles County and beyond. The Collective Voices Foundation created the COLLABORATE NOW online platform as a communication tool that brings people and organizations together towards collective contributions in education, with and for youth. The vision is to help educators and youth connect and network with community resources, and to promote opportunities for youth voices to be integrated back into their communities through innovative, collaborative, and sustainable educational projects.

For more information, visit [www.leadershippasadena.org](http://www.leadershippasadena.org).



Gordon Squires, Board Chair





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The Leadership Pasadena Class of 2012 - Back Row: Christina Kuo, Erin Johnson, Ariel Kirkland, Glenn Gomez. Middle Row: Charel Bailey, Jessica Martinez-Bowles, Gena Persons, Val Dantzler, Katherine Walters, Tamika Farr, Larry Hammond. Front Row: Patrick Briggs, Ann Wendland, David Liu.

## THE FACTS

**Date Incorporated:** 2003

**Gross Income 2010:** \$79,428.80

**Number Served in 2011:** Thousands, through the direct program participants, and the organizations they served in their projects, workplace and volunteer efforts

**Active Volunteers in 2011:** 142

**Paid Staff in 2011:** None

