



## Class XLII Application | 2026-2027

Leadership Brownsville is an organization whose purpose is to identify and motivate emerging leaders each year and to develop their potential for community leadership by exposing them to the realities, opportunities, and challenges of the community.

Leadership Brownsville is funded both by a class fee of **\$750** per participant and by contributions from the community. Members of the Leadership Brownsville Board of Directors, comprised of past alumni and at-large community members, coordinate the program each year.

This year's program will begin with an in-person mandatory orientation session on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026**.

### Application Instructions

Please type each section of the application with information that is relevant to your own experience or background. The utmost discretion is exercised in the use of information provided.

- The application must be signed by both the applicant and his/her employer.
- Email the completed application to **info@leadershipbrownsville.org**

Only applications submitted in their entirety (including employer signatures) will be considered.

The deadline for emailing your application is **Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** We will verify the time the application was emailed as confirmation.

### Eligibility

- All participants must live and/or work in the Greater Brownsville area.
- Applicants who are elected officials at the time of selection are not eligible.
- Husbands and wives cannot be participants in the same class.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

### Requirements

- Pay a \$750 tuition/course fee. Fees are non-refundable, non-transferrable.
- Attend nine full-day sessions, held monthly from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Attend Orientation (September) and Graduation Ceremony (May).
- Attend six civic and/or government meetings during the nine-month period.
- A community service project is mandatory by all class participants.



## **Selection & Criteria**

The most important factor in the selection process is identifying individuals most likely to use their leadership for the long-term benefit of the community. The criteria for selection are:

- A sincere commitment, motivation, and interest in serving the community.
- A demonstration of leadership by past community activities and involvement.
- A demonstration of concern for the future of Brownsville.
- Participants are from all sectors of the community.

The Selection Committee is composed of members of Leadership Brownsville Board of Directors.

Each year, participants are selected to represent a cross-section of the community and to reflect the diversity of backgrounds, interests, professions, vocations, and civic ties, therein. Because of the size restrictions of each year's class and the need to diversify the composition of the class, some qualified candidates may not be selected into a class. **Those not selected are strongly encouraged to reapply in subsequent years.**

## **2026-2027 Session Schedule**

Sessions are held on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of November and December, which are held on the second Thursday of the month. Monthly sessions begin in September 2026 and run through May 2027. Please make sure to mark dates on your calendar. Dates are as follows:

- September 16, 2026 (**Mandatory Orientation**)
- September 17, 2026
- October 15, 2026
- November 19, 2026
- December 10, 2026
- January 21, 2027 – (**Civic Requirements Due – No Exceptions**)
- First Quarter, 2027 – **Retreat and/or Austin (TBD)**
- February 18, 2027
- March 25, 2027
- April 15, 2027
- May 20, 2027 (**Final Civic Requirements Due – No Exceptions**)
- May 27, 2027 (**Graduation Ceremony**)



Personal Information					
Name					
	Last	First		Middle	
First name as it should be printed on your shirt:					
Name as it should be printed on your graduation certificate:					
Home Address					
	Street	City/State		Zip Code	
Mobile/Work Phone:					
How long have you lived in the Brownsville area?			Date of Birth		
Preferred E-Mail Address:					
Have you previously been selected to participate in a Leadership Brownsville class?	Yes/No	If so, when?			
<i>If yes, please specify the class and the reasons for your withdrawal:</i>	Class:	Reasons:			
How did you learn about the Leadership Brownsville program? (Referral, social media, website, etc.)					
Circle Shirt Size: (Class shirts run small – please size up)	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Circle your status:	Student	Business Owner	Employee	Retiree	Veteran



Employment Information			
<b>Present Employer:</b>		<b>Occupation:</b>	
<b>Address</b>			
	Street	City/State	Zip Code
<b>Briefly describe your responsibilities in your employment.</b>			

List previous employment beginning with your most recent (include active military duty):

Employer	Title/Responsibility	From	To

Business/Professional Affiliations (if any):

Name	Position Held	From	To



**Education Information**

List highest degree, certificate or diploma earned, advanced degrees and/or specialized training:

Name	Degree Type	Major/Specialization	From	To

**Community Involvement**

Please submit answers to ALL the following questions. Your application will be considered incomplete if this portion is not submitted and you will not be considered for this year’s class. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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Please list ALL significant civic, community, and religious activities and accomplishments. Include organization, dates, position held, special awards and accomplishments etc.

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**Written Responses**

Limit your answer to each question to 100 words each.

Thoughtful attention to the essay questions will indicate your interest and experience with community leadership.

<b>1. If you have not been as active in the community as you would like to be, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in the community?</b>
<b>2. What do you feel are the three most significant problems facing Brownsville today? Explain ONE of your choices and give any recommendations for approaching and/or resolving the problem.</b>
<b>3. What specific skills/knowledge do you hope to gain from your participation in Leadership Brownsville, and how do you propose to use this experience for the betterment of the community?</b>
<b>4. What interest do you have in seeking key volunteer, public office, board, or commission roles? What kinds of boards, committees, or groups would you like to be a part of in the future?</b>



### Tuition/Course Fee

Upon selection, you are required to pay a \$750 non-refundable, non-transferable fee. A payment of \$100 is due by August 27th, with the remaining \$650 due by the Orientation session on September 16. An installment plan is available upon request and will follow strict guidelines. Please contact the Leadership Brownsville Board Treasurer for payment plan details. **Failure to meet payment deadlines will result in removal from the program.**

### Scholarship

In an effort to promote inclusivity and mitigate financial barriers for interested and qualified candidates, Leadership Brownsville will offer one fully paid scholarship\* to a class member for the year 2026-2027.

To qualify for the scholarship, the candidate must:

- Meet all the criteria to be accepted into the program and submit a Letter of Interest (in addition to the Leadership Brownsville class application).
- The Letter of Interest must be one page long and explain the applicant's interest in being considered for the scholarship and why they should be awarded.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from an employer or community volunteer leader/peer.

\*Disclaimer: Scholarships are only available based on budget funds for the year.

Determination for selection will be both merit and need-based. The Letter of Interest and recommendation letter must be submitted along with the Class XLII application. The same deadline of **Tuesday, August 11, 2026**, at 11:59 p.m. applies

### Class Attendance Requirements

A Mandatory Orientation session will be held in person on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, to kick off the program. The following day, you will begin the first session of the program. As previously discussed, the sessions will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

Times may vary slightly depending on the session. Participants are expected to attend ALL sessions on time. Your moderator will take attendance for each session.

Late arrival or early departure from a session will be counted against the attendance requirements. There will be no excused absences. **There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.** An agenda will be sent to class participants a few days prior to the monthly session.

Participants will not graduate from the program if they miss more than 16 hours. Participants may continue attending the sessions with the class but will not graduate with the class that year; they may make up the missed sessions the following year and graduate that year upon completion of all requirements.

### Retreat

A Leadership Brownsville retreat is expected to take place at the beginning of 2027 for the class. More details about dates and accommodations will follow once the program begins.



### **Civic Requirements**

Participants are required to attend civic and/or governmental meetings during the nine-month period. Attendance at these meetings is important for understanding how a civic or governmental entity operates.

Participants will not graduate from the program if they do not meet the civic requirements. Participants short on civic requirements may continue attending the sessions with the class but will not graduate with the class that year.

Participants may make up the civic requirements the following year and attend graduation that year upon completion of all requirements.

The Vice Chair of Curriculum will provide further instruction during the Orientation session.

### **Class Project**

Participants are required to work together on a class project. The group will be required to present the top three ideas for their class project to the Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, the class project must be completed no later than the date of the May session. Failure to participate may be considered by the board as grounds for not graduating from the program that year.



**My Commitment**

If I am selected as a participant in Class XLII of Leadership Brownsville, I am willing and able to attend the program and functions organized by the Leadership Brownsville Board of Directors.

**I have reviewed the monthly session calendar and determined that my schedule will permit me to be present on the specified dates and times.** Because Leadership Brownsville is an educational program consisting of nine monthly meetings, I understand that it is essential that I attend all meetings in their entirety, including any other programs and functions deemed necessary by the Leadership Brownsville Board of Directors.

I also understand that I must participate in and complete a class project with my class members in order to graduate from the program.

**IN ALL ATTENDANCE MATTERS, THE DECISION OF THE LEADERSHIP BROWNSVILLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE FINAL. I UNDERSTAND THE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT AS STATED ABOVE.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Employer's Commitment**

*Applicant has the approval of this organization/company and full support; which includes the time required to participate in the program.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's Supervisor Name (Please Print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Applicant's Supervisor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

***If self-employed, please sign as Supervisor.***