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## Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber announces Leadership Cincinnati Class 47 participants



Fifty-five business leaders make up the newest cohort of Leadership Cincinnati, one of the region's premier leadership development courses.

CORRIE SCHAFFELD



By [Meg Erpenbeck](#) – Digital editor, Cincinnati Business Courier  
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***Editor's note:*** Courier editor Tom Demeropolis is among this year's class participants.

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Fifty-five business leaders make up the newest cohort of Leadership Cincinnati, one of the region's premier leadership development courses.

On Monday, Aug. 14, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber unveiled its 47th class of the annual program, which includes representatives of large corporations, mid-sized companies, nonprofits, governments and entrepreneurs. Those selected will be part of a months-long course designed to boost their leadership skill and further engage them with the community.

“The dedication of this group of leaders - and those who have come before them - to personal growth and community betterment is a hallmark of what distinguishes this program and our region from others, it serves a critical role in strengthening the civic fabric and connectivity of our communities,” Sean Comer, vice president of the chamber's Leadership Center, said in a news release.

"This program is not just a learning experience - it's a catalyst for change and a platform for collaboration. Leadership Cincinnati asks leaders to elevate their commitment to this region and to embrace the challenges and opportunities that will lead the way toward a more vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous future."

Here's who will participate in this year's class:

- Tianay Amat, President & CEO, Cincinnati Works
- Bill Baker, managing partner, MSA Design
- LaNae Barnes, local market executive, Bank of America
- Lyndsey Barnett, partner, Bricker Graydon LLP
- Matthew Barney, vice president, accounting, Messer Construction Co.
- Becky Blank, CEO, Ample
- Luke Blocher, chief strategy officer & general counsel, Cincinnati Development Fund Inc.
- Kelly Bonnell, chief operations officer, Constellation Wealth Advisors
- Justin Brookhart, executive director, BLINK; SVP of cultural economy, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Jonathan Brown, president, City Gospel Mission
- Rasheda Cromwell, vice president, community strategies, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Roger David, president & CEO, Gold Star Chili, Inc. / Tom & Chee
- Tom Demeropolis, editor-in-chief, *Cincinnati Business Courier*
- Stephanie Ebken, chief marketing & communications officer, Cincinnati Children's Hospital

- Annie Efke, vice president, corporate communications & distribution, First Financial Bank
- Tonia Elrod, vice president, communications & sustainability, Procter & Gamble
- Keizayla Fambro, chief of staff, City of Cincinnati, Office of Mayor Aftab Pureval
- Ted Fitz, senior vice president, research and development and operations, Gorilla Glue
- Karen Forgas, senior vice president, business operations, Cincinnati Reds
- Ben Fotsch, vice president, digital customer acquisition, Western & Southern Financial Group
- Jenny Franta, senior vice president, managing director of personal trust, Fifth Third Bank
- Katie Frey, COO, Tier1 Performance
- Ray Gargano, vice president, community investments, ArtsWave
- Andrew Garth, executive vice president & general counsel, Port Authority of Greater Cincinnati
- Whitney Gaskins, associate dean & associate professor, University of Cincinnati
- Lindzie Gunnels, commercial leasing manager / managing broker, Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC)
- Emily Hartmann, senior director, brand marketing, The Kroger Co.
- Jeremy Hayden, partner, Taft Law
- Damian Hoskins, executive director, Elementz Hip Hop Cultural Art Center
- Danielle Johnson, chief medical officer, Lindner Center of Hope
- Eric Landen, partner, Frost Brown Todd LLP
- David Linnenberg, chief administrative officer, Cincinnati Art Museum
- Carolyn MacDonald, vice president, commercial operations, Cincinnati Insurance Co.
- Mike McCullough, owner and CEO, Trak Group
- Kristie McKillip, managing director, Midwest large business, Duke Energy
- Brett Meager, executive vice president, service and loyalty, Paycor
- Keith Moran, managing director, strategy and transactions, Ernst & Young
- Chad Munitz, chief development officer, FC Cincinnati
- Michele Plessinger, partner, Gilman Partners LLC
- Gina Rittinger, vice president, strategic growth, REDI Cincinnati
- Carey Sanders, senior vice president, Fifth Third Bank
- Steve Saunders, police captain, Criminal Investigations Section commander, Cincinnati Police Department
- Robert Saurber, senior estimator, Structural Systems Repair Group
- Chris Schildmeyer, vice president of operations, TriVersity Construction
- Kate Schroder, president and CEO, Interact for Health
- Scott Schuster, vice president, philanthropy, Cincinnati Museum Center

- John Scott, chief of engagement, Community Engagement Partners
- Anne Sesler, director of public affairs, Government Strategies Group
- Chris Shimala, senior vice president, Huntington Bank
- Matt Shuler, vice president and chief legal officer, The Christ Hospital
- Siobhan Taylor, president and CEO, DePaul Cristo Rey
- Scott Thompson, founder, Reslv
- Jennifer Walke, vice president of development, The Model Group
- Faith Whittaker, partner, employment practices group chair, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
- Chad Williams, managing director, GBQ Partners LLC

More than 2,000 participants have graduated from Leadership Cincinnati since the first class in 1977, according to the news release. To launch this year's class, the chamber will host a dinner for participants and alumni on Sept. 7, where it will also presented its Nelson Schwab Jr. Distinguished Alumni Award to Stephanie Smith, Fifth Third Bank's chief inclusion officer; and Kent Wellington, an attorney with Bricker Graydon.