The Leadership Columbus Signature Program is designed to:

- **strengthen** participants’ personal and professional leadership skills
- **build awareness** about key issues and challenges facing our community
- **connect** participants with the community’s trustees, leaders and change agents
- **inspire** participants to use their knowledge and networks to catalyze change in the community
- **create** a pipeline of informed, skilled and connected individuals ready to move Columbus forward

This application and all required supporting materials may be hand-delivered or mailed to:

Leadership Columbus  
37 W. Broad St., Suite 980  
Columbus, OH 43215

Attn: Selection Committee

**All applications must be received or postmarked by March 24, 2017 to be considered for the Class of 2018.**

For more information regarding Leadership Columbus or your application, contact us at 614.225.6948 or kevinsmith@columbus.org.
Application Instructions

Admission to the Leadership Columbus Signature Program is through a competitive application process. Incomplete applications will not be considered, and faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

A complete application includes all of the following items:

1. Two (2) sealed letters of recommendation, mailed to:

   Leadership Columbus
   37 W. Broad St., Suite 980
   Columbus, OH 43215
   Attn: Selection Committee

2. A non-refundable $50.00 application fee, payable to Leadership Columbus by either:
   a. Credit card, online at: http://bit.ly/1qEwFT8
   b. Check, made out to Leadership Columbus, and mailed to the address above.

3. Complete answers the essay questions included in this document, and uploaded via the online application.

4. Resume and/or employment history, uploaded via the online application.

5. All applicant agreement signatures on the last page of this document, scanned and uploaded via the online application.

6. Completed and submitted online application: http://www.leadershipcolumbus.org/signature-program-application/

   You should complete the online application last, after you have finished your essays responses and have all other materials ready for upload. You will not be able to ‘save and continue later’ the online application.

Criteria for Selection

Individuals will be selected based on criteria including:

- Previously demonstrated commitment to civic involvement in the Greater Columbus area
- Interest in seeking substantial volunteer or appointed/elected leadership roles
- Motivation to address critical challenges in the community
- Indication of a commitment of time and energy to participate fully in the 10-month program

Our goal is to assemble a class that represents the Columbus community, and is as diverse as possible to enrich the learning experience for all. Therefore factors such as age, ethnicity, gender and industry sectors may be a consideration in the selection process.
Leadership Columbus’ Signature Program is a leadership development experience designed to educate and inspire leaders for community service. Participants learn through seminars, skill and team-building exercises, experiential activities, group projects and interaction with community leaders.

Program Calendar
The Signature Program curriculum is designed to provide a holistic learning experience, with each program day building on information gleaned from the previous ones. To complete the program, participants are expected to attend and actively participate in all sessions throughout the 10-month curriculum. Please consider your availability and commitment to these dates when you apply.

All program days, outside the Opening Retreat, are one full weekday per month (generally the third Thursday) from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Dates for the Class of 2018 events and program days are as follows:

- September 6, 2017 – Welcome Reception
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- September 11-13, 2017 - Opening Retreat
  The Retreat is a two-night, 48-hour event, running from 1:00 p.m. Monday to 1:00 p.m., Wednesday
- October 19, 2017
- November 16, 2017
- December 14, 2017
- January 18, 2018
- February 15, 2018
- March 22, 2018
- April 19, 2018
- May 17, 2018
- June 7, 2018 – Graduation

† Indicates a mandatory session

Commitment to Attendance
To complete the program, participants are expected to attend and actively participate in all sessions throughout the 10-month curriculum.

A maximum of one absence from non-mandatory sessions is allowed during the program year. The absence can take the form of missing an entire session day or two half-days. Participants who do not fulfill the attendance obligations, or do not receive the intended benefits of the program, will be asked to withdraw from the program.

Executive Program Orientation.

Attendance is MANDATORY at the 48-hour Opening Retreat on September 11-13 and at the November 16 SIMSOC session. The Opening Retreat takes place in southeastern Ohio over the course of two days and two nights.

You will not be eligible for acceptance into the Leadership Columbus program if you cannot fully participate in both of these sessions.
**Personal Assessment Tests**
Prior to the Opening Retreat, you will be required to complete a set of personal evaluation and peer review assessments. These are performed online and you will be provided with instructions on how to access and complete the assessments upon your acceptance into the program.

**Community Impact Projects**
In addition to attendance at session days, class members also commit to participate as a team member with 4 – 8 classmates to work on a group project in conjunction with a non-profit organization to benefit the community. The project’s theme and scope is determined by the team, and its purpose is to serve as a laboratory to utilize and further develop leadership capacities.

**Tuition**
Tuition for the Class of 2018 is $4,975. All tuition must be received by August 18, 2017. Payment plans are available, and tuition can be paid by check or credit card.

**EARLY APPLICATION DISCOUNT**: Applications received on or prior to February 24, 2017 will qualify for discounted tuition rate of $4,725.

**Scholarships**
We encourage all applicants to seek tuition payment/reimbursement from their employer. In cases where the full cost of tuition is a burden for either the company/organization or the individual, a limited number of scholarships are available. Award of scholarships is based upon demonstrated need, and is limited to no more than 50% of the tuition cost.

Upon acceptance into the program, participants seeking financial assistance will be asked to submit additional documentation, which may include a copy of their most recent Federal tax return.

To be considered for a scholarship, please check the box and provide the necessary information under ‘Tuition Assistance’ on Page 4 of the Application.

**Follow-up**
Once your application is complete and uploaded to the website, you will receive an email confirming receipt.

The review and selection process will begin shortly after the March 24 application deadline. It is anticipated that acceptance letters will be mailed out by June 1. In the interim, you may direct any questions regarding your application status to Max Moore at max_moore@columbus.org / 614-225-6948.
Essay Questions

Please thoughtfully and concisely answer the following questions on a separate sheet, and upload your responses as part of the online application found at:
http://www.leadershipcolumbus.org/signature-program-application/

1. Participation in Leadership Columbus is a significant commitment of time and energy. How do you expect to use your Leadership Columbus experience? What unique qualities would you bring to the class?

2. What do you consider to be one of your most significant and important personal or professional accomplishments? How did you demonstrate leadership to achieve it?

3. What do you consider to be a significant challenge that our community currently faces? How can you be a part of the solution to that challenge?
Applicant Signature and Commitment
I hereby submit my application for the Leadership Columbus Class of 2018. I understand the time commitment involved and the program goals. If selected, I plan to attend each function in its entirety and devote the time and effort necessary to be a contributing member of the Leadership Columbus program. I understand that if I fail to meet these obligations, I will be asked to withdraw from the program.

Applicant Name: ____________________________
Applicant Signature ____________________________ Date __________________

Supervisor Signature
I, the undersigned, approve this applicant for participation in the Leadership Columbus program. I understand he/she will devote one full weekday per month to the program, and completely support their involvement.

Supervisor Name: ____________________________
Supervisor Title: ____________________________ Date __________________

Payment Agreement
If accepted into the Signature Program, I/my financial sponsor agree to pay the determined amount of my tuition. I/we understand that full payment of tuition is due by August 18, 2017. I/we understand that if I do not adhere to the terms of this agreement, I may be asked to withdraw from the program prior to the Opening Retreat, and any tuition paid will not be refunded.

Applicant Signature ____________________________ Date __________________

To be completed in the event tuition, or a portion thereof, will be paid by applicant’s employer/financial sponsor:

Financial Sponsor Signature ____________________________ Date __________________

Financial Sponsor Name: ____________________________
Relationship to Applicant: ____________________________

Tuition Assistance
A limited number of scholarships of up to 50% of tuition are available to participants with a demonstrated financial need. A preference is given to participants who are self-paying or sponsored by a non-profit organization.

☐ I am interested in applying for a partial tuition scholarship. I understand that to determine my eligibility, Leadership Columbus may request personal financial information including my federal tax returns.

Expected portion of tuition from employer: $ ________________
Expected portion of tuition from applicant: $ ________________
Scholarship Amount Requested: $ ________________ (not to exceed 50% of tuition)