

May 1, 2017

Dear 2018 Essential Applicants,

Thank you for your interest in Leadership Austin. Our 37-year history proves time and time again the power of intentional and collaborative community work. Our recruitment and selection process brings together one of the most diverse groups of individuals you'll find anywhere in this region. We consider industry experience, race, ethnicity, geographic representation, ideology, age and gender to purposely unite a combination of people who will challenge each other's views of the world while finding shared values and working toward the common good.

In order for this experience to be possible, participation must be accessible to anyone and everyone. We need all voices at the table. While it takes considerable funding to provide this experience, our board of directors and staff remain committed to not letting cost be a barrier to access.

We invite those who are unable to cover the cost of their tuition to apply for scholarship assistance. We feel fortunate to have the support of our alumni community to provide as much assistance as possible. In this same vein, we ask an individual who is capable of personally or professionally covering the full program commitment to do so, allowing more scholarship funding to be used for those who could not otherwise afford to participate.

One of the reasons applicants are selected to participate in the Essential program is because we've seen our organization's values come to life through the applicant's work in the community. Inclusiveness and personal responsibility are at the core of our work. We rely on the personal responsibility of all participants to contribute the full financial means that is in their capacity. If, after accessing professional funds and reflecting on your personal capacity, you find yourself in need of additional scholarship assistance, please complete [this form](#) along with your application.

Please note scholarship assistance is considered only after the Essential selection process is complete and will in no way impact consideration of your application.

This understanding of and commitment to the common good makes it possible for our organization to be the inclusive institution we continually strive to be. We're all in this together – because in the end, that's what this is all about.

Sincerely



Ali Khataw
Board Chair



Christopher Kennedy
Chief Executive Officer