

BEST *Virtual* **Party** **EVER**

Presented By



Benefiting the
**LEADERSHIP AUSTIN
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**





Welcome to **Best Party Ever 2020**, the Best *Virtual* Party Ever! Every year we gather at our party with a purpose to celebrate the work of Leadership Austin, our alumni, our recent graduates, and to raise vital scholarship funding for the upcoming program year. This year will be no different! It can't be! Leadership Austin is an integral part of developing leaders for our community. On May 29th, you can play an important role in supporting our mission to continue equipping and connecting leaders of

Central Texas. COVID-19 may have changed how we gather, but it doesn't change the need to support Leadership Austin meet its mission. In fact, because of COVID-19, developing and supporting leaders is more important now than ever. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our virtual party with a purpose - Best Party Ever 2020!

Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D. | *Chair, Board of Directors*

In 2019, Leadership Austin awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships across our programs. Removing cost as a barrier to leadership is crucial to our mission. Because of the current economic climate, we anticipate a greater need than ever before for financial aid requests in the coming year. This event - the **Best Virtual Party Ever** - is our primary source of funding for scholarships. Please help us reach our goal to allow our programs to be available to everyone. Future leadership depends upon it.



Christopher Kennedy, CEO | *Essential 16 - 1995*



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It is a pleasure to be Co-Chair of the **Best Virtual Party Ever**. When Melissa and I were asked, it was easy to answer “yes”. I have been a proud member of the Leadership Austin Board of Directors for several years and, in that time, I have seen the work and dedication to our community by the alumni of this organization and it is inspiring. I believe that diverse leadership is critically needed in our region. We need to lift up those who wish to serve and support their efforts in making Greater Austin a thriving place to live. Melissa and I are proud supporters of Leadership Austin and welcome you to this year’s event. Thank you for joining us in the innovative and resourceful response to both the virus that is hurting our community and the need to ensure that we provide training at the highest level no matter one’s ability to pay. Thank you for being part of our success this year!

Rudy Garza | *President and Founder, GarzaEMC*

When Rudy asked me to join him as Co-Chair of **Best Virtual Party Ever**, I didn’t hesitate. I knew the work and training of Leadership Austin by reputation, and what I have seen over the last few months has only reinforced that belief.



Leadership Austin is dedicated to our community and to ensuring that its leaders understand how all of our systems are intertwined. The work and training that comes from Leadership Austin is what inspired Kelli and I to join you in making sure everyone who is able to participate in the programs offered can do so without worrying about their financial ability to pay. Your donations make that possible. Thank you for being part of this exciting event!

Chris Szeliga | *Senior Vice President, JE Dunn Construction*

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Happy hour and alumni reunions

7:15 P.M.

Best Virtual Party Ever

Not Registered Yet?

Register Here

Follow us and share on social media
@leadershipatx #LeadBPE



***Download
your complete
party toolkit here***

Thank You to our sponsors!

SUPER STAR



ROCK STAR



SHINING STAR



ALL STAR



LUCKY STAR



The Happy Hour and Alumni Reunions

At 6:30 p.m., log in to the link you were provided through registration. After a short welcome message, you will be invited to join a small breakout room to visit with other alumni.

*Make your own Leadership Austin signature cocktail...
or mocktail!*

Leadership Austin Lemonade



One part vodka to two parts fresh-squeezed lemonade. Serve in a tall glass over ice and garnish with lemon, blueberries or a sprig of fresh rosemary.

The 1979



The Year Leadership Austin was founded!

Equal parts mescal or tequila, sparkling mineral water (or club soda), and fresh-squeezed grapefruit juice. Garnish with fresh grapefruit or lime.

Optional: rim glass with kosher salt

Alumni Fizz



Two parts gin, one part club soda, one part fresh-squeezed lemon juice. Serve shaken in a chilled glass.

The Best Virtual Cocktail Ever



Equal parts mango puree, ginger beer and fresh-squeezed lime juice. Mix with one tablespoon honey and garnish with mini cucumbers and lime wedges.

Your gift to the scholarship fund has *impact*



“It’s been a journey, and Leadership Austin was no small part of it. The opportunities we were given to reflect and to look at our core values and what makes us get up in the morning. **It’s a really validating experience to have your life and career aligning.** Having met people through Leadership Austin who had crafted careers and lives that matched their values, I knew that was an option. I couldn’t have done it without a scholarship.”

Jennifer “Houli” Houlihan | *Essential 36 - 2015*

“Getting a scholarship from Leadership Austin was an incredible opportunity for my organization and me. The program not only allowed me to immerse myself in current community issues and hold honest and vibrant conversations, but also fostered relationships and deep commitments to go beyond and offer viable solutions to community challenges. **The experience has definitely made me a better person, leader and advocate.** I am honored to be part of the Leadership Austin family and I encourage you to find your voice through this amazing program.”



Lourdes G. Zuniga | *Essential 40 - 2019*

Support the journey for new leaders by making a gift to the Scholarship Fund.

[Click Here To Donate!](#)



“When I applied to Leadership Austin, I was the principal at a middle school. I was so laser-focused on my school, I was blind to the greater community - I needed to get outside of my education bubble and learn about the issues that were affecting my school and the families I was serving. Getting accepted into the program, and getting a scholarship to help with tuition, allowed me to learn from a diverse group of people from different industries and with different lived experiences. **Scholarships are important because there can't be economic barriers to this experience.** If you only admit people who can pay the full tuition, you're missing a perspective and a voice that needs to be represented.”

Matt Pope | *Essential 37 - 2016*

“The Leadership Austin experience helped me see our community through a different lens and pushed me in making the city more thoughtful, diverse and equitable. The scholarship I received was an investment in my growth and allowed for an unbelievable professional experience that has opened opportunities for both myself and my current agency. I am grateful for ongoing support of scholarships, which eliminate barriers for those ready to receive the training necessary to change the landscape of our region.”



Sharon Vigil | *Essential 40 - 2019*

Special thanks to these generous donors who are matching all donations to the Scholarship Fund, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000!

**KOZMETSKY FAMILY | DODGE STRITTMATTER FAMILY
REBECCA POWERS FAMILY | CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY
FRIENDS OF LEADERSHIP AUSTIN**



BEST *Virtual* Party EVER

7:15 P.M.

Welcome

7:25 P.M.

Toast to the 2020 Graduating Classes of
Essential and Emerge

7:30 P.M.

Riders Against the Storm DJ Set
(Jonathan 'Chaka' Mahone - *Essential 40 - 2019*
and Ghislaine 'Qi Dada' Jean)

8:00 P.M.

Close



*This year, the afterparty is
at YOUR place.*

Keep the good times rolling with
[this custom playlist](#) courtesy of
Riders Against the Storm
(@rashiphop).



CONGRATULATIONS



ESSENTIAL
CLASS 41 / 2020



Welcome to the Leadership Austin alumni family classes of 2020!



CONGRATULATIONS



EMERGE
CLASS 13 / 2020

