VISION  
*Inspiring a Diverse Community of Leadership to Improve Colorado*

MISSION  
*Providing Content, Context and Access to Inspire Leaders to Engage in Issues Critical to the Region’s Success.*

VALUES  
*Cooperative, Collaborative Relationships  
Inclusivity and Diversity of Perspective  
Dedication to Quality  
Commitment to Volunteerism*
2009 brought the Leadership Foundation a great abundance of thought, reflection, strategy, and action. Despite troubling times in the economy, we learned our services continue to be viable to our participants, alumni, and the community at large. We began our fiscal year in September 2008 with a series of gatherings including a variety of stakeholders to pose the question, “What is working with the Leadership Foundation, and what can we do to improve?” This thorough process in which each program was vetted from many perspectives was most affirming and illustrative. It helped us to then approach our Mission, Vision, and Values statements, and to revise and hone them. We are proud to present those on the opposite page. Most importantly, it helped us to succinctly define to ourselves just what we do uniquely, and best.

We at the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation (DMCLF) are storytellers and brokers of stories. Our goal is to discern the importance and essence of a complicated, layered issue, and bring to light the parts that really matter. To be effective and robust, these stories weave threads from a variety of perspectives. We not only tell the story, but leave the listeners feeling energized to take action and to know what steps they might take to engage.

Our participants are business people from the private, public, and non-profit sectors who wish to be involved in civic and volunteer work. The art in our work is about engaging subject-matter experts who are willing, as volunteers, to develop experiences whereby stories can be told that will not only resonate with an executive audience but will incite action. These subject-matter experts are often the leaders who are at the top of their fields and are known statewide and sometimes nationally. Access to these leaders is an important part of what our participants gain in addition to the content and context of the issues presented.

We offer a continuum of programs to meet leaders where they are from undergraduate collegiate leaders through their careers and into retirement. The Leadership Foundation programs continue to thrive as metro business leaders seek a variety of portals for their support of an economically vital community with great quality of life.

Join us in celebrating the civic leadership that enables our rich and diverse metro life. As we move into 2010, we pause to thank the Chamber family, our supportive board, dedicated staff, generous donors, active alumni, class members, and the community we serve together.

Jerome Davis
2008-09 Chair of the Board
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

Maureen McDonald
Executive Director
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation
Denver leaders gathered at the Museum of Nature and Science on June 5, 2009 to celebrate 35 years of the Denver Metro Leadership Foundation’s programs in Colorado. The gala, sponsored by Hensel Phelps, Xcel Energy, Greenberg Traurig, Lockton Companies LLC, Colorado Hospital Association, Daniels Fund and Metropolitan State College, showcased the Leadership Foundation’s programs from the first class of Leadership Denver in 1974 to the Impact Denver class of 2009. Committee members led by Leanna Clark (LD ’00), brought a creative approach to the process of engaging members of all programs and classes. More than 500 Leadership Foundation alumni, from experienced mentors in our community to newly minted professionals, joined us for cocktails and remembrances of their experiences in our programs.

As part of the ongoing celebration of 35 years of leadership development, JohnstonWells Public Relations, our Oral History sponsor, produced a Web site and a number of videos that highlight our alumni and our programs. The Web site can be found at http://ld35.denverleadership.org. Each video profiles an individual and his or her experiences with the Leadership Foundation, as well as highlighting the breadth and depth of our programs and participants.

Thirty-five years of metro Denver leaders have walked through our doors to gain a wider perspective about the community of Colorado. We are looking forward to the coming decades and the new visions of Colorado that will come from our work.
“I was amazed at the organizational diversity and the extraordinary quality of the leaders at the Leadership Foundation’s 35th Anniversary Celebration. The Museum has never before seen a crowd quite like that!”

—George Sparks, President & CEO,
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Leadership Denver is an 11-month program for active professionals focused on assuming civic leadership roles in the Denver metro community. The members of the Leadership Denver (LD) Class of 2009 had a unique charge: they each agreed to meet and interview many Leadership Denver alumni as part of a unique “oral history” project. Almost 100 LD alumni shared their stories about the impact Leadership Denver had on their civic engagement and about their roles in the community. These written and video interviews are captured on the ld35.denverleadership.org Web site and provide a broad perspective on the collaborative efforts that are such an important part of the region’s success.

The class of 2009 referred to themselves as the “Most Fun Class Ever” and demonstrated that spirit throughout the year. Traditional favorites, such as Crime and Justice Day and Economic Development Day, resonated with the class; but they also enjoyed the re-emergence of Health Care Day in light of the ongoing national debate. The class enjoyed outdoor team building exercises during the annual retreat in November. In June, they selected the Tennyson Center for Children as their class project and are excited to be planning and implementing the project in the year following graduation.

Denise King (LD 2003), senior program manager, presented a fantastic closing day for the grateful and ever-laughing class of 2009. The class and their loved ones enjoyed inspiring remarks at their graduation ceremony by Mimi Roberson, Maureen McDonald, Jerome Davis and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper followed by a keynote speech from Joe Blake. The class gift of more than $8,000 in scholarship funds was added to over $15,000 generated by the Celebrating 35 Years of Civic Leadership event for the Foundation’s emerging leader programs.
"I've always known that Denver is a very "open door" kind of place — it is easy to get involved here by just raising your hand, so to speak. At the same time, I've not known the organizations or the issues that would most benefit from my involvement."

- Illana Poley, Senior Associate, SE2
Leadership development through a transfer of insight and experience is the goal of the Leadership Foundation’s Legacy Denver program. In 2009, the Leadership Foundation, along with co-chairs Christine Benero and Chris Chavez, recruited seven community trustees to mentor small groups of established community leaders and to facilitate the passing of the mantle of leadership to emerging community leaders. The 2009 mentors led a series of six small group discussions (typically 90 minutes each over lunch) over a six month period. Each session focused on a different theme.

Mentees are a select group of established community leaders representing a diverse set of industries, gender and experience. These mentees benefit from the opportunity to have an exchange with leaders who have been deeply involved in building our region; experience an exclusive, historic transfer of knowledge and expertise from life-long community trustees; gain an in-depth perspective on critical issues and opportunities facing the region from their peers in the community; and establish relationships with other influential business and civic leaders.
“Legacy Denver enabled me to become acquainted with a number of Denver’s current and future public and private leaders. I received much more wisdom than I was able to impart. I hope the Denver business community will continue to support this very worthwhile leadership development program. It was an honor to participate.”

- Gary Hart, Scholar in Residence, University of Colorado, Denver; Senator, State of Colorado, 1975 – 1987
In October 2008, the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation convened a Leadership Exchange (LEX) delegation of 158 of Colorado’s most prominent business and civic leaders to discuss innovations and best practices in Vancouver, British Columbia. The objective of LEX is to study a city facing relevant business and policy issues, while strengthening the collective vision and collaboration in our own community. The similarities between, metro Denver and Vancouver inspired many conversations about parallels that could be drawn and lessons that were learned.

The delegation explored economic development with an emphasis on Pan-Asian business links, sustainability and land use, tourism and the Olympics as economic drivers, health care policy, transit-oriented development, public-private partnerships, renewable energy, multiculturalism, immigration and diversity. Thirty-five Vancouver leaders addressed the delegation during the three day trip, including:

- Gordon Campbell, Premier, British Columbia;
- Dr. Brian Day, Immediate past president, Canadian Medical Association;
- John Furlong, CEO, Vancouver 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games;
- Yuen Pau Woo, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada; and Jane Bird, CEO, Canada Line Rapid Transit Inc.

Following the trip, metro Denver leaders met with some of the Vancouver faculty for an in-depth discussion on metro Denver’s recent experience with creating public-private partnerships. In addition, numerous participants commented that they gleaned a great deal from the trip and were struck by the relevance and importance of studying an international city as Colorado’s economy becomes more globally connected. Corporate enthusiasm and support for the Leadership Exchange trip has grown significantly, as illustrated by an increase in trip sponsorships in fiscal year 2008-09 and a continued increase in the number of applicants.
“We were all taken with the natural beauty of Vancouver. We heard about how the city planners deliberately built a downtown living environment that not only preserves the amazing views but is also very walkable. In Denver, we have visions of becoming a global city, in Vancouver we saw a city that is already there. It was a unique opportunity for us to visit a city that truly sets an example for which to aspire.”

-KieAnn Brownell, President, Metro Denver Sports Commission
Access Denver offers a first-hand look at the changing face of metro Denver and the region’s current issues. In April, thirty-nine senior-level executives convened to participate in the 2009 Access Denver program. This orientation program for senior executives new to the area or new to their position provides important context for local business and civic issues, access to metro Denver’s leaders and critical tools for becoming active in the community.

During the program, the participants learned from prominent guest speakers like: Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper; Joe Blake, then president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce; KieAnn Brownell, president of the Metro Denver Sports Commission; Greg Morris, president and CEO of Fuller Real Estate; and Cathey Finlon, interim president of the Denver Art Museum.

Participants also heard from, and engaged in dialogue with, more than 20 other public and private sector leaders about present-day issues impacting our community.

Participants gathered in many of Denver’s unique landmarks, such as the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Five Points, Phipps Mansion, the Pepsi Center, the Navarre Building and its incredible collection of western art, the Brown Palace Hotel, the Governor’s Mansion and the historic Supreme Court Chambers at the Colorado State Capitol building. Topics discussed ranged from economic development and civic engagement to sports in metro Denver to a vision for the city and the state.
"When I moved back to Denver and into my new leadership role, I was looking for a way to get connected to the community and for a way to gain access to new leaders from the community. Access Denver provided the perfect environment for those goals and I look forward to maintaining the connections and friendships I made with other leaders from Denver,"

-Dan Oftedahl, President, Humana of Colorado
The generosity and philanthropy of Coloradans, the collaboration between arts and culture in our region and the health and wellness of Colorado’s citizens are a few of the many topics explored by emerging metro area leaders in the fourth class of Impact Denver. Forty-one participants met over the course of six months and engaged in half-day issue seminars with influential community leaders. The class received training in critical leadership skill development that included cultural competency, forming partnerships with community organizations, fundraising, board service and training, and asset-based thinking.

During their final class, the 2009 Impact Denver class chose Sports for a Cause as their annual group community action project. The organization’s mission is to clean and rebuild playgrounds, youth athletic facilities and schools in the metro Denver region. The project kicked off in July 2009 when the majority of the class gathered to help build a playground for the Owens Boys & Girls Club and the neighboring community. Former Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff concluded the program with an inspirational message to further their community engagement by beginning to assume leadership roles in their civic and professional lives.
Impact Denver Co-Chairs:
Debbie Welle-Powell, Exempla Healthcare
Lynne Valencia, 9NEWS, KUSA-TV
Amanda Arthur, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Elissa Beckman, Pay Simple, Inc.
Sarah Benvenuti, Curious Theatre Company
Evan Berlin, Pay Simple, Inc.
Tami Brown, Daniels Fund
Jonathan Comyn, American Red Cross, Mile High Chapter
Kendall Cordova, Big Brothers Big Sisters Colorado
Allen Cougill, Exclusive Resorts, LLC
Tomi Dada, Jones Lang LaSalle
Mark A. Davidson, Mile High United Way
James Davis, University of Denver
Angela Davis-Robertson, Denver Public Schools
Theresa Donnelly, Xcel Energy
Trevor Emery, Wealth Strategy Partners, LLC
Heather Grady, Rossetti
Stacey Helkert, Anton Collins Mitchell LLP
Ashley Hinkle, National Sports Center for the Disabled
Aaron Hyatt, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Jarrad Jackson, Energy Delivery Services
Keith Kirkpatrick, TCF National Bank
Genia Larson, University of Colorado Denver
Eric Lazzari, USA Swimming
Alexandra Lee, Mile High Youth Corps.
Brian Martorella, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Kristin McCandless, Otten, Johnson, Robinson, Neff + Ragonetti PC
Ed Mennona, BBVA Compass
William Meyer, Polsinelli Shughart, PC.
Joe Nimmons, BBVA Compass
Mary Olson, Policy Studies, Inc.
Joseph Phillips, Bank of Choice
Beverly Razon, Client Services, dovetail solutions
Katie Rehrig, FirstBank of Cherry Creek
Terri Richardson, Kaiser Permanente
Annie Skinner, The Special District Association of Colorado
Jill Stadek, UMB Bank Colorado
Ryan Snyder, Continental Realty Advisors
Angelika Stodovell, IMA of Colorado, Inc.
Mark Thompson, Delta Dental of Colorado
Brandon Tozli, Kroenke Sports Enterprises
Cruz Valadez, First Data Corporation
Heather Dao Zhou, Cordovano and Honeck LLP

“Impact Denver was an amazing experience that broadened my view of the Denver community. It was great to see how the different areas and aspects of Denver go hand-in-hand and impact each other so deeply.”

Mary Olson, Associate Strategy Analyst, Policy Studies, Inc.

*Company affiliations as of 6/09
The Colorado Leadership Alliance (CLA) serves as an umbrella organization for more than 800 students participating in competitive and academically rigorous leadership programs at 10 campuses throughout Colorado. While each program shares elements such as a competitive selection process and experiential learning, they each express unique identities in how they pursue training Colorado’s best and brightest to be our future leaders. CLA supports the development of each program by providing a forum to communicate best practices, create shared outcomes and engage in joint fundraising efforts. This relationship between an alliance of collegiate leadership programs and a chamber of commerce is unique in the country.

In April 2009, James Mejía, CEO of the Denver Preschool Program, was honored as the 9NEWS Leader of the Year at the annual CLA Luncheon. During the luncheon, more than 100 CLA students served as ambassadors of the Alliance to more than 600 business, civic and academic leaders attending the event. Additionally, Metropolitan State College announced the planned opening of their new leadership program in the fall of 2009, and the Leadership Foundation welcomed them into the Alliance.

New this year was the Boettcher Foundation’s support of the Student Leader of the Year Awards. Each CLA member campus recognized its own outstanding student and, from these campus leaders, two students were selected as CLA Student Leaders of the Year and each received an award at the CLA Luncheon. Nick Breitnauer from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Phoebe Coleman from the University of Colorado at Denver were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments.

Reacting to the statewide rise in children living in poverty, the CLA Student Scholars Board (SSB) identified children’s poverty as the topic of its One Alliance/One Issue project. This alliance-wide project is designed to engage students from all 10 member leadership programs in a statewide issue of significance. The SSB conducted research on local factors contributing to children’s poverty and developed an action plan to respond to the issue both in their local community and in Denver.

The DMCLF is supported by the Adolph Coors Foundation, the Boettcher Foundation, the Daniels Fund, the El Pomar Foundation and FirstBank in accomplishing the work of the Alliance.
“When the Colorado Leadership Alliance joined forces with the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation a few years ago, it was like plugging into an energy source. To suddenly have the power and influence of the business community behind our 10 university leadership programs created an unimaginable synergy with new benefits and opportunities still being discovered.”

Barbara Volpe, Executive Director
Presidents Leadership Class, Inc.
University of Colorado at Boulder
In addition to the many people who inform our work at the Leadership Foundation, several organizations in the state are essential to our success. One such organization is the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. 2009 brought a significant change to the Leadership Foundation when, after ten years at the helm, Chamber President and CEO Joe Blake announced his plan to lead the Colorado State University system as the institutions’ first-ever Chancellor. Joe’s presence in the Leadership Foundation as we grew over the last decade was invaluable and incalculable. His humor, optimism, sincere interest in staff, and his enthusiastic support of our efforts was essential to our growth and influence in the community. Joe’s departure created an opportunity for another leader to take the helm, Kelly Brough, who had been serving on our Leadership Foundation board for a year. As Chief of Staff for Mayor Hickenlooper, Kelly had been in a leadership role at a very large enterprise, and brings to the Leadership Foundation a wealth of experience. Kelly, too, is an enthusiastic supporter of the work of the Leadership Foundation and we offer her our warmest welcome.

In 2009 we revisited our collaborative of like programs by reaching out to over 50 organizations in the state who run leadership programs. We are pleased to be part of a region where sharing of information, referrals of participants, and collaborating on projects is the norm. After many hours of research and some rich conversations, we now have an updated robust and descriptive directory of leadership programs, one of the few of its kind in the U.S. Leadership development is alive and well in Colorado and the market for programs appears to be on the rise. One of the newer programs is Welcome Denver, a program the Leadership Foundation supported in its development and continues to support in the ongoing implementation. Aimed at professionals from communities of color who are new to the metro area, Welcome Denver is succeeding at providing cultural grounding to newcomers and their families.

The alumni and volunteers of the Leadership Foundation’s programs provide hundreds of community connections, as they engage with civic and service organizations throughout the state. Their leadership and service are felt in myriad ways, impacting homelessness, early childhood education, youth mentoring, health access, and a broad range of policy issues. The Leadership Foundation itself could not conduct our programs without the vital support of volunteers, as you will note on the pages that list the many fine contributors that help us. From our volunteer board of directors, to the subject-matter experts who guide our curriculum planning, to the talented speakers who bring our programs to life, we rely heavily on volunteers to deliver excellence in our programming.
$10,000 and above
9NEWS, KUSA-TV
Adolph Coors Foundation
Boettcher Foundation
Comcast
El Pomar Foundation
FirstBank Holding Company
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Hensel Phelps Construction Company
Hogan & Hartson, LLP
Holme Roberts & Owen, LLP
JohnstonWells Public Relations
Kaiser Permanente
Molson Coors Brewing Company
Suncor Energy (U.S.A.)
TIAA-CREF
U.S. Bank
Xcel Energy

$1,000-$9,999
Alem International Management
American Red Cross Mile High Chapter
Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield
Jim Baldwin
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Bonfils Blood Center
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
CH2M Hill
CIGNA Healthcare of Colorado
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CLC Associates
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College In Colorado
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Colorado Housing and Finance Authority
Colorado State University at Fort Collins
Colorado State University at Pueblo
Columbine Health Plan
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CRL Associates, Inc.
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Denver Athletic Club
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver Preschool Program
Denver Public Schools, Board of Education
Emergentec International
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Forest City Stapleton
Friends of James Mejia
GSBM,
GO Automotive Group
Grubb & Ellis
HealthONE Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center
HealthONE Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children
Holland & Hart, LLP
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Johnson & Wales University
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Sidecar Consulting, LLC
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Strategic Financial Partners, LLC
TCF Bank
The Children's Hospital
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Denver Hospice
Tryba Architects
United Health Care
United Launch Alliance
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver
University of Colorado Hospital
University of Denver
University of Northern Colorado
University Physicians Inc.
C. Travis Webb
Welcome Denver
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Wiesner Publishing
Despite the down economy, our volunteers made the time to support us in record numbers this year; as faculty, issues advisors, planners and committee members. Their contribution of over 2000 hours was invaluable!

-Maureen McDonald, Executive Director,

Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation
INVESTMENT PRIORITIES HIGHLIGHTS
- DMCLF utilized resources to increase access to education and leadership programming:
  - To CLA Students at UNC, University of Colorado Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs for Educational Scholarships
  - To Collegiate Leadership Programs for Operating Expenses
  - To Collegiate Leaders for access to DMCLF Programs
  - For scholarships for our Emerging Leader programs to ensure access for non-profit organizations and small businesses.

"A challenging economy mandates careful review of every organization’s product mix and delivery process. The ongoing success of the DMCLF clearly demonstrates the genuine value of its wide-ranging, high-quality, leadership programs as it continues to provide unparalleled content and connectivity among the region’s civic, philanthropic and business communities. It is a pleasure to serve with my fellow board members in support of this very worthwhile Foundation and its talented and dedicated organizational staff."

- Charlie Kercheval, Chair, DMCLF Finance Committee and President
  FirstBank of Parker

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS
- In a very difficult economy, exceeded budgeted net income by 300 percent
- Result of both revenue growth and aggressive expense management
- Effective reserves of more than nine months
- Alumni contributed $25,000 in donations for future program scholarships

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES HIGHLIGHTS
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  - To CLA Students at UNC, University of Colorado Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs for Educational Scholarships
  - To Collegiate Leadership Programs for Operating Expenses
  - To Collegiate Leaders for access to DMCLF Programs
  - For scholarships for our Emerging Leader programs to ensure access for non-profit organizations and small businesses.
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