

2018 Annual Impact Report



Thank you!

Your partnership with ADA 25 Advancing Leadership is helping realize our vision that people with disabilities will lead with power and influence in the Chicago region.

The first program of its kind in the nation, Advancing Leadership equips leaders with disabilities with training, a network of support, and connections to civic engagement opportunities to ensure that Chicago's vibrant civic and professional life is fully inclusive.

Together, we made significant accomplishments in 2018.

MAKING CIVIC CONNECTIONS

We have tracked more than 100 civic and professional advancements since our founding. In 2018, Advancing Leadership partnered with BoardLead, a national nonprofit board matching and training program, resulting in ten new nonprofit board placements. We also held our first annual Disability Power and Influence Symposium and released a Public Service Leadership Guide to assist members interested in serving on State of Illinois Boards and Commissions.



Following Bridget Hayman's Fellows' year she was selected as a University of Chicago Civic Leadership Academy Fellow. As a result of BoardLead, she now serves on the Board of Free Spirit Media and she was appointed to the CTA's ADA Advisory Committee. Bridget also advanced professionally, now serving as Communications Director at Access Living.

EXPANDING OUR MEMBERS NETWORK

The Members Network formally and informally connects individuals with opportunities, mentorship, and encourages meaningful dialogue about disability, diversity, and inclusion. This year, the Network grew to 96 emerging leaders who have graduated from the Leadership Institute, as well as established leaders in the Chicago region who have demonstrated leadership and civic service throughout their career.

Member Erick Allen, who Advancing Leadership connected to the Chicago Jobs Council Board of Directors, is bringing CJC his expertise in human resources to develop a session on disability inclusion in the workplace. When dozens of frontline workforce development staff participate, the ripple effect of our network will touch hundreds of employers and job seekers.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH OUR LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

In 2018, the Leadership Institute expanded from a retreat-style training to a year-long program including two retreats, one-on-one mentoring, the symposium, and other opportunities to meaningfully engage. In December 18 Fellows graduated and became members, and we welcomed 18 more 2019 Fellows.

As an artist, 2018 Fellow Grishma Shah dreamed of sharing her work in a public venue. Fellow and librarian Evelyn Keolian, saw an opportunity to display Grishma's work in a Harold Washington Library exhibit during Disability Awareness Month. Because of the Leadership Institute, Chicagoans had the chance to view art that represents the unique voice of a woman, immigrant, person of color, and individual with a disability.

Some Fellows enter the program with a strong sense of identity as a person with a disability; others are learning to self-identify in a new way, perhaps as a result of a recently acquired disability or because their disability is invisible. Regardless of the starting point of their journey, all Fellows are empowered to lead in their communities.



YOUR IMPACT, OUR COMMUNITY

Because of your commitment to Advancing Leadership, leaders with disabilities are influencing our broader Chicago community. To learn more and receive a complete list of our funders, see www.ada25chicago.org, or contact Executive Director Emily Harris at (312) 565-4798 or eharris@cct.org.

Thank you for your generous support in 2018

The Chicago Community Trust – MacArthur Foundation
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