



Class of 2026 Calendar

Orientation & Reception

Thursday, October 9, 2025
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Come meet your fellow cohort members, chat with program alumni, and learn about what’s in store for the Leadership Oakland Class of 2026. Light appetizers and drinks provided.

Session 1 – Leadership Development

Friday, October 10, 2025
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm

Includes learning about different communication styles, working together, and using outcome-based leadership practices. Skill-based leadership training includes the following competencies: Interpersonal communication styles and public speaking skills.

Session 2 – Arts and Education

Friday, November 7, 2025
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm

Hear from a panel of arts professionals about the richness of Oakland’s art scene and why Oakland is a destination for arts, artisans, and art lovers. Learn why Oakland’s schools have suffered and who’s working to repair the damage. In addition, discover the many positive things happening in Oakland’s education system.

Session 3 – Oakland Gov’t 101; Boards & Commissions

Friday, December 12, 2025
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm

Meet elected officials and administrators from the City and County. Additionally, hear a presentation regarding how to get involved in government and nonprofit boards, and various Chamber committees. Learn how to make your voice heard during public comment at government meetings.

Session 4 – Public Safety

Friday, January 9, 2026
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm



Learn about the Oakland Police Department’s reforms, goals, and work as well as citizen oversight and what the Oakland Fire Department is doing to prepare our citizens for the next major emergency.

Session 5 – Housing and Homelessness; Equity

Friday, February 13, 2026
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm

A jam-packed day of panel discussions and expert speakers dedicated to two of Oakland’s most complicated and salient issues – housing, and homelessness. Learn about Oakland's Department of Race & Equity and participate in a race and equity training

Session 6 – Health and the Environment

Friday, March 13, 2026
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm

Discuss the impact of the pandemic on Oakland's public community with public health professionals. Hear from a panel of environmental experts and organizations dedicated to preserving and improving access to Oakland’s amazing natural resources and shoreline.

Session 7 – Media and Communications

Friday, April 10, 2026
8:30am-4:00pm
Optional Happy Hour
4:00pm-6:00pm

Learn tips on communicating with the media and find out how to get your story in print or on television. Understand how editors of major news publications in and around Oakland determine which stories make the news and which ones don’t.

Session 8 – Business and Transportation & Graduation

Friday, May 8, 2026
8:30am - 4:00pm
Graduation 5:00 - 7:00pm

You’ll have the opportunity to ask some of Oakland’s top business leaders why Oakland is both an attractive and challenging place to do business. Learn about the future of transportation as California’s population reaches an all-time high. Discover why Oakland is an international trade center and the challenges of the shipping and aviation industries. Enjoy a tour of the city’s business districts, stopping for a tour at Port of Oakland.

During Graduation, Leadership Oakland participants will be recognized for their achievements, take part in a graduation ceremony, and have the opportunity to network with program sponsors, alumni, friends, and family.

