

Coro New York Leadership Center

Organizational Overview

What is Coro?

Founded over 40 years ago, Coro has grown into a community of over 4,000 leaders and changemakers that collaborate in bringing their diverse perspectives to address society's most pressing challenges.

Who participates?

Coro is for people who want to learn how New York City works so they can help build a more equitable city. Our alumni are the city's Commissioners and Councilmembers, Executive Directors and entrepreneurs. It is one of the most diverse and influential leadership communities in the city.

Alumni who currently serve or have served in elected office are:

United States Congress: Ritchie Torres (District 15)

United States Senate: Alex Padilla (CA), Tim Kaine (VA) and Michael Bennet (CO) PAST: Dianne Feinstein (CA)

Chief of Staff for the United States House of Representatives
Nikema Williams: Melanee Farrah

New York State Assembly: Catalina Cruz (District 39)

New York City Council: Kamila Hanks (District 49), Carmen De La Rosa (District 10), Shahanah Hanif (District 39), Alexa Aviles (District 38) PAST: Carlos Menchaca (District 38) and Helen Rosenthal (District 6)

Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs: PAST Gonzalo Casals

Chief Assistant District Attorney for Manhattan: Nitin Savur

What is Coro's story?

In a city as complex and diverse as ours, it isn't just the mayors and chief executives who shape our future. At Coro, we believe meaningful change must also come from those in business and communities, schools and unions, government and advocacy groups—not all with formal titles—who have the ideas and the conviction to do more.

One of the oldest leadership development centers in the nation, Coro was founded in 1942 in San Francisco by W. Donald Fletcher, an attorney, and Van Duyn Dodge, an investment counselor, at a time when leaders feared that democracy as a form of government was under threat by the rise of communism and fascism. In the wake of World War II, their innovative approach to leadership development began by training young veterans to become critical thinkers to ensure our democratic system of government could work more effectively for its citizens.

Since its founding, Coro has grown to include Coro programs in five cities—San Francisco, Los Angeles (1957), St. Louis (1972), New York (1980) and Pittsburgh (1999). More than 400 participants a year go through a variety of Coro programs nationwide. At least 10,000 program alumni are currently serving as leaders in local, regional and national/global businesses, nonprofit organizations and key governmental agencies.

“Coro” is spelled with a capital C, and lower-case o, r, o. It is not an acronym. At the time, the founders' vision for a program of educational discovery to prepare citizen leaders was a new concept. Thus Coro—a new word and one without association in the English language—was invented to represent both discovery and exploration. It was meant to convey “to that which readers apply their own meaning.”

The Coro logo was created in 1970 by Hisashi Nakamoto. The center part of the “C” is meant to look like an eye to represent the fact that Coro always has its eyes open in public affairs. Yet in spite of being in the center, there is still an opening for exploration and discovery. The “C” also seems to be pointing out in a direction to symbolize a purpose and mission.



Coro New York Leadership Center Offerings

Coro runs seven leadership training programs, each serving a different constituency at different points on their educational and career paths:

The Fellows Program in Public Affairs

immerses young professionals in public affairs through intensive training and full-time consulting placements with government, labor, business and non-profit sectors.

The Immigrant Civic Leadership Program

strengthens immigrant communities by enhancing the capacity of its leaders to strategically influence policy decision-making and to build and sustain their organizational and personal visions for change. It is in partnership with the New York Immigration Coalition.

Leadership New York

challenges mid-career professionals from across non-profit, public and private sectors to explore critical issues facing New York City and develop new ways to lead change in their communities and organizations.

Neighborhood Leadership is a partnership with the New York City Department of Small Business Services. The program provides individuals working to strengthen New York City's commercial corridors with the tools, experiences, and networks they need to develop new ways to lead change in their organizations and communities.

REBNY Fellows Leadership Program taps 20 rising real estate leaders from diverse backgrounds for a high-impact, 6-month training program focused on developing the leadership skills needed to solve complex challenges, assess multiple perspectives and collaborate effectively.

Workforce Systems Leadership Program

will prepare senior leaders to use their skills, expertise, and networks to respond to the changing workforce development landscape, drive innovative practices and improve service delivery for low-income NYC residents seeking employment and career advancement opportunities.

Women in Executive Leadership

Program elevates women leaders across New York City and State. WEL participants leverage their skills, expertise, and networks to expand their leadership capacity and civic engagement while developing the adaptive and inquiry skills needed to thrive in complex, multi-stakeholder environments.