WE NEED A NEW TYPE OF LEADER

The social, political, economic, and public health crises of the past several years have made it clear that leadership matters. And yet no single leader can be the solution to every crisis we have faced.

We need ecosystems of leaders who center equity and build trust. Who reflect the communities they serve. Who connect across identities, industries, and issues to make a collective impact.
THE TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP PARADIGM NEEDS TO CHANGE

EFFECTIVE CHANGE REQUIRES PROXIMATE LEADERS

Leaders who arise from the communities and issues they serve have the experience, relationships, data, and knowledge that are essential for developing solutions with measurable and sustainable impact.

Source: ssir.org/articles/entry/effective_change_requires_proximate_leaders
A NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP STARTS BY INVESTING IN PROXIMATE LEADERS

Proximate leaders have meaningful relationships with the communities they serve because they are a part of the community itself. They have the trust, experience, and knowledge to create sustainable solutions to our biggest problems, rooted always in justice and equity.

The future of leadership centers the leaders closest to the issues and therefore closest to the solutions.
SUPPORTING PROXIMATE LEADERS REQUIRES LONG-TERM INVESTMENT

For far too long, local leaders, especially those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, have been overlooked and under-resourced. Yet they hold the solutions to our biggest challenges. The time is now to support a new era of leadership with:

- A local and national network of changemakers who collaborate on collective impact;
- Investment in their skills and development to actualize long-term systems change;
- Leadership experience in a supportive environment where they can take risks;
- Resources and access that center their leadership and amplify their impact.
And then I did the New Leaders Council program, which is a national training program for young progressives. It was then that I was really challenged. They posed questions to us like, ‘What would you do if you weren’t afraid?’ And when I was honest with myself, I knew the answer was that I would move back home and run for office. And they were like, ‘Well, you should do it.’
Gone are the days with one archetype for who is a leader.

NLC’s model uplifts leaders who are adaptive, iterative, and collaborative; who recognize the need for leaders of all identities and sectors to work together contributing their skills toward a common goal.

It embraces what is possible with community-based solutions, rather than a “one-size fits all” approach that fails to account for regional and cultural differences.

It is the future - where equitable progress is made real when we invest in proximate leaders.
NLC moves the country forward by creating ecosystems of local changemakers from a diversity of identities, issues, and industries.

Our place-based training and chapter infrastructure, coupled with a national network of support, establish long term systems for individual growth and collective impact for social and political change.

The NLC movement propels our leaders on trajectories that actualize a more sustainable, intersectional, and equitable future.

**OUR THEORY OF CHANGE**

**INVESTING IN LEADERFUL NETWORKS BUILT FOR INDIVIDUAL GROWTH AND COLLECTIVE IMPACT**
WHAT WE DO

BREAKING DOWN SILOS AND BUILDING ECOSYSTEMS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

We recruit proximate leaders who have the expertise, experience, and resilience to implement change, and provide the skills and network for them to make that progress real.

Over the past 15 years, we’ve trained over 10,000 alumni from 50 chapters across the country, creating an ecosystem of place-based, proximate leaders making collective impact in their communities.
WHO WE SERVE
CENTERING INCLUSIVE, PROXIMATE LEADERS

We recruit trusted community leaders for our leadership programs. New Leaders Council is one of the few organizations focused on building a coalition of inclusive leaders across identity, industry, and issues.

IDENTITY
While our programming serves leaders across all identities, we uplift and center Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, women, LGBTQI+ folx, and leaders who hold identities that have not been traditionally represented or invested in.

ISSUES
Our Fellows have expertise in a wide-range of social justice issues including healthcare, housing, criminal justice, climate action and democracy.

INDUSTRY
Our Fellows make up a unique coalition across the non-profit, private, and government and political sectors.
A NEW ERA OF LEADERS

THE 2021 NLC FELLOWS

872 FELLOWS

71% BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

68% WOMEN AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING FOLX

31% LGBTQI+ FOLX
WHAT WE DO

INVESTING IN LOCAL CAPACITY THROUGH PLACE-BASED TRAINING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NLC's core program, the NLC Institute, is delivered across the country in each of our chapters and offered at no cost to participants.

Unlike most leadership development organizations, NLC is a six-month place-based learning environment, followed by experiential learning as volunteer NLC Chapter leaders.

Each chapter tailors our national curriculum to the needs of the local community.

The program focuses on skills building such as entrepreneurial goal setting, strategic communications, digital organizing, finance and fundraising, coalition building, public policy, and equity and inclusion.
WHERE WE SERVE
DEVELOPING ECOSYSTEMS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACROSS 50 CHAPTERS

Our Fellows are deeply committed to making their impact in the communities where they completed their NLC fellowship. A recent survey found that 85% of our alumni stay in their chapter’s region years after their fellowship - and many of them serve as volunteers for their local chapters following their program year.
I can’t help but think about how integral New Leaders Council and the network of dope human beings that are NLCers and how important they are to the work of New Georgia Project - and my professional and personal growth. New Leaders Council is a network of leaders who are truly committed to figure out how to leverage all of our talents, treasure, and time to build the country we want to see.
Our 15 year track record shows that building an ecosystem of local changemakers creates political and social change, especially where it's needed most.

The NLC model has a strong ROI - and creates unique results in individual growth and collective impact.

The impact of inclusive, local leaders emerging from NLC not only validates our belief in this program and community. It proves that what we do works.

If we want to build the country we want to see, then we have to start by investing in leadership.

Invest in proximate, place-based leadership. Invest in NLC.