

BRYAN BELL METROPOLITAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Since 1968, the Bryan Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum, a program of the Committee for a Better New Orleans, has given a diverse class of emerging New Orleans leaders insight into critical issues facing the city and equipped them with tools to be effective leaders who engage a broad cross section of citizens, work systemically, and understand connections across issues. In 2014, CBNO conducted its 50th Leadership Forum!

How it Works

The Bryan Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum is an annual ten-session leadership development program for 35 – 40 emerging leaders that connects participants with each other as well as with experts and leaders from across the city. The program, which attracts people from all sectors and geographies, dedicates one session to each of the following topics:

- Citywide bus tour – connecting infrastructure to issues
- Human Relations / Race Relations
- Housing
- Education
- Economic Development
- City Management
- Public Safety
- Health Care
- Transportation and Regionalism
- Environment and Coastal Issues

Each class also completes team projects that allow participants to deepen their learning by organizing a community endeavor in one of the major issue areas.

“The Forum has truly enlightened me with respect to what’s happening in the city, the solutions that are being sought and implemented. It has sparked a desire in me to become involved.”

- 2013 LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATE



2013 GRADUATING CLASS



“The inside look at critical issues and the contacts I made when I participated in the Leadership Forum are still useful to me today. There is no better launch pad to leadership, in any sector, than this program.”

- CITY COUNCILMEMBER AND FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE JARED BROSSETT

ALUMNI

Since its inception, the Leadership Forum has graduated nearly 2,500 of the city’s pre-eminent leaders in government, politics, business, education, media and other areas critical to the city’s success. A few of the program’s distinguished alumni include:

- Elected officials: Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Sen. David Vitter, State Sen. Karen Carter Peterson, and City Councilmember Jared Brossett
- Business leaders: Roger Ogden, Pres Kabacoff and Greg Rusovich
- Education leaders: Dr. Tim Ryan, Dr. Tony Recasner and Dr. Brian Riedlinger
- Other luminaries including James Cain, Metropolitan Crime Commission President Rafael Goyeneche and writer Lolis Eric Elie