



Welcome to Downtown Academy
Class XI

Syllabus & Agreement

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I. General Information

A. Class Description

In 2016, the Downtown Fresno Partnership and Fresno's Leading Young Professionals joined forces to answer the question: *how do we make Downtown Fresno a vibrant place to live and work?* This year, the program enters its 11th cohort with well over 200 graduating members.

So, what is Downtown Academy? Downtown Academy is a 10-month program connecting leaders with forward-thinkers to explore Downtown Fresno's past, present, and future. As it enters a new decade, DTA's revised curriculum will delve into the future of Downtown, offering an in-depth look and connecting participants with key leaders. Class XI aims to empower with knowledge, experiences, and a collaborative environment to drive positive change in Downtown Fresno's revitalization. **This year's class is open to new DTA members and alumni.**

Downtown Academy received the 2016 Leadership & Management Excellence Award from the International Downtown Association and has been referred to by former Fresno mayor, Ashley Swearengin, as "one of the best programs to come out of the revitalization movement."

B. Program Goals

- A class **curriculum** that explores the complexities of urban renewal
- An overnight **field trip** to other cities to help visualize successful revitalization strategies
- Completion of **volunteer hours and a group project** that directly advances revitalization efforts
- Become a downtown **champion**, and member of a tight-knit group that supports vibrancy, innovation, advocacy, and partnerships in our downtown!

C. Program Requirements

- **Completion of Volunteer Hours and Group Project.** Students will be required to complete 8 individual volunteer hours in Downtown Fresno as well as a group project.
- **Program Rules & Regulations.** Students are expected to follow all rules and expectations as outlined in the syllabus received and signed by June 13th 2024.

D. Program Timeline and Schedule

Timeline

- April 19th, 2024 – May 31, 2024: Application Cycle Open
- June 6th, 2024: Class XI List Announced
- June 13th, 2024: Class XI Agreement signed and submitted
- June 20th, 2024 – March 20th, 2025: Program
- March 20th, 2025: Graduation

Schedule

Classes take place on the **third** Thursday of each month from 5:30 – 9:00 pm, except **Class 7** , the field trip and graduation.

Class	Topic	Date(s)	Time
Class 1	The Future of Downtown	Thursday, June 20th, 2024	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Class 2	Housing	Thursday, July 18, 2024	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Class 3	Infrastructure & Transportation	Thursday, August 15th, 2024	5:30 - 9:00 pm
Class 4	Arts & Parks (Measure P)	Thursday, September 19th, 2024	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Class 5	Small Business & Entrepreneurship	Thursday, October 17th, 2024	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Class 6	Tech, Innovation & Office	Thursday, November 21st, 2024	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Class 7	Historic Buildings & Redevelopment	Thursday, December 12th, 2024 *2nd Thursday*	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Class 8	Class Field Trip: Major CA City/Downtown TBA	Saturday, January 25, 2025 to Sunday, January 26 th , 2025	ALL DAY
Class 9	Chinatown & High Speed Rail	Thursday, February 20th, 2025	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Graduation	Location TBD	Thursday, March 20th, 2025	5:30 – 9:00 pm

E. Course Format

Classes take place on the **third** Thursday of each month from 5:30 – 9:00 pm, or as otherwise noted above. Below is the general format of each class (subject to change). In some cases, dinner and the tour(s) will be swapped, depending on sunlight and guide schedules.

- 5:30 – 7 pm | Dinner, Announcements, Class Project Discussion
- 7 – 9 pm | Tour(s), Presentations, Speakers

III. Program Rules and Expectations

A. General Expectations

- Arrive on time to class (5:30 pm or as otherwise noted)
- Be respectful to Downtown Fresno Partnership staff, partners, and class speakers
- Represent the program as you would your workplace or educational institution

B. Attendance and Tardiness

- **Absences.** Two (2) excused absences will be granted for each student – you must notify the Program Manager no later than end of day on the Monday before class. If a student misses more than two (2) classes, they will be required to make up the time through additional volunteer hours or be dismissed from the program at the organizer's discretion. Missing the class field trip will count for (2) absences.
- **Leaving Early.** If a student needs to leave early, you must notify the Program Manager no later than the day before class. Approval will be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- **Tardiness.** Student must notify Class Organizer of tardiness an hour before class, unless student is expected to be more than 30 minutes late. In that case, notify the day before to give class organizer time to adjust the dinner order. Students must sign-in within the first 30 minutes of each class; arriving after this time will result in an unexcused absence. It is the responsibility of a student

to sign in; if a student fails to sign in (even if present), they will be considered absent.

D. Volunteer Involvement (8 Hours)

Students are required to complete 8 hours of volunteer service in the Downtown Fresno area through events, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, or businesses. Students must document all hours via email with a confirmation of participation hours from the Volunteer Coordinator to the Program Manager. Hours will be recorded by the Program Manager on the Volunteer Tracking Sheet. The deadline to complete volunteer hours is Class 9. If hours are not completed by Class 9, the student will not be eligible to graduate.

E. Group Project

Students are required to work together on a group project in the Downtown Fresno area. The Program Leader will present the guidelines for the class project by August 15th (Class 3).

A. Completion of Program

In order to complete the class, students must complete their 8 volunteer hours no later than **February 2025**. Additionally, students are required to attend at least 7 of the class meetings (including the field trip). Students who go over their allotted amount of absences may be able to complete additional volunteer hours to make up for absences. Eligibility to make up classes will be at the discretion of the Program Manager.

IV. Payment

A. Class Payment

Participation in the program requires a non-refundable fee of **\$500** by **check or cash ONLY**. This fee covers your dinner at each class, as well as travel and lodging for the overnight field trip. There are no refunds under any circumstances.

FLYP Members are eligible for a \$25 discount.

DTA Alumni are also eligible for a \$25 discount.

B. Payment Plan

You may pay in full \$500(preferred) by Class 1, June 20th, 2024, or in two (2) installments of \$250 by Class 3, August 15th, 2024. If a different payment plan needs to be coordinated, an agreement needs to be communicated with Program Manager.

Please make checks payable to Downtown Fresno Foundation.

C. Refunds

There are no refunds for any reason. Your class fee goes toward food, travel, admissions, and lodging throughout the entire 10-month program. Downtown Fresno Foundation pays for many of these expenses upfront, and we are charged whether you are there or not.

AGREEMENT: DOWNTOWN ACADEMY CLASS XI

Please review the program syllabus and the following notes below, then sign the document. The agreement is due to the Program Manager by June 13th, 2024.

- By agreeing to participate, we expect that you will be present for all 9 classes
- Arrive on time to class (5:30 pm)
- Be respectful to Downtown Fresno Partnership staff, partners, and class speakers
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well to ensure the health and safety of all participants.
- Represent the program as you would your workplace or educational institution
- Two (2) excused absences allowed per student; late arrival may be approved on a case-by- case basis by the Program Manager; overnight field trip attendance is mandatory
- Absences and tardiness may result in dismissal/removal from the program
- The fee is \$500; you may pay in full by Class 1, or in two (2) installments by Class 3
- There are no refunds, no exceptions
- You must complete 8 hours of volunteer service in Downtown Fresno
- Have fun!

I have read the Downtown Academy Class XI Program Syllabus and Agreement, and understand all the rules of this program.

STUDENT'S NAME (PRINTED): _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE PROVIDED BY REQUEST