Coro Southern California
Harvard Westlake Civic Leadership Summer Program

OVERVIEW
The Coro - Harvard Westlake Civic Leadership Summer Program is designed to equip approximately 8 to 10 Harvard Westlake students with the leadership toolkit and immersive exposure to LA’s civic landscape necessary to train the next generation of civic leaders. Using Coro’s signature methodology, students will:

1) Evaluate how they think and act, employing high standards of ethical decision making
2) Utilize critical thinking and innovative problem-solving to navigate complex situations, use sound judgment, and effectively define challenges
3) Practice advanced communication skills in all forms, attending to non-verbal cues and active listening
4) Learn how to lead others effectively through project and team management tools
5) Engage in self-directed learning alongside their peers through experiential activities and group challenges

Coro trains participants to engage in active inquiry, interact with and learn from those around them, and develop innovative solutions to the challenges they face. Students will re-examine their ways of looking at the world and consider issues from multiple points of view. This program helps students understand how they can build consensus and solve persistent problems by focusing on what is going on rather than relying on assumptions. These skills are key for emerging leaders as they develop themselves and their peers through a deep understanding of the complexities of what make LA work.

WHY CORO?
Coro’s mission is to strengthen communities, organizations, institutions, and, ultimately, the democratic process by preparing individuals for effective and ethical leadership. For nearly 60 years, Coro has used the region as its classroom – teaching students and executives, community leaders and entrepreneurs, public officials and aspiring public servants how Southern California works so they can make it better. Today, Coro is the region’s premier civic leadership training program and a community of alumni who are shaping the future of our communities.

Coro creates and implements customized civic leadership development programs that help build strong and dedicated leadership communities who have the skills, knowledge, and network to build collaborative partnerships to more effectively solve complicated challenges. Coro’s ultimate mission is not just to make program participants better; it is for them to use their passion and increased capacities gained through their Coro training to make their organizations and communities stronger.
Through a dynamic facilitation process, no two programs are alike as the experience responds to participants’ real-time cases and each unique group’s collective learning process, fortifying the immediate and applicable impact trainings have on those in the room.

WHY THE HARVARD WESTLAKE CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?
Bringing Coro’s proven training strategy to Harvard Westlake will equip the school’s emerging leaders with the tools and experiences to deeply connect them with their city, their neighborhood, their campus, and their peers. Coro’s Harvard Westlake Civic Leadership Program will expand students’ leadership capacity utilizing methodology that has effectively trained the region’s civic leaders for decades; provide a tangible toolkit in group facilitation, systems thinking, effective communication and self-reflection to immediately implement strategies in their upcoming semester; deepen students’ understanding of how LA works, the complex challenges the city faces, and the barriers that exist in solving those challenges; and challenge students to harness their own leadership potential to drive their learning.

Through this 3-week, full-time immersive, experiential, cohort-based summer program, Harvard Westlake students will interview local leaders, attend site visits to learn about how systems work and how things get done in LA, and participate in small group projects that challenged them to engage with local stakeholders, practice their skills, and develop mentors and networks to support their academic and professional growth.

As a result of this program, Harvard-Westlake students will be able to:
● Think broadly and deeply about existing systems and conduct multi stakeholder analysis;
● Embrace challenging environments, manage discomfort and ambiguity and develop an adaptive capacity for change;
● Employ methods of effective inquiry and evaluation of information;
● Synthesize the interplay of people, institutions, sectors, power, politics, governance, and communities in efforts to address LA’s most complex challenges;
● Challenge their own assumptions and practice balanced issue analysis; and
● Self-direct their learning, resulting in increased confidence and innovative and collaborative problem-solving capacities
PROGRAM DESIGN
The Coro Civic Leadership Course will run for 3 weeks in the summer, beginning Monday, June 11, 2018 and concluding Friday, June 29, 2018. Two days per week, students will be off site using Los Angeles as their classroom. During these days in the field, students will engage in inquiry-based learning through interviews with leaders across sectors and issues. The remaining sessions each week will take place on campus and consist of leadership development seminars, reflective practice, and application of tools through group projects. The program will culminate in final presentations that will synthesize learnings and develop plans for broader civic engagement and leadership among students at Harvard Westlake.

The Coro Civic Leadership Course will consist of the following components:

**Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Over the course of the program, participants learn from each other through intensive training and peer consulting. While Coro trainers will lead the class, the students themselves will take an active role in directing their learning. Over the course of the 3 weeks, more ownership of the experience shifts to the students.

**Leadership Development:** By learning how to both give and receive feedback, take risks, set purpose, manage projects, and have complex, challenging conversations, students will gain valuable tools and skills to increase collaboration and effective communication among their fellow students and future university communities and employers.

**Issue Exploration:** Through exposure to multiple perspectives and ideas, participants deepen their understanding of the many complex issues leaders currently face and work to unpack the various competing interests that drive debates. Coro’s proven methodology gives participants the tools to describe and analyze complex and political issues.

**Interviews:** Participants are exposed to a range of community members, leaders, and stakeholders across sectors allowing them to better understand how the systems they work within operate and how to influence meaningful change. Interviews will also give students real-life examples of leadership in practice.

**Individual and Small Group Projects:** Through individual and small group projects, the impact of the program is strengthened through tool application, individual reflection and feedback gathering, and systems analysis. Students will debrief these experiences in seminars.