



Economic and Development Marketing Committee

**25-502 - Update on the
City's Participation in the
Bloomberg Harvard City
Leadership Initiative**

April 28, 2025



Bloomberg Philanthropies - The Role of City Leaders in Driving Change

- Mayors and local leaders are on the frontlines, with unique power to effect change.
- Faced with financial, societal, and governmental constraints, city leaders need resources and support.
- The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative provides essential tools for overcoming these challenges.



Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

- Since 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies has partnered with Harvard to support mayors globally.
- The initiative equips leaders to tackle complex city challenges and improve quality of life.
- Focus on building leadership capacity, implementing innovative strategies, and addressing real-world problems.



2026 Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative Cohort

- Each year, the Initiative offers leadership and management training to 40 mayors (and 2 senior leaders) from around the world.
- The program combines an intensive classroom experience with broader training and capacity-building to help participants foster their professional growth, advance key capabilities within their city hall, and lead more effective, efficient, and equitable cities.



Core Classes & Key Learning Areas

- Intensive in-person and virtual sessions for mayors and their senior city officials.
- Focus areas: leadership, collaboration, innovation, data-driven decision-making.
- Harvard professors lead courses on strategic leadership, performance, and government transformation.
- Each city has the opportunity to access deeper programming, support, and resources that help them improve a key practice over the course of the year.



Core Classes & Key Learning Areas Continued

- In addition to the week-long courses in New York and monthly virtual sessions, the members participate in peer-to-peer breakouts to discuss city problems and share ideas.
- Key topics:
 - how to drive performance
 - transform government
 - learn from peers
 - empowering staff
 - teaming to innovate
 - finding entry points
 - possibility government
 - cross-sector collaboration
 - engaging residents
 - developing talent
 - moral leadership



Mayor's Key Priority for 2026 – Transparency and Accountability

- In 2026, Santa Clara will host Super Bowl LX as well as six matches as part of the FIFA Men's World Cup.
- To ensure that the city offers more transparency and accountability around the stadium's operations—and that these 2026 events benefit the community to the greatest extent possible.



Bloomberg Harvard Summer Fellow

- Summer Fellowship Focus: Stadium Events & Community Engagement
- Elija Kozak, a Harvard Master's student in Public Administration with an urban planning background. She is also a researcher for the Bloomberg Center for Cities with a focus on civic engagement and leveraging data for impactful policies.
- Fellowship will run for 10 weeks, starting in June.



Bloomberg Harvard Summer Fellowship Project:

- Develop a comprehensive plan and strategy for engaging the public, improving trust, and collaborating with city partners for Stadium Major Events. The work will include the following:
 - Insights and information from internal and external stakeholders
 - Summarize research and analysis of existing data (e.g., satisfaction surveys, data on event users) to describe ways to engage the public, build public trust, and improve relationships and collaboration with the public and city partners
 - Presentation of the Stadium Major Events Plan and Communications Strategy for the City



Additional Bloomberg Harvard Programs and Resources

- **Civic Power Lab:** Innovative civic engagement practices.
- **Data Smart City Solutions:** Tools for data-driven decision-making.
- **Equity Innovation Hub:** Promoting equitable city solutions.
- **Local Politics Lab & The People Lab:** Resources to deepen understanding of local politics and community engagement.



Next Steps

- June 2025 - Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative completed
- Summer 2026 – Work with Fellow to develop plan and strategy for the Mayor's Key Priority
- Ongoing – Utilize the resources and programs that Bloomberg Center for Cities has to offer.



Questions