



## LEADERSHIP READING GROUP

A Program of the Fieldstone Leadership Network San Diego

### WHAT

The **Leadership Reading Group** is a ten-month program that offers a unique opportunity to study and develop leadership in a communal setting. Participants will read and discuss a new book each month selected from a professionally curated list that includes fiction, non-fiction, and trade (business) books relevant to nonprofit leaders.

### WHY

Research has shown that reading is an essential component of leadership development (HBR, Feb 2016). The **Leadership Reading Group** is designed to help leaders to commit to and develop a systematic reading habit while also building and deepening diverse professional relationships within the sector through shared learning. The **Reading Group** also provides the facilitation training necessary for participants to feel more comfortable and confident leading professional discussions.

### WHEN

The **Leadership Reading Group** will start on September 4, 2025 and will meet monthly through June of 2026 on **first Thursday of each month from 11:30am to 1:30pm, with three exceptions to avoid holidays noted below**. The dates for the ten-month program are: September 4, 2025, October 9, 2025\*, November 6, 2025, December 4, 2025, January 8, 2026\*, February 5, 2026, March 5, 2026, April 9, 2026\*, May 7, 2026, and June 4, 2026.

\*October meeting is on the second week of the month on Thursday, January meeting is on the second week of the month on Thursday, and April meeting is on the second week of the month Thursday.

### WHERE

All meetings will take place at the Fieldstone Leadership Network SD offices at 5060 Shoreham Place, Suite 350, San Diego, CA 92122. *Should the group be unable to meet in person at any point due to public health guidelines, the program will switch to virtual sessions using Zoom.*

### WHO

The **Leadership Reading Group** is a peer-learning experience for 12 nonprofit leaders. It is open to nonprofit executives and senior managers in the San Diego area. As a peer-learning experience, it requires the presence and participation of each member each month to be impactful for all. Please plan on blocking off all the meeting dates now if you are applying for this program.

The **Reading Group** is facilitated by Stefanie Schiff, a literary consultant and founder of San Diego Book Talk with 20 years of experience leading professional reading groups.

### HOW

Applications for **the Leadership Reading Group** are due by August 8, 2025. Selection decisions will be announced by August 15, 2025.

The first meeting on September 4, 2025 will be an introductory meeting where participants will spend time getting to know more about each other and the program. The reading list will be distributed at this meeting and the first book selection will be announced. The next three meetings will be facilitated by our professional facilitator. The following six meetings will be led by the participants working as two-person teams. Each pair will select a book to facilitate from our professionally curated reading list.

### COST

We remain deeply committed to affordability. To keep our programs both accessible and sustainable, we have adopted a sliding scale fee structure based on organizational budget size. This approach allows us to equitably share program costs while continuing to offer high-quality experiences for all participants. Please see the chart on page 2 of the application to identify the cost for your organization. Checks can be made payable to the CLARE ROSE FOUNDATION and includes facilitation, training, and lunch. Books are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the participants.



## 2025-2026 LEADERSHIP READING GROUP

### Confidential Application

**Instructions:** Please complete each section in full. Limit answers to available space. No other attachments are needed. Application must be signed by the applicant and received no later than **August 8, 2025**. You will receive confirmation that your application has been received within one week of arrival. **If you do not receive confirmation, please call us at 858.252.3799.** Applicants will be notified of the selection decisions by August 15, 2025.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Pronouns (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like to join the Fieldstone Leadership Reading Group? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe yourself as a reader? \_\_\_\_\_

Currently, do you read more for pleasure or for work? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this program? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever participated in a book club? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you part of a club now? \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Budget:      less than \$250K      \$250K-\$500K      \$500K-\$1M      \$1M-\$5M      \$5M+

### Commitment

**To participate in the 2025-2026 Leadership Reading Group, you agree with and understand the following:**

- 1) The reading group club is a peer learning experience that requires participation from the entire group, therefore **it is important that you attend all ten sessions**. The sessions will take place from 11:30am to 1:30pm on the first Thursday of the month, with three noted exceptions below. All sessions will take place at the Fieldstone Leadership Network SD offices at 5060 Shoreham Place, Suite 350, San Diego, CA 92122. The dates are listed below. If you are unable to commit to every session, you should not apply to this program this year. Once you have been admitted to the program, tuition will not be reimbursed.

### Leadership Reading Group Dates

Thursday, September 4, 2025  
\*Thursday, October 9, 2025 (second Thursday)  
Thursday, November 6, 2025  
Thursday, December 4, 2025  
\*Thursday, January 8, 2026 (second Thursday)

Thursday, February 5, 2026  
Thursday, March 5, 2026  
\*Thursday, April 9, 2026 (second Thursday)  
Thursday, May 7, 2026  
Thursday, June 4, 2026

## 2025-2026 Leadership Reading Group Application

- 2) The program requires each member to read the book selection each month.
- 3) Please see the cost schedule below to identify the fee to your organization. Checks can be made payable to the CLARE ROSE FOUNDATION and include facilitation, training, and lunch. As people have personal preferences as to how they obtain and read books (electronic, paperback, hard cover, library), books are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the member.

Organizational Budget	Tuition
>\$250,000	\$ 400
\$250,001-\$500,000	\$ 450
\$500,001-\$1,000,000	\$ 500
\$1,000,001-\$5,000,000	\$ 550
\$5,000,000+	\$ 600

- 4) If your employment status changes while in this program, you may continue as long as you have attended the first session and intend to remain in the social sector.
- 5) The work of the Fieldstone Leadership Network SD includes taking pictures of our leadership programs and participants and our involvement with the community. As a partner with us and a participant in our various programs, you acknowledge that your image may appear in our photographs and videos. You agree to give permission to the Fieldstone Leadership Network SD to use these images in our publications and communication vehicles, including our website and social media platforms.
- 6) There may be sensitive information that is shared in the sessions. In honor of our value of teamwork and trust, all information shared as part of this group is to remain confidential.

*My signature below indicates my understanding of the Fieldstone Leadership Network SD Commitment Policy:*

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Signature of Applicant

Please return application by email to Becky Sutter at [BeckyS@FieldstoneLeadershipSD.org](mailto:BeckyS@FieldstoneLeadershipSD.org) or by mail to:

Fieldstone Leadership Network SD  
5060 Shoreham Place, Suite 350  
San Diego, CA 92122

Applications are due by August 8, 2025. We will confirm receipt of your application when it is submitted. We will inform you of the selection decision by August 15, 2025. The tuition payment is required to finalize your acceptance in the program. Tuition should be **made payable to CLARE ROSE FOUNDATION** and mailed to Clare Rose Foundation/FLNSD; 5060 Shoreham Place, Suite 350; San Diego, CA 92122.