

### ***Atlanta Business Chronicle***

Monday, April 27, 2026



ATLANTA  
BUSINESS CHRONICLE

[Leadership Atlanta announces members of 2027 class - Atlanta Business Chronicle](#)

Reporter: Crystal Edmonson

#### **Story Highlights**

- Leadership Atlanta has named 86 people to its 2027 class.
- The nine-month program offers training to help move the metro Atlanta area “towards unity and shared prosperity.”
- The program began in 1969 and now has more than 4,000 alumni.

From CEOs to city officials, the 2027 Leadership Atlanta class includes a diverse mix of movers and shakers.

The nonprofit organization selected 86 community leaders to participate in the nine-month program, which offers training to help move the metro Atlanta area “towards unity and shared prosperity.”

“It's a privilege to uphold Leadership Atlanta's legacy of uniting the region's most influential, committed, and innovative leaders, all driven by a common goal of advancing our community,” Pat Upshaw-Monteith, president and CEO of Leadership Atlanta, said in a prepared statement.

Members of the organization's 56th class include:

F. DuBois Bowman, president of Morehouse College; Jason Winston, member of the Atlanta City Council representing District 1; Jorge Estevez, television news anchor with WSB-Channel 2; Blake Patton, founder and managing partner at the venture capital firm Tech Square Ventures; and Jasmine Crowe-Houston, founder and CEO of Goodr.co, a tech-enabled food waste management company.

During the program, participants will take part in a variety of seminars and service projects to explore regional issues with the aim of building relationships and finding ways to be more effective in their leadership roles.

“Leadership Atlanta’s program reinforced that, as leaders, we must constantly remind ourselves to listen, have hard conversations, cultivate curiosity, and be truly authentic,” Anna Roach, executive director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, said in a statement. An alumna of the 2024 Leadership Atlanta class, Roach will serve as volunteer program chair for the incoming group.

Leadership Atlanta was founded in 1969. It has become a symbol of the city’s emphasis on corporate citizenship and its history of diverse leaders working together. The first class started when a group of then-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce officials saw the need to nurture well-informed leaders who could help grow the city’s economy amid the struggles of the Civil Rights movement, according to its website.

Future Sen. Wyche Fowler, corporate CEOs, and judicial and civil rights leaders were among that initial class. In the decades since, the classes have remained a mix of Atlantans in a diverse set of industries and roles.

The program now has more than 4,000 alumni and continues to address similar challenges as that first class.

### **Leadership Atlanta Class of 2027**

Justin Alexander, Vice President IHG Hotels & Resorts

Sonya Allen, District Attorney, Cobb County

Malory Atkinson, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Shear Structural

Paul Baldoni, Senior Vice President, Delta Air Lines, Inc.

Azim Barodawala, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Volantio, Inc.

Sheretha Bell, Senior Vice President, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau

John Bencich, Founding Principal, Square Feet Studio

Daphne Bond-Godfrey, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute (ULI Atlanta)

F. DuBois Bowman, President, Morehouse College

Kristi Brigman, Chief Economic Development Officer, Metro Atlanta Chamber

Matt Brill, Head of Investment Grade Fixed Income, Invesco

J. Keith Brown, Vice President, Randstad

Ann Burris, Deputy Commissioner, Georgia Department of Human Services

Pia Candotti-Sherman, Founding Attorney, Candotti Law Firm, LLC

Federico Castellucci, Chief Executive Officer, Castellucci Hospitality Group

Kerri Christian, Senior Vice President, GoTo Foods International

Stacey Church, Chief Operating Officer, Georgia World Congress Center Authority

Curtis Clark, Chief Deputy, Fulton County Sheriff's Office

Mary Beth Coke, Executive Vice President, Regions Bank

Roxann Cooke, Managing Director, JPMorgan Chase

Jennifer Cowart, Senior Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Sarah Crockett, Chief Marketing Officer, Carter's

Jasmine Crowe-Houston, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, GOODR.CO

Valerie Cunning, Partner, McKinsey & Company

Kashmira Date, Senior Director, Pfizer, Inc.

Nicola Dawkins-Lyn, Vice President, ICF

Keisha Duck, Vice President, BlueLinx

Charles Edwards, Coaching Practice Lead, Jackson Spalding

Kathleen Eidbo, Vice President, Genuine Parts Company

Kelly English, Chief of Staff, Atlanta Housing

Jorge Estevez, Anchor and Reporter, Cox Media Group – WSB-TV Channel 2

Tayo Famakinwa, President, UPS

Walt Farrell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Atlanta Gas Light & Chattanooga Gas

Latina Fauconier, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Jai Ferrell, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

Pierre Gaither, Chief Operating Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters Metro Atlanta

Carmen Garcia, Head of Global Creative & Global Creative Director, BlackRock

Richard Goldstucker, Partner, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Jeffrey Gopen, President & Chief Executive Officer, Jewish HomeLife, Inc.

Jill Greer, Executive Vice President, Wheels Up

Thomas Guerard, Vice President, Chick-fil-A, Inc.

Hector Gutierrez, City Councilman, City of Forest Park

Deanna Hamilton, Senior Vice President, LISC

Dorian Harriston, Senior Vice President, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Morehouse School of Medicine

Jeremiah Haswell, Director, Georgia Power

Glenn Hilburn, Vice President, Grady Health System

Tori Hines, Founder & Executive Director, Resurgence Hall, Inc.

SueAnn Hong-Whitaker, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Center for Asian Pacific American Women

Sara Irvani, Chief Executive Officer, Okabashi Brands Inc.

Carlton Joiner, Partner, EY

M. Cole Jones, Managing Partner & Chief Innovation Officer, RIISE Ventures

Hilliary Jones, Senior Vice President, PNC Bank

Zackary Knight, Chief Executive Officer, ATLVets, Inc.

Heather Lamb, Senior Vice President, Atlanta Division Head, Highwoods Properties, Inc.

Kristy Lundstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Mount Vernon School

Stephanie Martin, Chief Financial Officer, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Emily Master, Vice President & General Manager, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Ellie May, Senior Vice President, Controller & Chief Accounting Officer, The Coca-Cola Company

Brendan McGill, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, Haverty Furniture Companies, Inc.

Sherard McKie, Regional Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

John Mulcahy, Vice President, Stewardship / Chief Sustainability Officer, Georgia-Pacific

Amelia Nickerson, Chief Executive Officer, First Step Staffing

Phil Olaleye, Executive Director, Next Generation Men & Women

Shelly Owens, Senior Executive Director, March of Dimes

Steven Parker, Chief of Staff, MARTA

Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, Provost & Executive Vice President, Georgia State University

Blake Patton, Founder & Managing Partner, Tech Square Ventures

Spencer Preis, Vice President, Associate General Counsel & Chief Privacy Officer, Southwire Company

Bryan Rand, Founder, CEO & Chairman, Rand & Co Holdings, LLC

Adam Rimes, Chief Financial Officer, Aprio Advisory Group

Josh Roberts, Chief Operating Officer, Piedmont Healthcare

Roger Rutkowski, Head of Legal Operations, Mercedes-Benz USA

Susan Salyer, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Veritiv

Karim Shariff, Founder & Managing Member, PacificPoint Realty, LLC

Toronda Silas, General Counsel, The Big Green Egg, Inc.

Kevin Simmons, Partner / Principal, Deloitte

Brian Smith, Principal, KPMG, LLP

Michelle Stewart, Partner, King & Spalding, LLP

Ken Taunton, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Royster Group, Inc.

Al Trujillo, President, Georgia Tech Foundation

David Walens, Chairman, Exploring, Inc.

Adam Webb, Chief Operating Officer, Emory Healthcare

Darcy White, Partner, Jones Day

Sandra Williams, President, Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council

Jason Winston, City Council Member, District 1, City of Atlanta

Libby Wright, President & Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta

###