

YOUTHLED
YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY

**Leadership
and Democracy**
LEAD FELLOWSHIP

FBP Future
Bridging
Leaders
Program

YOUTH CO-EVOLVING ENGAGED SOLUTIONS

Strengthening Pathways for
Social Innovation and
Democratic Governance

Program Brief

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WHAT IS THE LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRACY FELLOWSHIP?

The LEAD Fellowship is a two-year program that aims to invest in the political leadership skills of 30 select young leaders aged 18-30 from diverse backgrounds. The Fellowship will strengthen their capacity to navigate, engage, and optimize platforms for democratic governance across all levels. Beyond personal skills and knowledge, the program seeks to ground youth leadership in a deeper appreciation of democracy and for democratic values, structures, and systems.

For the second cohort, YouthLed seeks to be more intentional in the capacity development of the youth leaders by providing three executive tracks to different phases and directions of the youth leaders:

1. Aspiring Leaders Track
2. Governance Champions Track
3. Changemakers Track

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WHAT IS THE FUTURE BRIDGING LEADERS PROGRAM?

The FBLP is an active response to the growing need for leadership development towards civic and political participation among the youth in the Philippines. It engages the youth sector to develop a new cadre of young leaders who have the courage, commitment, skills, and knowledge to create positive change and spark meaningful social innovations in the communities that they serve. To become Bridging Leaders, the participants of this fellowship shall recognize the challenges that come with multi-stakeholder engagement related to their participation in the community, including the skill to identify opportunities in “mobilizing different stakeholder groups and promoting shared leadership through co-ownership and co-creation” (De Vera et al., 2016, p.150).



The year's theme shall be “Youth Co-Evolving Engaged Solutions: Strengthening Pathways for Social Innovation and Democratic Governance”. The FBLP 5 shall endeavor to help its fellows prepare for and realize their highest potential self as leaders, and together, stake their claim to initiate inclusive interventions that focus on the emerging needs of its community, and create spaces for new systemic transformation for the common good. The fellowship shall strengthen the young leaders' capacity to engage platforms for democratic governance across all levels, and their appreciation towards democratic values, structures, and systems.

The FBLP, Cohort 5 shall form part of the 2nd batch of **Leadership and Democracy (LEAD) Fellows** of the **YouthLed** project, being implemented by **The Asia Foundation** and **USAID**. Fellows are expected to fulfill other engagements set by the LEAD Fellowship which may be beyond those required of the FBLP. Successful FBLP 5 Graduates will also be awarded The LEAD Fellowship certificate, upon completion of the Fellowship program.

Learn more about the Center and the BL Framework: [Team Energy Center for Bridging Leadership | Asian Institute of Management \(aim.edu\)](#)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Create a learning laboratory for prototyping and innovating relationships and solutions towards the communities' context-specific social divides that underpin development and resilience issues;
2. Help participants achieve a systemic understanding of the issues or divides in their communities;
3. Deepen participants' commitment to connect and co-create with others across sectors;
4. Enhance participants' knowledge, attitudes and skills in applying core BL competencies and processes such as systems thinking, stakeholder management, resource mobilization, and communicating and negotiating change to co-create the emergent future; and
5. Build participants' capacities for monitoring and evidencing their change projects' results; and provide said results to the Center as feedback.



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FELLOWSHIP TRACKS

Following YouthLed's objectives to strengthen leadership skills, improve enabling environment for meaningful participation of the youth, and ultimately strengthen democratic governance, the LEAD 2 - FBLP 5 shall capacitate youth leaders in generating innovations and practical solutions geared towards local governance transformation and social innovation. It shall welcome youth individuals who have started change projects that aim to bridge social inequalities through the institutionalization of local initiatives under multi-sectoral governance mechanisms, or leveraging of benefits that come with public and private sector collaboration, as well as use of social technologies. These change projects shall have the potential to scale, be replicated, and sustain its response to the emerging needs of the community that it serves. As mentioned, the FBLP 5 shall have two (2) tracks which will be the basis for their selection:

FELLOWSHIP TRACKS

CHANGE MAKERS

Social Innovation

The emergence of social innovation was borne out of the increasing need for social resource for businesses, and the limitations inherent to public institutions, and non-government organizations to sustain and scale social services (United Nations, 2020). It refers to pursuit for new ideas, products, or services that are motivated by the value it creates for the society, in the fields of social entrepreneurship, design, technology, cities and urban development, among others (Mulgan, et al., 2007). Social entrepreneurship for instance, offers livelihood opportunities and supports youth participation, provided that new technologies are leveraged, and youth are capacitated with knowledge, practical training, as well as financial support for their initiatives (United Nations, 2020). According to Malhotra (2022), social innovation in the 21st century requires active collaboration of stakeholders across sectors and is defined by three concepts: theory of change, impact measurement, and design thinking approach.

Fellows who are selected in this track would have started social innovation projects within government (either national or local), private companies or NGOs, or in collaboration with government agencies or local government units. Social enterprises or start-ups focusing on development needs and issues would also qualify in this track.

FELLOWSHIP TRACKS

GOVERNANCE CHAMPIONS

Local Governance Transformation

Empowering the local government has become even more crucial in today's state as we continue to strive for resilience to aid in the development of our nation. In the Philippines, the youth are primarily able to directly participate in local governance and policymaking process through its youth council "Sangguniang Kabataan". A multi-case study research revealed that transformation in local governance begins with a vision of change in systems and structures, acted upon and sustained by strong leadership, while ensuring constant engagement with its citizens (Teng-Calleja, et al., 2016). Strategies that complement said transformation may involve improvement in the LGU's systems, culture, policies, and priority programs, as well as service by its human resources. These strategies must align with good governance, such that these shall not only be concerned "about the further development of the rule of law and democracy, but also include the elements of accountability and efficiency of the government" (Addink, 2019, p.3).

Fellows who are selected in this track would be incumbent local government officials holding the position of Mayor, Vice-Mayor, City/Municipal Councilor, Governor, Vice-Governor, Provincial Board Member, Sangguniang Kabataan Official and Barangay Official. In order to be selected, said local government official should present an existing project that is geared towards transforming the LGU on democratic good governance principles for the effective and efficient delivery of public services.

SELECTION OF FELLOWS

For this cohort, twenty participants (20) with age 18 to 30 1 will be given the opportunity to undergo the LEAD 2 - FBLP 5 Fellowship. To ensure representation of regions across the country, the preferred number of fellows per area is as follows:

- 8 participants from Luzon and NCR
- 6 participants from Visayas
- 6 participants from Mindanao and BARMM

From the initial screening of application forms and submission of change projects, 50 applicants shall move on to the panel interview. Panelists shall consist of members of the Bridging Leadership community, the YouthLed, and other partner institutions. At least 20 fellows committed to working on innovative and impactful projects under this cycle's priority tracks of work shall be declared official participants to the LEAD 2 - FBLP 5.



LEAD 2 - FBLP 5
2023



APRIL

Applications



APRIL-MAY

Review and initial
screening of applicants



MAY-JUNE

Shortlisting of candidates
and panel interviews



JUNE-JULY

Announcement of
results and onboarding



JULY

Commencement
of FBLP 5

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



WORKSHOP SERIES

Fellows will undergo a series of workshops (at least 5 days each workshop at AIM premises) on the core processes involved in Bridging Leadership.

These are the indicative dates which may be subject to change:

- Workshop 1: Ownership (07/2023)
- Workshop 2: Co-Ownership (11/2023)
- Workshop 3: Co-Creation (03/2024)

The workshop sessions shall put emphasis on the use of:

- preparation and application exercises;
- case studies and simulations;
- collective problem-solving and learning team discussions;
- action learning and interactive debriefings; and
- summary lectures and further readings to deepen knowledge on the topics

WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the entire fellowship, fellows are required to enhance and implement indicated milestones in their proposed change projects that can address a specific societal issue for their respective communities.

- Rapid Community Assessment (after Workshop 1)
- Project Prototyping (after Workshop 2)
- Project Implementation and Monitoring (after Workshop 3)



COACHING AND MENTORING

Social development practitioners who are knowledgeable on BL will be assigned to fellows to guide them in their journey of developing and implementing their change projects.

PUBLIC RECITAL

After the third workshop, fellows will present their change projects to an audience composed of potential collaborators and/or donors invited by the Center.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Presence in **all three workshops** (at least 80% attendance).
- Demonstration of a **strong sense of commitment** in developing their change prototypes.
- **Active engagement** in different learning platforms, such as participating in applied research and developing a community of practice through the help of coaches and mentors.
- Homework by way of reading **assignments, memos, group work, action learning reports, and presentations** are expected to be accomplished by the fellows before they attend the classes. Fellows need to prepare before the class to gain full benefit of the Institute's participant-centered learning experience.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FELLOWS

- Free transportation (including local plane tickets), accommodation, and meals during workshop sessions;
- A chance to secure generous grants from [Team Energy Foundation Inc. \(TEFI\)](#), [The Asia Foundation](#), and [USAID](#) for change prototypes with proof of concept;
 - [YouthLed's Fellowship and Democracy Grants](#)
 - Officially declared fellows shall receive initial Fellowship grant from YouthLed at the onset of the FBLP
 - Top performing change projects at the end of the fellowship shall receive an additional Democracy grant from YouthLed
- Careful guidance in researching and designing new solutions to crucial needs for their organization, network, and community from AIM professors and staff, industry leaders, coaches, and a network of over 150 BL alumni;
- Enjoy benefits as [FBLP 5 alumni](#), such as discounts or scholarships offered under AIM degree and non-degree programs and;
- Membership in the extensive network of the [Center for BL, AIM, and TEFI](#) which can be trusted partners in facilitating collaboration, mobilizing resources, and promoting for the change prototypes beyond FBLP 5.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN LEAD 2-FBLP 5?

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a **Filipino citizen** between **18 to 30 years old** at the time of application;
- Preferably has an **existing project** for development;
- If you are a college student, you must at least be in your **penultimate year of study** at the time of application;
- More than an exemplary academic track record, you must have:
 - a demonstrated track record of leading **positive social change**;
 - a good understanding of the **issue you want to address in your community**; and
 - a clear idea of how you want to **develop or scale the change project** you want to incubate through the LEAD 2 - FBLP 5.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN LEAD 2-FBLP 5?

REQUIREMENTS

- Fully accomplished LEAD 2 – FBLP 5 application form with scanned copy of school registration form and/or certificate of employment to be emailed to fblp@aim.edu with subject heading: **LEAD 2 - FBLP 5: Application (Name of Applicant)**. You may download the application form from this link: <https://go.aim.edu/lead2fblp5application>. Please limit the email to 15 MB.
- Two (2) accomplished recommendation forms directly submitted by your current or previous teachers and/or supervisors to FBLP email fblp@aim.edu with subject heading: **LEAD 2 - FBLP 5: Recommendation for (Name of Applicant)**. You may download the recommendation form from this link: <https://go.aim.edu/lead2fblp5recommendation>. Please limit the email to 15 MB.
- Deadline of submission of applications: EXTENDED until **May 28, 2023, Manila time**.
- Incomplete and late submissions shall not be considered.

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APPLICATION FORM



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RECOMMENDATION FORM



Scan this QR Code or go to
<https://go.aim.edu/lead2fbfp5recommendation>

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LEARN AND HEAR MORE ABOUT LEAD 2 - FBLP 5

AIMTEC-BL Socials



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