



To: Cultural Leadership Applicant and Parent/Guardian
From: Holly Ingraham, Incoming Executive Director and Maggie Harris, Program Director
Date: September 2011
Re: The Cultural Leadership Agreement

Cultural Leadership is an incredible program that you will enjoy immensely, and it will change your life. **However, it is also a serious commitment.**

To be sure you and your parents/guardians are clear about the rigor of Cultural Leadership, please read and consider the attached agreement.

If you can fulfill these requirements, please initial each statement and sign at the bottom of the agreement (**both you and your parents/guardians**). **Return this signed agreement in your application packet by November 4, 2011.**

If you have any concerns or questions about this agreement, please call the office and we will be glad to talk to you about it.

Thanks very much. We look forward to meeting you soon.

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AGREEMENT

CLASS 8

Cultural Leadership is an exciting, demanding and much-needed program. There are many responsibilities and obligations connected to participation in Cultural Leadership. Please read the following agreement and discuss it with your parents/guardians to be sure you are **ALL** willing and able to make the necessary commitment to Cultural Leadership. If you plan to commit to this program, please read and initial each statement on the line provided.

1. I understand that:

- _____ Attendance is expected at **ALL** Cultural Leadership programs, retreats and the entire Transformational Journey. (There are **four reasons** that Cultural Leadership allows a participant to miss a program: illness, death in the family, something that affects your future, and a family event that will never happen again such as a sibling graduation. Requests for approved absences must be submitted to the Cultural Leadership Attendance Committee **two weeks prior to the absence**.) I will always inform Cultural Leadership staff of my absence in advance and will **NEVER** simply not show up. Such behavior will result in expulsion from the program.
- _____ I will occasionally be assigned a short homework assignment that complements the program curriculum and I agree to complete that homework on time.
- _____ The use of all cell phones, iPods, and any personal computer device is PROHIBITED during all program activities. I agree to pay Cultural Leadership \$5, on the spot, if my cell phone rings/vibrates or if I text message during a program or speaker.
- _____ Falling asleep during a speaker at any point during Cultural Leadership will result in a \$5 fine that I agree to pay.

2. I will:

- _____ Show respect for everyone involved at all times.
- _____ Be present and punctual, and I will participate at all events and programs per the attendance requirements listed above.
- _____ Go out of my comfort zone to make change in my family/school/house of worship **every month** during my year in Cultural Leadership. I will email a brief paragraph describing my “out of my comfort zone” experience each month before the monthly program.
- _____ Read the Post Dispatch and/or the St. Louis American and/or the New York Times often, and/ listen to NPR/St. Louis Public Radio (90.7FM). I will take note of at LEAST one current event that relates to a given program or the general mission of Cultural Leadership and write about it to have ready at any given month’s program.
- _____ Blog at least once a month, by the Friday prior to program, about a current event I have read about.
- _____ Maintain a reliable way for Cultural Leadership to contact me (email, cell phone calls/text messages, home phone) and I will respond to any messages within 24 hours.
- _____ Inform Cultural Leadership of any change in my contact information, including address, **all** phone numbers, and email addresses, **as soon as the change occurs**.
- _____ Volunteer in the Cultural Leadership office when necessary, and I will attend special events and fundraisers as much as possible.
- _____ Write thank you notes (to donors, speakers, the media, etc.) and articles/blogs for the Cultural Leadership newsletter/website **as requested**.
- _____ Keep a journal and complete evaluations of programs as requested.
- _____ Submit a list of potential donors and their addresses to Cultural Leadership **before the trip**. I understand that failure to submit this list will bar me from going on the trip and continuing in Cultural Leadership.

- _____ Write letters to at least 10 people (family, friends, teachers, clergy, neighbors, etc.) asking for a donation to Cultural Leadership at a scheduled time after the trip.
- _____ Participate in a phone-a-thon to maintain relationships with alumni and ask for donations to Cultural Leadership.
- _____ Give at least two speeches about Cultural Leadership prior to graduation.
- _____ Participate in the School Swap to learn about the inequities in our educational system and see what part I can play in increasing academic achievement in underperforming schools.
- _____ Facilitate/lead at least two Courageous Conversations throughout the community after the “Learning How to Facilitate Discussions” overnight retreat.

3. I realize that:

- _____ I may be uncomfortable at times, but agree to “lean into the discomfort” in order to better myself and better my community.
- _____ It is an honor and a privilege to be chosen as a participant of Cultural Leadership and I commit to the above during the 2012 program year. I am excited about Cultural Leadership, and am open to having an incredible, life-changing experience that will teach me to be an activist for social justice.

4. I will **NOT**:

- _____ Possess, consume, or distribute alcoholic beverages;
- _____ Possess, use, or distribute any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia;
- _____ Smoke, consume, or distribute tobacco products;
- _____ Possess or use any weapon, firearm, or anything that may be construed as a weapon;
- _____ Engage in **ANY** sexual behavior with my fellow participants, regardless of gender;
- _____ Leave any program venue without permission from the Cultural Leadership staff.

_____ **I agree to abide by any additional rules**, pertinent to a specific event, that may be announced, and to accept the consequences of their violation, including possible expulsion from Cultural Leadership.

Violation of any of these rules will result in my immediate dismissal from the program.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____/____/_____

Parent Agreement

I understand that Cultural Leadership is for parents, too. I will make every effort to attend the parent meetings, I will provide food for at least three programs/retreats, I agree to make sure my child gets to Cultural Leadership programs on time and will be picked up when they are over. I will pay the \$700 program fee by May 13, 2012, and will make a donation to Cultural Leadership after the trip. I further agree to give my credit card information in a sealed envelope to the Cultural Leadership staff before the trip and know that it will be opened **only in the case of an emergency** to purchase a return flight home if my child must be sent home from the trip, and I further agree to pay for any remaining plane tickets unused by my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date ____/____/_____