

The Global Ambassadors Program

A Vital Voices & Bank of America Partnership

Global Ambassadors Program, Los Angeles, CA, United States
November 6th to 10th, 2017

Program Overview and Mentee Selection Criteria

Overview

In 2012, Vital Voices and Bank of America launched a signature partnership to advance women's economic empowerment through leadership development and skills-building. The [Global Ambassadors Program](#) (GAP) connects extraordinary women leaders to a unique mentorship opportunity, including one-on-one mentoring sessions and strategic workshops focused on building organizational management, financial acumen and leadership skills. The effort builds on Bank of America's and Vital Voices' history of investing in women's leadership development, which is guided by a belief that strong leaders are vital to healthy, vibrant communities and a core to creating economic growth.

As part of the program, we bring together between eight to twelve women leaders (mentees) from around the world to work with a cohort of Global Ambassadors, established women executives from a range of sectors and organizations, on the challenges facing mentees and their organizations. By mobilizing the talent, skills and expertise of Global Ambassadors to mentor and train the next generation of global influencers—women who are poised to have a transformational impact in their communities and beyond – the program helps **advance women leaders in the global economy**. Designed to generate a ripple effect based on findings that show that *women leaders share new skills and knowledge with those around them*, GAP leverages the experience and expertise of the Global Ambassadors and mentees to develop and elevate a powerful network of women leaders around the world.

Previous Global Ambassadors include accomplished leaders such as Susan Chambers, Executive Vice President, Global People Division Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; Deborah Dugan, Chief Executive Officer, RED and Donna Langley, Chairman, Universal Pictures.

Mentee Selection Criteria

All Global Ambassadors Program sessions will be conducted in English and mentees must be able to converse and present in English.

LEADERSHIP

- Demonstrate a commitment to the core principles of Vital Voices' Leadership Model. Innovative, collaborative, and driven by a clear sense of mission, mentees are deeply engaged in their communities and are committed to advancing the status of women and girls and supporting women's economic empowerment in their region.
- Demonstrate high-potential for top leadership and a desire to take on leadership roles both within and outside their companies.
- Mentees may be participating in businesswomen's associations, advocating for vulnerable populations, or contributing to thought leadership on women's empowerment through published articles or talks.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY

- Applicants must have the capacity to take advantage of a senior executive as a mentor (i.e. must be able to develop and implement strategic plans, marketing strategy or business plans).
- Applicants must have a minimum of 10-20 years of experience in a professional setting.
- The applicant must have worked in her existing organization / enterprise for at least 5-7 years.
- The applicant's enterprise / organization should have a minimum annual revenue of at least US\$ 250,000 and a **maximum annual revenue of US\$ 10 million**
- Applicants must be the lead decision-maker within their company/organization. i.e. **they should be the CEO / President / Managing Director / Owner / Founder etc.**
- Applicants are interested in shaping the community dialogue about women's advancement in their region, and wield the influence necessary to do so.

MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

- Those selected as mentees are keen to develop an open and on-going relationship with a mentor that is mutually constructive. They are open to receiving positive and constructive feedback and guidance from their mentor as well as from the overall group of mentors and mentees.
- Mentees must be able to articulate short term and long term goals and take concrete steps, with guidance from a mentor, to meet them.
- Prior to attending the Global Ambassadors Program :
 - Mentees will be required to share their enterprise or organization's business / strategic plan with their mentor. If no business plan is already in place, an online webinar training session will be offered by Vital Voices and must be completed and submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of the Program.
 - May be requested to participate in approximately 5 online webinars in preparation for the Global Ambassadors Program.
 - Mentees will be required to submit a 2-minute video as part of their application to participate in this program
- At the cusp of excelling in their respective fields, mentees can leverage the platform and mentorship provided by the program to accelerate their success.

How it works

The Global Ambassadors Program is a unique initiative that helps advance women's economic empowerment through mentorship.

- This effort invests in the high potential of women leaders from around the world who are a tipping point in terms of their professional and organizational paths by connecting them with established women executives for mentorship.
- In addition to one-on-one mentoring, the program helps mentees build critical entrepreneurial and organizational management skills, communications, networking and advocacy skills, enabling a unique exchange of ideas and perspectives that helps guide a mentee toward long-term success.
- Each Global Ambassadors Program embodies a different theme which is driven either by regional or country-specific challenges and observations. In conjunction with the Global Ambassadors Program, we convene thought leadership events to advance dialogue around the challenges and opportunities of women's leadership, as well as economic and societal change.

- We match each Global Ambassador's strengths, skills and interests with the needs of a woman leader and the unique challenges and goals she is looking to address through the program. Vital Voices provides strategic support in the development and growth of each mentor/mentee relationship by facilitating pre-program introductions, providing on the ground support, and managing post-program engagement.

This program provides a unique opportunity for women leaders in business, social enterprise and non-profits to invest in themselves and their leadership journey. For further insights, we are pleased to share a short video clip about the program <http://bit.ly/2sQr5lh> , a video clip from a mentee's perspective <http://bit.ly/2nBXUuQ> and a blog <http://www.global-ambassadors.org/story/walk-across-two-continents> from a mentor's perspective.

Specific to the November 6th to 10th, 2017 Los Angeles Program

The Global Ambassadors Program in Los Angeles will address the ongoing needs and challenges facing women leaders of NGO's as well as women in business and social enterprise from the Los Angeles, California area in the United States, as well from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and will underscore the critical function that women can and must play in moving their nation forward and highlight the role of women as drivers of innovation and socio-economic growth.

Mentee Eligibility

Mentees will be women who are:

- leaders of non-profit organizations and institutions
- businesswomen, entrepreneurs or social entrepreneurs

We will select mentees from:

- United States – the Los Angeles, California area
- Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including : Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthelemy, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela and the Virgin Islands.

The week-long program will include a half-day Public Forum, a thought leadership event which will present an opportunity to engage invited guests and community members to discuss the role of women in innovation and socio-economic growth. A diverse audience will be comprised of members of the Vital Voices Global Leadership Network in addition to Bank of America clients and employees, and representatives from government and civil society.

Commitment

The program takes place over a one week period which runs from Sunday evening through Friday evening. During this time, mentees:

- Participate in a number of 1-on-1 mentoring sessions with their matched mentors
- May co-present with their mentor a short overview of the mentee's organization to the entire group of mentors and mentees, inviting input, feedback and discussion from the group
- May participate in a site visit
- May be invited to participate in an on-camera interview with their mentor, sharing their experiences, key takeaways, and thoughts on leadership and mentoring. The footage is used to share the stories of impact associated with the Global Ambassadors Program

- May be invited to participate as a panelist during a Public Forum, addressing an audience of up to 450 people, discussing women’s economic empowerment in the country or across the world
- May be invited to give media interviews with local, regional and national press

*** Important to note:**

- We are unable to accept mentees who cannot commit to attending the full week of the program starting with the welcome dinner on Sunday evening and ending with the final farewell dinner on Friday night
- During the Global Ambassadors Program week, it is our expectation that each mentee will give her full attention to her mentor throughout all meetings and training sessions
- Mentees are expected to arrive on time for each session and attend each session in full
- Mentees are requested to attend to their “day job work commitments” outside of GAP training sessions and group meals

Prior to the commencement of the program, the Vital Voices team will:

- Schedule 4 to 5 conference calls or webinars with mentees in preparation for the week-long program
- Facilitate an email introduction between each mentee and her mentor; and
- Provide each mentee with a link to the SpotMe mobile App which will contain logistical information, bios on the other mentees and Global Ambassadors who will be participating in the program, overview and landscape analysis of issues to be discussed throughout the week, and other relevant information.

All travel, meals and accommodation costs for mentees participating in this program are covered in full by the Global Ambassadors Program.

Please note that accepted participants must commit to full participation in the entire program and are expected to be prepared and engaged with staff and participants before, during and after the program.

The **Call for Applications for Mentees** is an online process at this link <http://bit.ly/2sPzElv>

Please note that **applications are due Sunday 27th August 2017.**

For more information, please contact :

Zoe Dean-Smith, Vice President of Global Leadership Programs at zoedean-smith@vitalvoices.org or (+1) 202.296.2735