



# DOWNTOWN ACADEMY

Fresno's Leading Young Professionals | City of Fresno

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Fresno's Leading Young Professionals kick off new Downtown Academy

**Fresno, CA (April 28, 2010)** – Fresno's Leading Young Professionals (FLYP), in partnership with the City of Fresno, is launching the Downtown Academy. This project will connect business, government and community leaders with a group of 15-24 forward-thinking professionals to explore the question, "How can we transform Downtown Fresno into a vibrant place where people can live, work and play?"

Those selected will meet once a month for ten months to learn about the changes taking place in Downtown Fresno. In addition, participants will learn about Downtown Fresno's history, discuss the values of good urban planning, and practice entrepreneurial thinking and behavior.

"The point of the Downtown Academy is to give people choices," says Craig Scharton, director of the City of Fresno's Downtown and Community Revitalization department. "When people think about Fresno, they should feel they have options to live somewhere that fits their lifestyle."

Some class activities will include a private tour of Chukchansi Park, seats at a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game, a tour of the various lofts and residential living spaces downtown, and a field trip to Pasadena and Santa Monica. The trip is an overnight experience that will give participants the chance to bring fresh ideas back to Fresno, while also providing them with an opportunity to discover what elements make a downtown space vibrant.

"I'm excited about the Downtown Academy because we've designed it to be like a backstage tour of Downtown Fresno," says FLYP board member and Downtown Academy co-founder Tim Sudiacal. "We will take a behind-the-scenes look at a handful of historic theaters and buildings, meet with people who own businesses and live downtown, and do this in the company of fun, like-minded people."

Applications are currently being accepted online and must be completed by Wednesday, May 12 at 5pm. If you are curious about Downtown Fresno, have never been there, try to avoid it at any cost, or love it and want to know more, apply today. Visit [www.flypinfo.com](http://www.flypinfo.com) for more info. FLYP would like to thank its sponsors Club One Casino and Granville Homes for their generous support of this project.

#### About Fresno's Leading Young Professionals (FLYP):

FLYP's mission is to attract and retain young professionals in the greater Fresno area who are committed to professional and civic leadership. We are a local nonprofit grassroots organization. Our programs are designed to help young professionals lead, serve, and connect with business, government and other community leaders in the Fresno community. Many of our members are well on their way to becoming the next generation of leaders in Fresno.

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