



THE COLLABORATORY

LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who should apply to the Collaboratory?

We're looking for entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs in the fashion and apparel industry who are passionate about doing the right thing for people and the planet. We're looking for change-makers who express the values of originality, integrity and courage as leaders and in their organizations. They should be curious, determined and values-driven; open to new ideas; eager to learn; excited to be a part of a like-minded community; committed to act on what they learn through their experience; and dedicated to seeing the fashion and apparel industry be a force for social and environmental change.

How do I apply?

The Collaboratory application is available [here](#).

What are the criteria to be considered for the program?

The Collaboratory is open to entrepreneurs or social entrepreneurs in the fashion and apparel industry who are 18+ years old and proficient in written and spoken English. Applicants should be leaders within an organization (nonprofit, for-profit or hybrid) that is making an apparel product (e.g., clothing, footwear, accessories) or providing an apparel-related service. They should demonstrate a commitment to incorporating social and environmental values within their organization and an interest in reducing the water footprint of their organization. Additionally, applicants must be able to attend a three-day workshop at Levi Strauss & Co.'s San Francisco offices from October 21 to 23, 2016. A full list of applicant criteria is available [here](#).

I'd like to nominate someone. What should I do?

Give us some information about the person you'd like to nominate, including how we can contact them and how you know them, by [filling out this form](#).

How are the Collaboratory fellows selected?

A selection committee will review all eligible applications, including responses to a phone interview. Fellows will be selected based upon the originality and creativity of their applications, their commitment to environmental and social change and their idea for reducing their organization's water impact.

When will the fellows be announced?

We'll announce our first class of fellows later this summer, and we'll share additional highlights after the workshop weekend in the fall. Or, you can have it all delivered to your inbox by [signing up for email updates](#).

When is the weekend workshop and where is it?**What if I'm not available that weekend?**

Fellows will hole up in our Eureka Innovation Lab in San Francisco, California, from October 21 to 23. Applicants must be available that weekend to participate in this year's Collaboratory.

What is this year's theme?

2016 will be all about water—one of our most precious resources, and one that is critical to the apparel industry.

How many fellows are being selected?

Five to 10.

What time commitment is expected of fellows?

Fellows must commit to doing some pre-work leading up to the workshop weekend, and they must be available to participate in our weekend workshop in San Francisco, California, from October 21 to 23.

Is there a cost to participate?

No, there is no cost for the workshop weekend, and Levi Strauss & Co. will cover all hotel and airfare expenses.

Are fellows able to receive funding?

Yes. After the weekend workshop, fellows will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 in funding to implement their innovative water-reduction solution in their organization.

Is the program open to non-English speakers?

Unfortunately, no.

What is the Aspen Institute and how are they involved?

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization that aims to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. We're proud to be partnering with them on the curriculum for the workshop weekend.

What will the program teach me?

The three-day weekend workshop is designed to provide fellows with a hands-on opportunity to imagine, design and actualize water-saving solutions for their organizations. In partnership with the Aspen Institute, we're creating a curriculum that incorporates real-world learnings from Levi Strauss & Co. experts, the knowledge of our most-trusted stakeholders and specific feedback from mentors. Fellows will also benefit from a vibrant peer network of leaders in like-minded organizations. Post-weekend, we're committed to making sure fellows have the tools, skills and knowledge they need to implement solutions in their organization.

What if I'm not selected? Will there be another opportunity next year?

Yes. We're exploring the theme for year two of the program and will keep our community updated when additional information on next year's program is available.