Fostering Change

In Spring 2022, Joy MacPhail completed her term as Adler University Board of Trustee Chair. In recognition of her dedication to Adler, commitment to community health and wellness as a longtime member of the Canadian government, and our shared pursuit of social justice, we are extremely proud to rename the Master of Public Policy & Administration program in Vancouver to:

The Joy MacPhail Master of Public Policy & Administration Program

About the MPPA Program

Adler’s Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) program prepares graduates to address today’s complex policy problems and advance a more just society. The program shapes future policymakers, public administrators, and community-based professionals seeking to impact systemic social change.

The MPPA program has grown, most notably through the statistics below.

- 75% female
- 80% BIPOC
- 23% program growth YOY
- Students come from 16 countries

“Adler’s graduate students in our MPPA program are learning how to effectively use policy to bring about positive social change in our community. Without a doubt, Joy has embodied this work throughout her career. Our MPPA program has significantly grown over recent years and has attracted many women – each with a tremendous drive like Joy – who are in search of a practise-based education to ultimately influence political change, tackle systemic barriers, and ease economic deprivation.”

Sandra Song, Ph.D.,
Program Director, MPPA
In Support of Joy

The newly named Joy MacPhail Master of Public Policy and Administration program is also raising funds through the Joy MacPhail Fund. Established in June 2022, the fund will allow donors to help prepare students with the skills, knowledge, and experience for a range of career pathways, including municipal, provincial, and federal governments and agencies, as well as with not-for-profit organizations, advocacy groups, and research institutes.

The Joy MacPhail Fund specifically supports initiatives aligning with Joy’s commitment to public policy and social justice. As early as the 2022/2023 academic year, we will:

1. Establish an annual Women’s Leadership Showcase hosted by Joy MacPhail to inspire our MPPA students and highlight powerful women doing great service work.

2. Establish the first Joy MacPhail MPPA Leadership Scholarship for domestic or international students who identify as female to build their leadership skills through service work. A minimum of $10,000 per recipient will be awarded annually at the Women’s Leadership Showcase.

Why the MPPA Program Matters

Students get practical, hands-on experience working on advocacy and social change efforts that improve community well-being through our Social Justice Practicum. We partner with and place students at local organizations such as:

- Dragonstone
- Fraser Health
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Children’s Organ Transplant Society

“The MPPA program has given me the both the academic and practical skills I need to succeed in my career. Adler has allowed me to gain hands on experience with two non-profit organizations. I am leaving Adler with the confidence and the ability to handle some of the complex challenges facing our society today.”

Sarah Kavanagh,
Student