

Bellevue Essentials

YOUR ONRAMP TO CIVIC LEADERSHIP



A 9 WEEK
INTRODUCTION
TO CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT
IN BELLEVUE

What is Bellevue Essentials?

Bellevue Essentials is a nine-week, 35-student civic engagement program that combines a curriculum on the structure of city government with hands-on activities, which allow participants to simulate day-to-day challenges of city government. Each session includes dinner and chance to meet-and-greet-with City staff and leadership, as well as your peers. By learning how government and community partner together, our goal at Bellevue Essentials is to inform residents on the mechanics of city government, to enable passionate individuals to create change within the community, and to sustain that passion for years to come.

Who should apply?

Bellevue Essentials strives to create a class that is demographically representative of Bellevue's diverse community. Bellevue Essentials is designed for people who are:

- curious about civic engagement and local government
- interested in networking with City staff and leadership and emerging community leaders
- committed to the future of Bellevue and to serving their community

To apply, complete and submit your application by August 1, 2018. Tuition is \$125 (payable if accepted) and a fee waiver based on financial need is available.



Why You should take Bellevue Essentials

You will gain skills and knowledge around how your city government functions and how to effectively advocate for change. If public service intrigues you, you want to become more knowledgeable about Bellevue, or want to meet City staff and other emerging community leaders, we strongly encourage this program for you.



Class Schedule

The 2018 Bellevue Essentials program begins on Wednesday, September 26th and concludes Wednesday, November 14th. The class meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 5:30 – 9:00pm. Graduation takes place on Wednesday, November 28 at 7pm.

Each session will cover one or more of the following topics:

- History of Bellevue
- Bellevue's Changing Demographics
- Public Process
- Parks and Human Services
- Utilities
- Finance and Budget
- Economic Development
- Planning & Community Development
- Development Services
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- Neighborhood Services

Questions?

Contact Julie Ellenhorn,
Neighborhood Outreach, City of Bellevue
(425) 452-5372
or email at jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

Where are our graduates now?

Since 2013, 167 participants have graduated from the Bellevue Essentials program. They represent all Bellevue neighborhoods, many cultures, backgrounds, occupations, and perspectives and have brought their breadth of experience to our classes and community. Many of our alumni now serve on City boards and commissions, advisory committees and at non-profits in the community. They lend their leadership skills and knowledge of Bellevue to many facets of the community and help build a better future for our city.

What Our Alumni Are Saying

"I did not expect things from my class to come up in conversation with my friends and neighbors, but already I've shared how our mayor is elected, how the utilities department has to negotiate with beavers, how we have the smartest traffic signals in the country. From my classmates, I have learned that we agree on some things, disagree on others, but we all care deeply about our city and our Bellevue neighbors."

-Melissa Harp (2017)

"This class made me an educated member of my community and has boosted my confidence about the proper way to address issues being raised in the community."

-Anne Morrisseau (2014)

"I have a greater understanding of how the City of Bellevue takes care of its residents, how it plans for the future, and how it appreciates the diversity of its community."

-Tony Charity (2017)

Bellevue Essentials



INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday, June 13, 6-7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-112

This is your opportunity to receive a detailed overview of the Bellevue Essentials program—the schedule, the curriculum and the application process.

You will meet Bellevue Essentials alumni who will share their stories about participation in the class—their insights, their connections and where it has led them since graduation.

Presentation will be followed by a Q & A session.

Applications will be available and are due August 1, 2018.

Attendance at the information meeting is beneficial, but not required to apply for the program.

If you are unable to attend, you can request an application by contacting program coordinator, Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.