

Frequently Asked Questions: Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

What is the BDAN Mission:

The Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network will provide advice on ways to improve the city's ability to communicate, collaborate and better serve Bellevue's diverse community.

Why do we need a Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network?

The Bellevue City Council, in December 2014, adopted a comprehensive Diversity Advantage Plan and the vision statement: "Bellevue Welcomes the World. Our Diversity is our Strength." Our objective is to ensure that Bellevue is culturally responsive guided by the principles of equity, access, inclusion, opportunity, and cultural competency.

What is the relationship to the City of Bellevue?

Bellevue's Diversity Advisory Network acts in an advisory capacity to the City of Bellevue, with members appointed by the City Manager.

What are network member roles and responsibilities?

- Provide culturally responsive guidance to improve outreach and relationships with isolated communities
- Identify and establish cultural liaisons to strengthen two-way communication with the City and Bellevue's diverse population
- Broaden collaboration and encourage civic engagement with diverse groups
- Support community efforts to challenge, educate and inspire Bellevue to be a welcoming, inclusive city that embraces diversity
- Establish Bellevue as a city that is responsive to equity, access, inclusion, opportunity and cultural competency
- Collect community feedback to help assess city services from a cultural competency lens
- Engage in cross cultural dialogue focused on diversity issues
- Provide feedback and insight on issues relevant to communities in Bellevue
- Support mobilization and coordination to diversity-related national and local events warranting a city response

What qualities are we looking for in a network member?

- People that work or reside in Bellevue
- Have cultural connections and knowledge of various segments of our diverse population
- Possess a willingness, curiosity, and interest to bridge cultural gaps to strengthen community
- Bi-cultural with added interest in bi-lingual candidates
- Our definition of diversity is broad and we are looking for a wide range of representation

- Ability to meet monthly for two hours at Bellevue City Hall plus additional time on subcommittee initiatives and to attend events

How will this benefit the City of Bellevue?

Enhanced outreach and engagement results in a better informed city on issues impacting our diverse communities, resulting in more effectively addressing community needs. Through bridge building, collaboration and public programs the city's Diversity Advantage Plan has a stronger presence in the community and increases our capacity to connect with isolated residents.

What are the subcommittees?

1. Outreach and Engagement
2. Bellevue Diversity Institute
3. Response team to national and local incidents

What are examples of isolated communities?

- Recent immigrants
- Refugees
- Historically underrepresented populations: American Indians, Alaskan Natives, African Americans, Latino Communities
- Housing renters
- People living with disabilities
- LGBTQ
- Youth

How can I get involved?

Recruitment is currently underway and selection will be made in the fall 2016. Network members must live, work, or serve in Bellevue and should be willing to volunteer 2-4 hours a month. Members will serve 2 year terms. Application deadline is September 21, 2016. Please contact Mark Manuel, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator at (425) 452-7886 or mmanuel@bellevuewa.gov for an application or questions.