



# Bellevue Essentials

An Introduction to Civic Engagement

NOW IN OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!



Eleven-week course on Bellevue city government in action

## What is Bellevue Essentials?

Bellevue Essentials is an 11-week civic engagement program that will open your eyes to the “who”, “what” and “why” of City government and the avenues to get involved. You will experience the daily structure and operations of city government - the work, the challenges, and the collaboration between staff and community that make Bellevue a great place to live, work and play. Hands-on activities allow you to experience the day-to-day challenges of running a local government. Each session includes some pre-class homework, a networking dinner, and presentations and activities from different city departments.

## Who should apply?

Bellevue Essentials cohorts are demographically representative of Bellevue’s diverse community. Bellevue Essentials is designed for people who are:

- Curious about civic engagement and participation in local government
- Interested in gaining skills and knowledge around how city government works and how to effectively be involved
- Interested in networking with city staff and leadership and emerging community leaders
- Committed to the future of Bellevue and to serving their community
- Live or work in Bellevue (residents are given priority)
- Elected officials and candidates are not eligible to apply

Every year, Bellevue Essentials receives nearly twice as many applicants as we can accommodate. In 2023, we will accept 35 applicants, so it is important to thoroughly complete your application.

Applications are due on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 5 p.m. Tuition is \$150.00 (payable after acceptance) and a fee waiver based on financial need is available.

## What is the class schedule?

- Class is held Wednesday evenings, September 20-November 15
- Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and class from 6-8:30 p.m.
- Class is held Saturday mornings, September 23 and October 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



- Graduation, Wednesday, November 29, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Attendance is required at 9 of 11 classes to graduate

## What will I learn about?

- History and Demographics
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- How City Government Works
- Parks and Community Services
- Utilities
- Finance and Budget
- Cultural and Economic Development
- Community Development (City Planning)
- Development Services
- Transportation
- Public Safety (Police, Fire, Emergency Services)
- Neighborhoods

## Questions?

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



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-5372 (voice) or email [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

## Where are our graduates now?

Since 2013, over 340 participants have graduated from the Bellevue Essentials program. All of Bellevue's neighborhood areas are represented in the alumni group, as well as many cultures, backgrounds, occupations, and views. Each individual has brought their breadth of experience to the classes and community. Many of our alumni now serve on city boards and commissions, advisory committees, neighborhood associations, and at nonprofits in the community. They lend their leadership skills and knowledge of Bellevue all over the community and help to build a better future for our city.

## What do alumni say about Bellevue Essentials?

"Overall, I feel worldlier. My cohort is some of the best and brightest in our community. They come from all walks of life. Viewpoints that were exchanged during dinners, class discussions and walkabouts were engaging, enlightening and impactful. My hopes for personal enrichment, knowledge and lasting connections have been exceeded through Bellevue Essentials."

"Bellevue Essentials demystified the many city services and processes. It made me feel that the city is approachable to a regular citizen. I now know how to navigate city resources."

"Bellevue Essentials really opened my eyes and my level of appreciation for how the whole city operation works and the level of cooperation and decision making required to be successful. It has inspired me to become involved. There is no question that Bellevue Essentials has sparked a fire!"

"Absolutely engaging and fantastic! I love the tours and group presentations. Bellevue Essentials is so helpful in becoming a better and more informed citizen."

You can also check out a video introduction to the Bellevue Essentials experience [Bellevuewa.gov/Bellevue-Essentials](http://Bellevuewa.gov/Bellevue-Essentials).