

# 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 a chance to meet-and-greet with city staff and leadership, as well as create relationships with a peer co-hort.



Bellevue Essentials connects residents with the city and creates new leaders who help strengthen our community.

## 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

If you want to be part of shaping Bellevue's future, then you should apply. Please submit your application by Monday, August 3, 2020. Tuition is \$125 (payable after acceptance) and a fee waiver based on financial need is available.

## Why should you join 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, and want to meet city staff and other like-minded residents, Bellevue Essentials is recommended for you.



## What is the class schedule?

The 2020 Bellevue Essentials Program begins on Wednesday, Sept. 30 and concludes on Wednesday, Nov. 18. The class meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 5:30-9 p.m.

Graduation takes place on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

Throughout the course, the following topics will be highlighted:

- Bellevue Then and Now: History, Demographics, Neighborhoods
- Understanding Public Process
- Parks and Community Services
- Utilities
- Finance and Asset Management
- Economic Development
- 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](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?

236 participants have graduated since 2013 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, neighborhood associations, 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 do alumni say about Bellevue Essentials?

"What makes this program amazing is the opportunity to explore diverse perspectives and to learn from expert city planners. I've developed a new sense of appreciation for the complexities of decision making that the City & Council goes through to make our city thrive for all: young, aging & all economic levels. With hands-on games like budget allocations or public hearings in city council chambers, we got a real-life experience how democracy works at local level." – Eva Orlowska-Emadi (2019)

I thoroughly enjoyed Bellevue Essentials. I gained great insights into how Bellevue is organized and the challenges and tradeoffs our city leaders face. The classes were hands on and interactive. I also liked the conversations and networking with other residents, and the course inspired me to become more civically involved. -Albert Ting (2016)

The staff I met are smart, creative, dedicated and really like to hear from residents. 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, and 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)



## INFORMATION MEETING

**Tuesday, June 9, 6-7 p.m.**  
**(RSVP for Zoom links)**

**Wednesday, June 10, 12-1 p.m.**  
**(RSVP for Zoom links)**

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

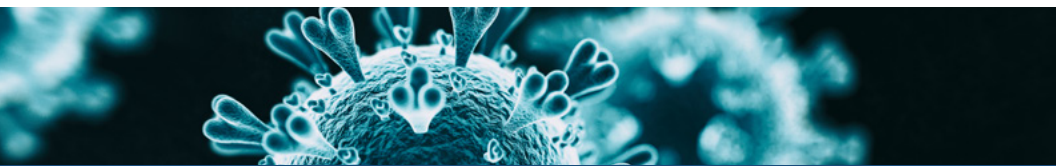
You will meet Bellevue Essentials alumni who will share their stories about participation in the class, including their insights, their connections and where it has led them since graduation.

Presentation will be followed by a Q & A session.

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

Application can be found at [BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials](https://BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials)

RSVP to Julie Ellenhorn at [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-5372



## Planning for COVID-19 restrictions

The 2020 Bellevue Essentials class may meet in person, with appropriate social distancing and sanitizing procedures in place at City Hall. However, if COVID-19 persists into the fall or stay-at-home orders are reinstated, Bellevue Essentials will move to a digital platform. City staff are fully prepared to present an engaging curriculum through on-line learning.



# 2020 BELLEVUE ESSENTIALS APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Bellevue resident? ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you work in Bellevue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(optional)

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic background \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check this box if you need a fee waiver.

Tuition is \$125 (payable after acceptance).

How did you hear about Bellevue Essentials? \_\_\_\_\_

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer **both** questions and attach with your application. Essays can be submitted on a single typed page (250 word limit) or audio: Windows PC Voice Recording or i-Phone Voice Memo (2 min. limit).

1. *How has your personal and/or professional background or experiences shaped your desire to be more civically engaged?*
2. *How do you hope to utilize your experience in this class for the benefit of the community?*

## ATTENDANCE PLEDGE

*If admitted, I pledge to attend a minimum of 7 of the 9 scheduled class sessions.*

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Application can be filled out on-line or scanned and emailed to [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov)

Or mail your application to:  
Julie Ellenhorn  
City of Bellevue  
Neighborhood Outreach  
450 110th Ave. NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Applicants will be selected based on identification as emerging leaders, essay indicating personal goals toward civic engagement and to create a class makeup that is broadly representative of Bellevue's neighborhoods and its diverse community. Bellevue residents will receive priority. Elected officials and candidates are not eligible to apply.

**Application Deadline is August 3, 2020.**  
**Candidates will be notified of acceptance no later than August 28, 2020.**



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