



# Bellevue Essentials

## AN INTRODUCTION TO CIVIC LEADERSHIP



A TEN-WEEK  
COURSE ON  
BELLEVUE CITY  
GOVERNMENT IN  
ACTION

## What is Bellevue Essentials?

Bellevue Essentials is a ten-week civic engagement program during which you will learn about the structure and daily operations at the City of Bellevue. Hands-on activities allow participants to experience the day-to-day challenges of running a local government. Each session includes some pre-class learning homework, a networking dinner, learning about specific departments and services, and interactive activities. You will talk informally with city staff and leadership and develop close relationships with your classmates. Bellevue Essentials connects residents with the city and provides new leaders with information and connections to help strengthen our community.

The 2021 Bellevue Essentials class is currently scheduled to meet primarily in a live format with some virtual learning via Zoom. The mix of in-person and online learning will be determined by current Covid restrictions.

## 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

Every year, Bellevue Essentials receives approximately 70 applications. In 2021, we will be accepting up to 35 applicants, so it is important to thoroughly complete your application. An information meeting, application workshop and one-on-one application assistance are available to all applicants. See insert for details.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 23, 2021. Tuition is \$125.00 (payable after acceptance) and a fee waiver based on financial need is available.



## What is the class schedule?

Class Orientation, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 6-7 p.m. (Zoom)

Class is held Wednesday evenings, September 22 – November 17

Networking dinner 5:30 p.m., class 6 p.m.

Parks tour day, Saturday, Oct. 9

Graduation, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

**Attendance is required at 8 of 10 sessions 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
- Economic Development
- Community Development (City Planning)
- Development Services (Permits and Code Compliance)
- 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 275 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?

"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 the local level." – Eva Orlowska-Emadi (2019)

"Bellevue Essentials sessions provided me a new perspective. I look at things differently, whether I am at a stoplight or a Bellevue Service Center truck passes by me!" – Rehan Alvi (2020)

"All the presenters are well prepared for the classes. Now I care more about the neighbor's thinking and opinions about the community and the city because I know where I can deliver these voices. I care more about the city and make more contributions. I would strongly recommend this program to the new immigrants." – Lily Yin (2020)