



Bellevue Essentials

An Introduction to Civic Engagement

NOW IN OUR 13TH YEAR!



Ten-week course
on Bellevue
city government
in action



What is Bellevue Essentials?

Bellevue Essentials is a 10-week civic engagement program that will explain city government and the ways 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 knowledge around how city government works and how to effectively be involved.
- Emerging leaders who do not have significant experience with government process and operations.
- 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.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4295 (voice) or email samiller@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

What is the class schedule?

- Class is held Wednesday evenings, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
 - September 10, 17, 24
 - October 8, 15, 22, 29
 - November 5, 12
- Class is also held Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday, Sept. 30, 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
- Graduation is Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7–9 p.m.
- Dinner is included at all evening sessions. Saturday session includes lunch.
- Attendance is required at 8 of 10 class sessions to graduate. Please check your schedule to make sure you can fully participate.

What will I learn about?

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

How do I apply?

- Applications can be completed online at Bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-essentials.
- Paper applications can be returned to City Hall or mailed to Sarina Miller, Neighborhood Outreach, City of Bellevue, 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA, 98004.

Applications are due Wednesday, July 23 at 5 p.m. Tuition is \$150.00 (payable after acceptance) and a tuition waiver is available.

Please answer the essay questions in the application thoroughly.

Selections are based primarily on your responses to the essay questions.

For more information contact:

Sarina Miller | 425-452-4295 | samiller@bellevuewa.gov

Where are our graduates now?

Since 2013, over 400 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 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 to the community and help to build a better future for our city.

What do alumni say about Bellevue Essentials?

"The Bellevue Essentials program has given me a profound understanding of how our local government operates, making me appreciate the complexity and dedication involved in creating a thriving community. I've connected with inspiring, intelligent people who share a passion for making Bellevue an even greater place to live. I look forward to sharing my newfound knowledge with my neighborhood community as well as expand on the ways I can contribute to the city."

"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."

"The Bellevue Essentials class was eye-opening. I've built great relationships with an amazing and diverse group of residents. This experience has not only broadened my perspective on city governance but also inspired me to take an active role in fostering positive change in Bellevue. Now, I'm eager to contribute to our community and make a difference for Bellevue!"

"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.