

Where are our graduates now?

Since 2013, over 200 students have graduated 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 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 Our Alumni Are Saying

“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.”

-Ed Anderson (2018)

“Bellevue Essentials made Bellevue my home. I didn’t realize how needed I am in my community and the places where I can take my concerns, contributions and ideas. I went from a resident to an active community member.”

-Leslie Gonzalez (2018)

“Bellevue Essentials provided an insightful look into the systematic approach that the city utilizes for making our community great. It provides a very informative, engaging and exciting exploration of all the facets involved in creating a diverse, innovative city government. ”

-Quiana Ross (2017)



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. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/ Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

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 City staff and leadership, as well as your peers. By learning how government and



community partner together, our goal at Bellevue Essentials is to teach residents about the mechanics of city government, to enable passionate individuals to advocate for change within their community, and to sustain that passion for years to come.

Who should apply?

Bellevue Essentials strives to create a class that is geographically and demographically representative of Bellevue's 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

To apply, complete and submit your application by August 2, 2019. Tuition is \$125 (payable if accepted), and a fee waiver based on financial need is available.

Why You should take Bellevue Essentials

You will gain skills and knowledge of your city government functions and how to effectively advocate for change. If public service intrigues you, you want to become more knowledgeable about Bellevue or you want to meet city staff and other emerging community leaders, we strongly recommend this program for you.



Class Schedule

The 2019 Bellevue Essentials Program begins on Wednesday, Sep. 25, and concludes on Wednesday, Nov. 13. The class meets weekly on Wednesday nights at City Hall, 5:30-9:00 p.m., and includes dinner. Graduation takes place on Wednesday, November 20 at 7 p.m.

Each session will cover one or more of the following topics:

- History of Bellevue
- Bellevue's Changing Demographics
- Public Process
- Parks and Human Services
- Utilities
- Finance and Budget
- 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.