



Bellevue Essentials will introduce you to the behind the scenes work done at the City and will help you understand how local government works. You'll learn how the City is responsive to community concerns, how policy is made and how to effect change. When citizens take an interest and take on leadership roles, they help to positively shape the vision for Bellevue.

--Mayor Claudia Balducci

"The interactive experiences at Bellevue Essentials made everything come alive! The class opened my eyes to the complexity of running a City. The commitment and quality of the staff and leadership we interacted with was excellent."

--Jay Shukla



"I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many intelligent, engaged people, so committed to making this city a better place. Without this program, and the resources you offer, I would not be as empowered to engage with my neighbors and the city. Thank you for this gift of investment in me and in all of us."

--Anne Bridgeland

"This class made me an educated member of my community and has boosted my confidence about the proper way to address issues being raised in the community. The class has exponentially increased my interest and deepened my commitment to become more involved in my community."

--Anne Morriseau



Questions?

Contact program coordinator, Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach, City of Bellevue, 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov with questions or to receive a simple one page application.

Bellevue Essentials

Your Onramp to Civic Leadership

A 9 week introduction to civic engagement in Bellevue



What is Bellevue Essentials?

Bellevue Essentials provides an entry point for emerging community leaders, especially those who are new to public service and those who want to become more knowledgeable and actively engaged in Bellevue. The program features 9 weekly evening sessions and a Saturday tour day.

Participants will be exposed to the structure and inner workings of City government in many arenas. As part of a diverse learning cohort, class members will create relationships with their peers while they build familiarity with government process and decision making. Upon completion, participants will really know the “nuts and bolts” of Bellevue and be ready to take on new roles in their neighborhood, at the city and in the community.

What will participants learn?

Sessions are led by key City staff and Board, Commission and Council leadership. A variety of learning tools, including speakers, panels, interactive exercises and site visits are used to create an interactive and dynamic program. Participants are expected to participate actively and to stretch their minds and expand their skills. Class members will have opportunities to meet with city staff, current neighborhood leaders, decision makers, elected officials and community leaders.

Who can apply?

Bellevue Essentials is open to anyone who lives or works in Bellevue. No prior leadership experience is necessary, and attendance is required at a minimum of 7 of the 9 sessions. To apply, fill out and return the simple one page application. Please answer both essay questions and attach no more than one additional page.

Applications due

Applications are due by July 17, 2015 and participants will be notified of acceptance by July 31, 2015.

Class size is limited to 35 participants who will be selected with the goal of creating a class makeup that is broadly representative of Bellevue’s neighborhoods and its diverse populations. Applicants who are Bellevue residents will receive priority.

Schedule

Classes are held on Thursday evenings at City Hall or other City locations. Dinner and networking begin at 5:30pm with class beginning promptly at 6pm. Class ends at 8:30 or 9:00pm. There is one Saturday session on September 26. For graduation, attendance is required at a minimum of 7 of the 9 class sessions.

September 17

A Look Back: Bellevue History
Demographics and Diversity Today

September 24

The Public Process
The Work of Boards and Commissions

September 26

City in a Park
Human Service Needs
Overview and Tours

October 1

The Planning Puzzle
A Look at Planning and Community Development

October 8

The Transportation System
Financing Services & Infrastructure – The Budget

October 15

Utilities Essential Services
Environmental Stewardship Initiative

October 22

Intergovernmental Relations
Bellevue’s Economic Growth

October 29

Protecting Our Community – Fire and Police

November 5

Neighborhood Outreach Overview
Being Good Neighbors – Code Compliance

November 12

Graduation

Bellevue
Essentials

