

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Retrospective on the 2018-19 Livable City Year partnership with the University of Washington

Nancy LaCombe, Assistant Director, 452-4382

Danielle Verwahren, Management Analyst, 452-2733

City Manager's Office

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

This presentation will provide a retrospective look at Bellevue's award-winning partnership with the University of Washington Livable City Year program, highlighting the partnership's outcomes and ongoing impact.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The Livable City Year (LCY) program is a year-long partnership between the University of Washington (UW) and one local government to advance livability and sustainability in the community. The program mobilizes faculty and students across multiple disciplines to work on high-priority city projects. Hundreds of talented students, guided by knowledgeable faculty and city staff, tackle real-world challenges by proposing bold ideas that propel fresh thinking and improve livability for residents.

LCY partnered with the City of Bellevue for the 2018-19 academic year. The City proposed 50 projects to the program which worked to connect interested faculty with City staff to complete 30 projects in just nine months.

Often described as a "flash mob of engagement", the pure scale of this partnership is its most defining feature. Each of the 30 projects represents a collaboration between staff and university faculty to advance City Council Vision and Priorities and improve livability in the community. At the conclusion of the academic year, the partnership involved:

- 285 students across all three UW campuses
- 22 courses and 23 faculty
- 30,420 hours of student time
- 15 departments across 12 schools and colleges
- 30 City staff project leads

From trail-oriented development and small business incubators to implicit bias in criminal prosecution and wetland design, students involved in the LCY program worked diligently to contribute their knowledge and energy to improving livability in our community.

Last year, the City was recognized by the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) with the Outstanding Community Partner award for its work with the LCY program. The honor is given by the organization annually to one city that demonstrates a superior commitment to

fostering community involvement and embracing university ideas.

More information on the partnership, including links to all final reports, can be found at <https://bellevuewa.gov/livable-city-year>.

Impact

Participation in the LCY program allowed the organization to take an innovative look at implementation of the City Council's Bellevue 2035 Vision. Students increased capacity for staff to tackle large-scale projects while expanding the breadth of the conversation and testing the water with bold, out-of-the-box solutions.

Project leads from many of the projects are now actively driving implementation planning for the work completed under the partnership. For example, recommendations from a project that analyzed the structure and design of the City budget book are currently being incorporated into the FY 2021-2022 budget document, with other recommendations around its online presentation being considered for implementation later this year.

Residents and stakeholders across the community were also involved in LCY projects, from participating in focus groups and interviews to completing surveys and providing neighborhood insights for students. Many of the completed projects will have a visible impact on City services for residents, such as:

- Community nursing students surveyed residents and developed outreach strategies on topics like fall prevention, homelessness and accessing 911 services when English is not your primary language. Significant resident interest in hands-only CPR was discovered through the survey, leading to a partnership between Fire and King County Medic One to provide cost-free training within the City of Bellevue.
- To support outreach efforts students developed strategies to engage groups that are often underrepresented in planning processes, such as ethnically diverse communities and Generations X, Y and Z. The tools and techniques identified by students have been incorporated into planning projects, resulting in broader outreach. For example, the City has built relationships with the environmental conservation clubs at three local high schools presenting opportunities to gain their perspective on planning efforts.

While the majority of projects impact City residents as a whole, several of the projects were aimed at the business and faith communities in particular. These include:

- Students from the Urban Design and Planning program produced an urban design image gallery which permit applicants can consult for examples that meet City code requirements and stress pedestrian livability. The tool, which is anticipated to assist both development applicants and City staff, is moving forward toward implementation.
- Incorporating best practices from around the region, a Communication Leadership graduate student produced a startup guide to support faith institutions in developing safe parking lot programs for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Environmental and Occupational Health Studies students engaged a wide range of stakeholders, from food truck operators to food rescue organizations and public health investigators and City development staff, to create a guide of best practices on the regulation

and permitting process for food trucks. These findings have been incorporated into a food truck pilot program which is expected to launch in early Spring and will be preceded by a broad public outreach period.

University and Student Impact

This program engages hundreds of students each year in high-priority projects, creating momentum on real-world issues while enabling students to learn from communities. This program creates an opportunity to see how course concepts function in a real-world setting. Beyond academic practice, students gain experience with the constraints and policies that influence the work of municipal government.

By participating in LCY, the value of the curriculum grows as illustrative data sets and fictional examples are replaced by meaningful, real-world community information. The program offers the opportunity for faculty to develop long-term relationships with partner cities, such as the ongoing community risk reduction collaboration between the Fire Department and UW Bothell Nursing and Health Studies faculty.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

There is no policy impact associated with this item.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

LCY Final Reports