

City of Bellevue



Introduction to Bellevue WA

Since Bellevue Washington was founded in 1954, it has been a community of small businesses and entrepreneurs, and it has grown quickly.

Bellevue is a prosperous, increasingly diverse city. It has evolved from a “bedroom community” of Seattle into the major economic and cultural center. Geographically, it is located five miles east of downtown Seattle and just east of Lake Washington in the direction of the foothills of the Cascade Mountains ten miles away. The area east of Lake Washington is known as the “Technology Corridor” that follows Interstate 405. Boeing, Microsoft and thousands of other technology and support businesses line this corridor. Bellevue is the corridor’s heart and center, where businesses like the Microsoft Corporation first started.

Today, Bellevue is the second largest city in the Seattle Metropolitan Area with 185,000 day time job and 120,000 residents. And in an accomplishment unequaled in the United States, all five of our public high schools rank in the top 100 in the nation.

As is much of the Puget Sound area, Bellevue is also quickly becoming a center of international commerce.

Bellevue has also become internationally diverse, with 1 of 3 residents foreign born and more than 40% non-white or foreign born. The languages spoken in our community and schools now total nearly 70.

Our Asian population is the largest percentage of foreign born or non-Caucasian people. Chinese, Korean and Japanese are the largest portions, while the Indian population is the largest in the state and fastest growing in Bellevue. Some of this community are first generation, others are second and third generation. Many have become leaders in business, community giving, arts, education, and other ways that give life to Bellevue and improve the quality of living for everyone.

Bellevue has developed its downtown core into a major business and retail center while maintaining the safe, comfortable family neighborhoods for which it has long been popular. The downtown is home to corporate centers such as Microsoft, Expedia, Kemper Development, and many others. Terrific public facilities include Bellevue Art Museum and Meydenbauer Center.

Businesses here represent all sectors, including banking, finance, legal, architecture, engineering, construction, communications and computer technology, health care, medical devices, interactive media, fashion, aerospace, freight logistics, and more. Some businesses, including Microsoft and PACCAR, which began as small businesses at one time, have grown to become market leaders and multi-national giants.

Despite that growth, the heart and spirit of Bellevue are still “entrepreneurial” and “innovation-centered.” We are proud that Forbes Magazine in 2008 recognized Bellevue as the #1 city in the USA for entrepreneurs.

As a city government, we try to nurture and encourage business growth by partnering with business networking organizations, entrepreneurial and small business assistance programs, and state and federal agencies.

We also partner with education institutions, most prominently Bellevue College which is the largest and most successful community college in our state and a leader in the region and on the West Coast.

Our international trade efforts support and identify new opportunities for all types of businesses, and build government trade partnerships. In this, we have placed an emphasis on China, SE Asia, and India. We also have strong relations with several countries in Europe.

We believe that these efforts will bear a lot of fruit and contribute to the betterment of our city, our region, and our partners around the world. Thank you to everyone who has partners with us today and in the future. Thank you also to every one of our citizens and business leaders and all those who work here, for making the Bellevue area a very special place to live and do business.

For information contact

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Websites

City of Bellevue: www.bellevuewa.gov
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce: www.bellevuechamber.org
Bellevue Downtown Association: www.bellevuedowntown.org