

# NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT COORDINATORS PEOPLE'S ACADEMY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PACE)

**Introduction:** Seattle Department of Neighborhoods is launching the People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE), a leadership training program, to strengthen district and community council participation and to enhance involvement in other grassroots community organizations in Seattle. The department has conducted leadership trainings in the past as part of its mission to help build the capacity of community groups across Seattle. PACE will further this mission and expand civic involvement by also building the capacity of people who work with underrepresented communities. PACE will focus on the city of Seattle's governmental structure and processes and the role of neighborhoods within that structure.

PACE participants will:

- Refine their organizing and communication skills
- Increase their community and individual capacity to sustain vital neighborhoods
- Identify resources and avenues to empower communities
- Cultivate a deeper appreciation of cultural competency and inclusive civic engagement.

PACE participants will collaborate on projects and build new relationships with community leaders. Graduates of the program will be more effective in civic life working with other community groups, including historically underrepresented groups, in neighborhood planning and community building efforts.

**Vision:** A city government of *all* people, by *all* people, and for *all* people.

**Mission:** Build skills of emerging community leaders through a multicultural, participatory adult learning model.

**Curriculum:** Seven sessions—1) Approaches to Leadership, 2) Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement, 3) Community Organizing, 4) Accessing Government, 5) Event Planning and Meeting Facilitation, 6) Community Project Management, Resource Development, and Problem Solving, and 7) Public Speaking and Effective Communication.

**Homework and Community Projects:** Participants will have monthly homework assignments that emphasize the practical application of lessons learned. During the last two months of the institute, participants will also complete a community based project.



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Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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**Participants:** Thirty emerging leaders (ages 21 and up) who are newly engaged in the community and would like to acquire the additional skills needed to be more effective when empowering Seattle neighborhoods including underrepresented communities. They must have a desire to serve and learn, and also the time to give to PACE and to community service after graduating. Ten of the 30 participants will be from historically underrepresented communities. The goal is to recruit at least 2 participants from each of the 13 neighborhood districts.

**Facilitators:** Facilitators will come from community, nonprofit organizations, and city of Seattle departments. The sessions will be co-taught by 2 or more people, so the Academy will have at least 16 facilitators. Facilitators should have knowledge of session content and the ability to engage a group and elicit participation.

**Advisory Board:** Community activists, community leader and leadership experts with diverse backgrounds will steer PACE in its growth. They will provide expert advice and recommendations through monthly meetings with the DON Leadership Development Workgroup and will commit to being involved for 1-2 years. An ideal advisory board candidate would be someone who is a visionary, thinks critically, provides creative advice, has evaluation experience, has institutional knowledge of Seattle, and is familiar with an adult learning model that is highly participatory.

**Mentors:** Some of the facilitators and advisory board members will mentor participants for one year from the time the academy launches.

### 2012 PACE

**Timeline:** April - November 2012: PACE occurs  
November - December 2012: Evaluation and preparation for 2013

**Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, April to November

**Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Seattle University

**Fee:** \$50 per participant; scholarships are available