



INVITES YOUR INTEREST IN THE POSITION OF

CHIEF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 4, 2019

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Extraordinary Opportunity

The City of Bellevue, Washington is offering the opportunity of a career: to lead the City's Economic Development office into the future; devising innovative, leading-edge strategies that build upon a track record of successful regional partnerships. For Economic Development professionals looking to take a strong interdisciplinary team to the next level of peak performance and reshape how effective economic development is executed, this is the opportunity you've been awaiting.

The City of Bellevue is an internationally recognized hub of high-tech innovation as the home of multiple fortune 500 companies and where global investment is targeted. As a key player in the Puget Sound region, Bellevue is highly regarded for its broadening and diversifying economic base, contributing to a strong regional economy. The City is positioned as a gateway to the Pacific Rim countries, while cultivating local startups and second-stage companies, entrepreneurship, and strengthening tourism and visitor-oriented business clusters.

The City Council's seven strategic priorities for 2018-2020 include economic development as the cornerstone to a prosperous future. Bellevue has a highly educated, culturally diverse, talented and entrepreneurial workforce. Businesses both large and small value the abundant cultural and recreational amenities, the lifestyle, and high-quality schools.

The Chief Economic Development Officer will be a major contributor to the City's long-term success, by working across sectors and with City staff and the City Council to realize intended results and leverage private investment. The next Chief Economic Development Officer will have the opportunity to shape the strategies and set priorities through updating of the Economic Development Plan and implementing the recommendations of the Destination Development Plan in conjunction with the Bellevue Convention Center Authority.

The Community

Located in the heart of the Puget Sound, scenic Bellevue is the fifth largest city in Washington and serves as the metropolitan center for King County, the state's most populous county. This highly desirable community spans more than 31 square miles and is home to approximately 142,400 residents. With the Cascade Mountains to the east and Seattle just 10 miles to the west, Bellevue is considered Seattle's largest suburb and one of the best places to live by Money magazine; and, in 2014, USA Today ranked Bellevue as the "2nd Best Place to Live."

Bellevue is ideally situated along Interstates 90 and 405, and State Route 520. In 2016, the City began construction of light rail through downtown Bellevue with service planned to start in 2023. East Link, a voter approved project, will extend light rail from Seattle, across Lake Washington on I-90, through Bellevue and to the Overlake Transit Center and Microsoft Corporation in Redmond.

More people work in Bellevue than reside here, making the community the second largest employment center in King County. An economic powerhouse, the Bellevue area is a premier location for 25 of the largest public companies in Washington and many Fortune 500 companies, including Microsoft, Boeing, T-Mobile, Expedia, and Puget Sound Energy. Along with numerous small businesses, the City boasts more than 140,000 jobs, with 50,000 in the downtown area alone.

The City Council's vision begins "Bellevue welcomes the world, our diversity is our strength." Bellevue has grown from a quiet bedroom community into a dynamic, international and multicultural city. With 39% of Bellevue residents being foreign born, Bellevue's diversity enriches its arts and culture, and provides its economy with a competitive global advantage.

Bellevue has been described as a "City in a Park." The City is characterized by its tree-lined neighborhoods and natural beauty beyond compare. The City is noted for its environmental stewardship, award-winning parks system, and vast network of green spaces.



Housing choices are abundant from modern townhomes and apartments to family friendly neighborhoods featuring a variety of housing styles and executive residences. The median home price in Bellevue is \$762,500 and the median household income of \$121,168 is one of the highest of large cities in the state.

Bellevue School district provides quality education to more than 19,000 students in grades Pre-K through 12 on 28 campuses and Bellevue's high schools are consistently rated in the top 100 schools by Newsweek magazine. Because of Bellevue's highly diverse population, more than 99 languages are spoken in the public schools. Portions of Bellevue are also served by Lake Washington, Renton and Issaquah school districts.

In a community where over 68% of residents have a bachelor's degree, higher education opportunities abound. Bellevue College offers nearly 100 professional and technical programs to a diverse group of more than 37,000 students. The Global Innovation Exchange, a partnership between the University of Washington and Tsinghua University, opened its doors in Bellevue's Spring District

The Organization

Bellevue operates under the Council/Manager form of government. The City Council is comprised of seven members, elected at-large, serving staggered four-year terms. The Council Members select a Mayor and Deputy Mayor from among themselves. The Council sets the general policies of the City, which the City Manager and City staff implement.

Bellevue is a full-service city with more than 1,300 employees and a 2017-2018 adopted budget of \$1.51 billion. The City's 2017 property tax levy rate is \$1.14, which is one of the lowest property tax rates of Washington cities over 20,000 in population.

The City of Bellevue is a High Performance Organization with core values of excellent public service, stewardship, commitment to employees, integrity, and innovation. The Bellevue Mission is to "Provide exceptional customer service, uphold the public interest and advance the community

vision." The City has a reputation of being the "employer of choice" for those who are driven to excellence in a team environment where collaborations, both internal and external, are the norm. The City of Bellevue is dedicated to delivering exceptional service to its residents and businesses and has undertaken an organizational improvement effort called "One City." One City embraces the concepts of shared leadership, collaboration, empowerment, innovation, and performance management. In addition, Bellevue is one of a few cities in the nation where every major operating department has earned accreditation from a respected evaluating agency.

The Position

The Chief Economic Development Officer reports to the Director of Community Development as one of three assistant directors, each responsible for their respective division (Economic Development, Planning, and Neighborhood Services). Community Development guides growth and change within the City of Bellevue to support the business and residential community, facilitates place-making, helps create a natural quality and human-scale environment, and works in partnership with residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders to address their interests and preserve vibrant, healthy business centers and neighborhoods.

The City of Bellevue is looking for a Chief Economic Development Officer who will provide strategic leadership, offer innovative ideas to meet the changing needs of the business community, and advance the City's vision of Bellevue as a prosperous and vibrant international city with innovative and entrepreneurial businesses along with a high quality of life for residents. The Chief Economic Development Officer must be an outstanding communicator, and responsive to the needs of the business community, City Council, and other stakeholders.

The Chief Economic Development Officer will oversee the City's core economic development program focused on retaining and helping existing businesses that are within Bellevue's targeted clusters grow and prosper. They will



oversee the creation of a new strategic plan that focuses on cultivating technology entrepreneurs and enhancing Bellevue's position as a Pacific Rim gateway for foreign investment. Additionally, the City seeks an individual who is visionary and can facilitate economic growth through place-making and branding. The City is actively pursuing public private joint ventures, using city-owned properties to catalyze development, creating special tax districts, promoting the arts, and working in partnership to facilitate the construction of an approximate \$180 Million performing arts center in Downtown Bellevue.

The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate possesses a strong track record of accomplishments as an effective leader and will understand the relationship of Community Development through the lens of teamwork with the City's Planning and Neighborhood Services divisions. The successful candidate will take an entrepreneurial approach to economic development while continuing to encourage staff growth and be part of the Leadership Team for the Department.

The ideal candidate will build successful partnerships both internally and externally with outside agencies and business leaders. Experience and competency in interacting with people from diverse cultures and approachability is valued in the community; therefore, a drive for excellent customer service is critical, as is interacting directly with the business community – communicating, listening, and responding to their needs.

The Chief Economic Development Officer must establish him/herself as a convener and facilitator. He/she must be a skilled negotiator who possesses the ability to engage staff across the organization to align services and infrastructure investments with economic development goals and evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of projects and initiatives.

Education and Experience

Qualified candidates will have at least seven years of economic development experience in a senior management capacity with a proven track record in business relations and commitment to excellent service. The individual is expected to have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration,

Public Administration, Economics, Urban Planning or a related field. An advanced degree or specific training relevant to this position is highly desirable.

Compensation

The salary range for this position is \$107,773 to \$148,772 annually, commensurate with experience, and is supplemented with a comprehensive benefits package. Relocation assistance may be available for out-of-area candidates. The City of Bellevue does not have a residency requirement for employees. To learn more about the robust benefits the City offers, go to cityofbellevue.benefithub.com.

Out-of-state candidates should be aware that the State of Washington does not have personal state income tax.

To Apply

Candidates are encouraged to submit early in the process for optimal consideration. To be considered, candidates must submit a cover letter and comprehensive resume to apply@ralphandersen.com. The closing date for submittal of materials is **Monday, February 4, 2019**.

This is a highly confidential process. Preliminary screenings will be conducted upon receipt of resume. On-site interviews are anticipated for early March 2019. Professional references will be contacted later in the process once mutual interest has been established. A completed release will be required by top candidates to verify employment, education, and other verifications, as appropriate. **Based on open records law in the State of Washington, it is anticipated that finalists' names will be released to the public.**

If you have questions or would like to discuss the opportunity further, please call Mr. David Boesch at (916) 630-4900. Confidential inquiries are welcomed.

***Bellevue welcomes the world,
our diversity is our strength.***