

People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE)

Pop-Up Workshops

Background:

The People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE) focuses on leadership development and skill building of emerging leaders in a multicultural, participatory, adult-learning environment. Over the course of the program, participants learn hands-on strategies for community building, inclusive engagement, and accessing government from experts in the field.

PACE is offered three times a year: winter, spring, and fall. Each quarter consists of 20 hours of class time. Sessions are taught by facilitators from community and nonprofit organizations along with City staff. Examples of topics include:

- Skillful engagement in conflict
- Community organizing
- Inclusive approaches to leadership
- Accessing City government
- Land Use/Zoning
- Basics of bureaucracy
- Public speaking at council
- City budget process

Tuition for the program is \$100. Tuition assistance is available to those who demonstrate need, though a minimum contribution of \$25 is requested.

Classes are held in central Seattle on five consecutive Saturdays from 10am-2pm.

Pop-Up PACE Model

The Pop-Up model was created in 2017 as a strategy to include more under-represented communities in the PACE program. Due to the inherent cost, travel, and time barriers of the regular PACE model (i.e. the cost of tuition, the fact that classes are held in central Seattle, and the 5-weekend time commitment), Pop-Up PACE workshops aims to reduce barriers so that it is more accessible to under-represented communities.

The Pop-Up model includes:

- **Stand-alone workshop:** Rather than requiring a 5-week commitment, a Pop-Up is offered as a one-time workshop, and focuses on one topic (e.g. accessing city government, public speaking, budget process, etc.). This topic is in part decided by the community, and is determined through the outreach process. The length of time is also decided by the community.
- **Held at a time and location convenient to the community:** To reduce the need to travel, a Pop-Up is held at a time and location that is convenient to the target participants. The location should be a place where the group already meets, (i.e. local restaurant, community center, library, park, etc.)
- **Free for participants:** A Pop-Up attendee pays nothing to participate. The cost of providing the workshop is subsidized by the revenue generated by the regular PACE program tuition. There is an expectation that at least 50% of the target participants are low income.