

Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Go “*Behind the Scenes*”
with the City of Yuma



Applications will be available on
City of Yuma website in late October
with a due date of December 13th

Learn how the City functions...

Over 30 topics covered in 16 weeks, from Arts to
Utilities with tours of Fire, Police, Water
Facilities, Housing Authority, Arts Center, City
Hall and Historic Downtown & Heritage Area.

Historic Theater & United Building Tour



**NEW CLASSES
IN JANUARY
EACH YEAR.**

Thursdays from
6:00-9:00 p.m.

City Hall

Room 190

Along with tours
of the Yuma Art
Center, Police
Station and more.

[www.yumaaz.gov/community-development/
neighborhood-services/neighborhood-involvement](http://www.yumaaz.gov/community-development/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-involvement)



Join the ranks of the 329 graduates who completed
the Neighborhood Leadership Academy since 1996.
Alumni include current and past City Council
members, community leaders, members of City
Boards and Commissions, City staff, and members of
civic organizations.

Vision

To develop collective ownership in our community through increased dialogue and meaningful participation with citizens, the region, business community and other stakeholders.

Program

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is an effort to ensure that the goals of the City are shared at the neighborhood level and neighborhood issues are at the forefront of policy decisions considered by the City Council. This program encourages citizens to be knowledgeable about how City government works and its role in community affairs. The NLA supports the formation of neighborhood associations and empowers residents in a neighborhood to seek a better quality of life that is citizen-driven and focused. The program targets residents' city-wide but focuses on non-traditional leaders in order to build a diverse capacity for future leadership. NLA meets for three hour sessions on Thursday evenings every week from January until April culminating with a Graduation Night. A class of 25 citizens are selected from the group of applicants.



Curriculum

In a creative learning environment, the NLA brings together the City of Yuma's senior staff as representatives to equip participants with valuable insight and direction about understanding the City Charter, roles and responsibilities of City Council and City administration, an understanding of how city government works and its role in community affairs. Overviews are provided of most major City departments with ample question and answer opportunities. Additionally, the program contains exposure to many departments that function in the service of city residents: Public Works, Yuma Art Center, Parks & Recreation, Utilities, Police Station, Fire Station and others. Participants will also receive training on Team-Building and Leadership by Human Resources staff.



Results

Graduates from the NLA are prepared for appointments to City Boards and Commissions and are ready to serve if asked to work with City Staff and the City Council on ad hoc committees focusing on special issues and topics, along with community events. Academy members acknowledge that they leave far better informed and prepared to participate in community organizations, committees and boards, as well as to be an informational resource to neighbors, friends and co-workers. The NLA has been a significant success story for the Community Development Department of the City of Yuma since the time of its inception in 1996. Currently, the Yuma City Council has two NLA graduates as Councilmembers.

List of 2020 NLA Class Sessions.

The Academy begins early January ending late April (not a final schedule)

- **Team Building and Leadership**
- **City Clerk & City Attorney**
“How to Have Your Voice Heard” City Government overview
- **Planning Division**
Building Safety Division
- **Parks & Recreation**
Yuma Arts Center Presentation/Tour
- **City Administrator’s Presentation**
Engineering /Capital Improvement Program
- **Police Station Presentation/Tour**
Municipal Court
- **Neighborhood Services**
Economic Development
- **Fire Station #1 Presentation/Tour**
- **Boards & Commissions**
- **Public Affairs -**
Information Technology
- **Finance**
Human Resources
- **Utilities Presentation/Tour - Main Street Water Plant**
- **Public Works - Fleet Services—Solid Waste - Recycling and Streets -**
Class will be held at new Fleet Services Facility
- **City Hall Tour/Citizen’s Forum**
City Council Work Session & City Council Meeting
- **Housing Authority City of Yuma Presentation/Tour—**
Mesa Heights Resource Center
WACOG—Fair Housing
- **Historic Downtown Presentation & Walking Tour -**
Heritage Area (Quartermaster’s - East & West Wetlands)
- **Graduation Dinner** Yuma Art Center

Applications will be available starting late October on the Neighborhood Services page of the City’s website, www.yumaaz.gov, (click on “Departments,” then “Community Development” and look for “Neighborhood Involvement,” or simply search for “Neighborhood Leadership” from the home page) or contact Tad Zavodsky 928.373.5000 ext. 3050 - tad.zavodsky@yumaAZ.gov