

# 2025 Neighborhood Leadership Academy



## 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 given consideration in 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 is organized annually and will meet this year for three hour sessions on Thursday evenings every week from January 16<sup>th</sup> - April 3<sup>rd</sup> culminating with a Graduation Night on April 10<sup>th</sup>. A group of 25 citizens are selected for a single academy from the group of applicants.

## Curriculum



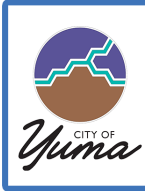
In a creative learning environment, the NLA brings together the City of Yuma's senior staff as representatives to equip participants with valuable insight and direction about understanding the City Charter, roles and responsibilities of City Council and City administration, an understanding of how city government works and its role in community affairs. Overviews are provided of most major City departments with ample question and answer opportunities offered in each session. 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 Historic Downtown Tour. Classroom session will include presentations about Finance, Information Technology, Engineering, Planning, Human Resources and many others.

## Results

Graduates from the Neighborhood Leadership Academy 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 Neighborhood Leadership Academy has been a significant success story for the City of Yuma since the time of its inception in 1996. In recent years, the City of Yuma has had Neighborhood Leadership Academy graduates serving as City Council Members and occupy positions on numerous Boards and Commissions.

- Class size is limited
- No fee to participate
- City of Yuma website link: <https://www.yumaaz.gov/government/community-development/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-leadership-academy-nla>

Or you may contact Tad Zavodsky Neighborhood Services Specialist  
Phone: (928)373-5187 e-mail: [tad.zavodsky@yumaaz.gov](mailto:tad.zavodsky@yumaaz.gov)



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# NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

## 2025 CLASS SCHEDULE

### THURSDAYS AT 5:30 PM

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
January 16	Council Chambers City Hall – Room 190 1 City Plaza	Welcome to NLA Mayor and Council Team Building
January 23	City Hall – Room 190 1 City Plaza	<b>City Administration</b> City Administrator Grants Economic Development Communications City Attorney and City Clerk's offices
January 30	Fire Station #1 353 S 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	YFD Presentation and Station Tour
February 6	City Hall – Room 190 1 City Plaza	<b>Planning and Neighborhood Services</b> Community Planning Neighborhood Services
February 13	Yuma Police Department 1500 S 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave	Municipal Court YPD Presentation & Tour
February 20	Fleet Facility 265 W 13 <sup>th</sup> St	Public Works Information Technology
February 27	City Hall – Room 190 1 City Plaza	Building Safety/Facilities Engineering/CIP
March 6	Main Street Water Treatment Facility 175 N Main St North End Community Center 160 E 1 <sup>st</sup> St	Main Street Water Treatment Facility Tour  Utilities Presentation
March 13	City Hall – Room 190 1 City Plaza	Finance Human Resources
March 20	Mesa Heights Resource Center 2150 S Arizona Ave	Fair Housing HACY
March 27	Civic Center 1440 W Desert Hills Drive (Early Time 4:30 pm)	Parks & Recreation (Classroom and outdoor activities)
April 3	Art Center 254 S Main St Yuma Historic Theatre	Historic Downtown Tour & Presentation Art Center Programs Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area
April 10	<b>Civic Center - Sunset Terrace Desert Hills Drive</b>	<b>1440 W</b> <b>Graduation Dinner at 6 PM</b>