



Background

The Youth Commission is a youth led commission/advocacy group whose mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of life for Sacramento youth by advising the City Council and the public on issues relating to youth policies, programs and opportunities.

The Sacramento Youth Commission has undergone a transition during this past year. The City of Sacramento created the Office of Youth Development who is now responsible for facilitating commission meetings and supporting the commission's sub-committees. The Commissioners are meeting with their city council members and are actively seeking ways to improve the lives of youth in Sacramento.

Subcommittees:

This year, the Youth Commission has formed three subcommittees and numerous administrative functions that serve to move new youth policies forward in the Sacramento region.

The *Safe Jobs for Youth* subcommittee attended the U.C Berkley Safe Jobs for Youth Leadership Conference to discuss and plan out a resolution to help prevent young worker job injuries, sexual harassment, and to familiarize Sacramento young workers with youth labor laws. They proposed a resolution to the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) that requires high schools to 1) include the *Are You a Working Teen* four page handout with all issued work permits and 2) encourage students to watch the edited version of the *Lost Youth* 17 minute video. The Board of Education adopted this resolution on May 21, 2009.

The *Sustainability* subcommittee focused on encouraging and supporting the development and implementation of improved recycling policies in Sacramento area high schools. There are many high schools that have recycling bins on campus but few recycling cans in classrooms or in lunch areas. The sustainability committee developed and is tabulating a *Sustainability Practices Report Card* and will evaluate all SCUSD high school recycling policies/practices in the fall. Once the report card is completed, the committee will develop policy recommendations that will be presented to school principals and the SCUSD Board of Education. When these new policies are adopted, commissioners will work with student governments and principals to ensure successful implementation and continued support.

The *Employment* subcommittee is focused on increasing the quantity and quality of employment opportunities for Sacramento Youth. This committee's primary goal is to develop and present a policy paper to the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) and Sacramento City Council that encourages the following objectives:

- ▶ Start a coalition of youth employers and youth employment service providers who will develop an information source of youth employment opportunities and develop a bi-annual publication that highlights youth employment opportunities.
- ▶ Host a Youth Job Fair during the month of April 2010 where at least 1,000 youth jobs are available and guarantee that this event is covered by local media.
- ▶ Encourage businesses to adopt a policy where one youth is hired for every ten adults hired.

Committee members are passionate about the above policy objectives and are meeting with each other regularly to carry out their action plans and timelines. Office of Youth Development staff is supporting these objectives by coordinating meeting times and requesting that local agencies add the committees' initiatives to their agendas.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Commissioners assumed roles and responsibilities which have entailed the development a Sacramento Youth Survey, a Youth Commission Communications Policy initiative, and the *Youth Corner* newsletter.

The Youth Commission Chair, Allison Brown and Vice Chair, Laura Mandler improved the attendance/recruitment of Youth Commissioners and kept Commissioners' on-task during and between meetings. Caitlin Crooks the Youth Commission Secretary graphically designed the *Youth Corner* newsletter, consistently attended meetings and recorded accurate minutes.

Sam Gammon and Gerardo Gonzalez were responsible for public relations they developed a Youth Commission Communications Policy, presented the policy to the E government Committee and requested approval to: 1) Host a MySpace page, 2) Have an independent Youth Commission website 3) Assign professional Youth Commission email addresses and 4) Use an online forum to share documents and work on group projects. The E government Committee approved the website and email address. The remaining objectives continue to be under consideration.

Royale Nixon and Diamond Garnett were responsible for outreach. They developed and distributed a survey to over 600 Sacramento youth. The survey focused on subcommittee initiatives and the resulting data was used in support of numerous youth grant applications. Royale and Jessica Reede also developed the *Commission Mission* workshop to benefit attendees of the Meadowview Youth Leadership Conference.

Historians Miraya Arroyo and Jillian Wilson conceived, wrote and developed the *Sacramento Youth Corner* newsletter. This newsletter was distributed to all department heads, council members, council staff and Sacramento community members. Rian Nguy edited the newsletter.

The Fundraising Team David Schenirer, Julian Nagler and Chelsea Kennedy were instrumental in coordinating the youth commission mixers art auction and live entertainment. Furthermore, this committee planned and facilitated the first annual

Youth Commission overnight retreat. Almost all commissioners attended the retreat and reported that this experience provided an opportunity to gain leadership skills and develop strategic planning initiatives. The Fundraising team also supported the Vibe Urban Youth Lounge's transition away from the Commission.

The 2008/09 school year has been productive for the Youth Commission. The commissioners would like for members of City Council and City department staff to consider the input of the Youth Commission when pursuing or considering youth development policies, programs and practices. Commissioners are looking forward the 2009/10 school year when they will participate in additional policy recommendations and strategic planning initiatives.

Documents to support the stated Sacramento Youth Commission accomplishments can be obtained by contacting:

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