

# ANNUAL REPORT

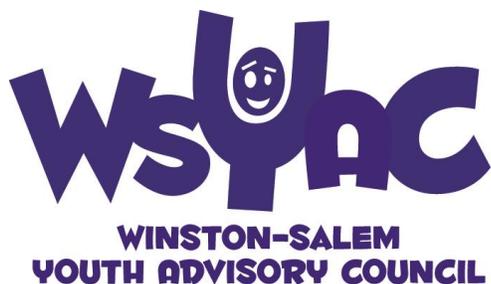
Fiscal Year 2014-2015



Winston-Salem



## CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



Staff Administrator:

Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD

Human Relations Director

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Attachment A: Newsletter

## PURPOSE



The purpose of the Council is to give the youth an opportunity to become more aware of local government, and become involved in the community by participating in community activities a minimum of 40 hours each year.

## MISSION

Serve as a conduit between city government and younger constituents. The Youth Council's core focus is youth civic engagement by way of community programming, youth-oriented activities, contribution of at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs, dissemination of information to the community regarding topics that are important and relevant to the youth in our community, and to advise the City Council and the Human Relations Department on matters that relate to the community's youth population.

## HISTORY

In March of 1989, the former Winston-Salem City Council unanimously approved a resolution to establish a Youth Advisory Council. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council, as outlined in 1989, is to provide the City Council with recommendations on a variety of subjects and to give youth the opportunity to become more aware of local government. At that time, the City Council stated that the Youth Advisory Council should be diverse, inclusive, and representative of the Winston-Salem high school student population.

In May of 1989, nineteen members began a one-year term of service as the original Youth Advisory Council under the direction of the Recreation and Parks Department. In June of 2010, the Youth Advisory Council was reorganized under the Human Relations Department by resolution of the City Council.

## DUTIES

- (1) Actively promoting the participation of the youth in city government programs and activities;
- (2) Promoting positive human relations among all youth;
- (3) Providing channels of communication among all populations;
- (4) Encouraging youth to become better trained and qualified for employment opportunities;
- (5) Performing duties consistent with general law as may be assigned it from time to time by the City Council; and
- (6) Performing such other duties as necessary to enforce the powers assigned to it.

## **THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO CITY GOVERNMENT**

The government of the City of Winston-Salem and the general management and control of all its affairs are vested in the City Council and the Mayor. The City Council appoints the City Manager who is the administrative head of City government and is responsible for the administration of all departments of City government. The City Council is also the appointing authority for members of the Youth Advisory Council.

The Council keeps the City Manager and the City Council informed of its activities. To further that communication, the chairperson or a designated member of the Council shall appear annually before the City Council to provide them with information on the pulse of the youth community and a yearly progress report on Council programs and projects.

The Council makes recommendations to the City Council concerning projects and programs relevant to the youth of Winston-Salem.

## **THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE STAFF**

The Council's relationship with the Human Relations staff involves advising staff regarding youth-oriented and youth-developed programs, concerns, and issues. During the process of initiating programs and conducting youth outreach, the Youth Advisory Council calls on the staff for technical assistance and research into matters.

## **THE COMMISSION'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY**

The Youth Advisory Council is the body through which youth concerns can be relayed to City officials. The Youth Advisory Council brings information to its peers on the happenings of city government that pertain to the youth.



**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

First Name	Last Name	School
Oryn	Swaso	Mt. Tabor
Dalia	Namak	Parkland High
Darian	Thompson	Parkland High
Quentin	McCullough*	Parkland High
Zach	Skillings	Parkland High
Bryan	Christ	Forsyth Country Day
Sara	Lane*	Forsyth Country Day
Anusha	Doshi	Reagan
Aditi	Pilani*	Reagan
Ryan	Carter	Walkertown High
Devika	Ghosh	Atkins
Victoria	Rivera	East Forsyth
Andrew "Drew"	Lischke*	East Forsyth
Harley	Magno*	Early College
Isabella	Rico	Early College
Robert	Ganzert*	Bishop
Nicholas	Dioli	Bishop
David "Gabe"	Herman*	Paisley
Kirsten	Smith	Paisley
Carolina	Juanico-Cela	Glenn
Kenhoor	Saur*	Glenn
Corrina	Parriman*	North
Keyla	Lewis-Fleming*	W-S Prep
Zamier	Gillespie	W-S Prep
Dakota	Pinckney	Carver High School
Logan	Short	Calvary Baptist Day School
Ross	Hickman	Calvary Baptist Day School
Jabrea	Jackson*	Kennedy High School
Abdull	Mosley	Kennedy High School

\*Denotes student serving as alternate

**MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTS**

WANDA ALLEN-ABRAHA, HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR



The Human Relations Department is very pleased to serve as the administering department of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council. The mission of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is to serve as a conduit between city government and younger constituents. The Youth Council's core focus is

youth civic engagement by way of community programming and youth-oriented activities; a contribution of at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs; the dissemination of information to the community regarding topics that are important and relevant to the youth in our community; and to advise the City Council and the Human Relations Department on matters that relate to the community’s youth population.

The YAC’s purpose is to provide a venue for youth between the ages of 14-18 to have an active means of civic engagement in local government.

Although the YAC was established in 1989 under the leadership of Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke, the Human Relations Department was designated as the administering department for the YAC in June 2010. Since that time, the YAC has been restructured in order to enhance its focus and goals. Specifically, the each member of the YAC has been charged with fulfilling 40 hours of community service during the course of the school year. To that end, each month focuses on a different topic that relates to the YAC’s mission and the community at-large. Topics have included civics, government, housing, and the environment.

The YAC has thrived this year and has established itself as a welcome youth voice in the community. Their hard work has been recognized by the Winston-Salem Foundation’s Youth Grantmakers by way of competitive funding for their annual project work on the YAC Community Garden and the Brenner’s Children’s Hospital Project. We are excited to continue to see the YAC flourish in the future.

**PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

**I. Goal: Community Education**

- Gain better knowledge of community issues, organizations, and services.

MONTHLY FOCUS/PRESENTATIONS	
August/September – Orientation and Planning Focus: Annual Service Project Planning	February –Human Relations Focus: Youth Grantmakers in Action Community Service Project Planning
October – Civic Engagement Presentation	March – April- Community Partnerships
November – Local Government Mayor Joines	May – End of Year Project Planning and Wrap-Up
January – Homelessness Awareness	

**II. Goal: Community Service and Volunteerism**

- Participate in 40 hours each of community activities and service.
  - Estimated total: 600
- Connect to youth population through written publication.
  - See attachment A.

- Produce annual project that is a benefit to the community.
  - The Youth Advisory Council elected to partner with Project Hope to provide “YAC Packs” with winter essentials for homeless youth.
  - The Council also received grants from Youth Grantmakers in Action of the Winston-Salem Foundation and the State Youth Council to help purchase the bags that were used. The majority of the items in the bags were donated through their schools.

III. **Goal: City Government Participation:** Gain knowledge of city government processes by interfacing with city government officials.

MEETING PURPOSE	CITY OFFICIAL(S)
Local Government Presentation	Mayor Allen Joines
Annual Report Presentation	CDHGG Committee of City Council
Attend a City Council Meeting	City Council

**2014-15 MAJOR PROGRAM /PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Annual Project:** The YAC Annual Project is a set of three Public Service Announcements (PSAs) addressing labeling, social media, and healthy choices. The council came up with this project as a response to bullying in schools and to support the Anti-Bullying attempt of Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System. The Labeling PSA will focus on how students are affected by the way others view them. The Social Media PSA focuses on the importance of interpersonal communication without the use of the internet. The Healthy Choices PSA focuses on safe methods for recreation in Winston-Salem for youth. The PSAs will be aired in area high schools, YouTube, and WSTV-13.
- **State Youth Council Involvement:** The Youth Advisory Council applied for a state grant through the State Youth Council and was awarded \$500 to use for towards their Annual Project. This year our very own, Bryan Christ, has served as the State Youth Council Chair. This year we had representatives attend all of the State Youth Council conferences; Mini-Grants in Rocky Mount, Teambuilding and Leadership in High Point, Youth Legislative Assembly in Raleigh, and End of Year Conference in Wrightsville. The students that have attended these conferences have learned a lot and brought back new ideas for the WS Youth Council.



- **Triad Youth Council Celebration:** The Youth Advisory Council will host an end-of-school-year celebration for Greensboro, High Point, and Winston-Salem youth councils at Winston Square Park. This program will be combined with a fundraiser and will include music, food, and painting of the Youth Expression Wall.



- **Winston-Salem Foundation Youth Grantmakers in Action Funding:** The Youth Advisory Council received a \$400.00 grant to help promote their Annual Project. Not only will they have the PSAs aired but they will also be able to pass out bracelets and start a social media campaign with #justdoyouWS.
- **International Village:** Youth Advisory Council members hosted a Children's Fun Area at International Row at Rock the Block stage in September 2013. Members painted faces and supervised a children's play area. Member Garrett Locklear also served as the Emcee.



- **March for Homeless Children:** Several Youth Advisory Council members completed educational campaigns on child hunger and homelessness at their individual schools. In part because of this campaign, the March for Homeless Children had a significant number of youth participants this year.



- **Human Relations Student Awards Banquet:** The Youth Advisory Council assisted the Human Relations Commission in hosting the 35th Annual Human Relations Student Awards Banquet. Youth Advisory Council members served as greeters and seated guests during the program.



## **WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2015-2016 OUTLINE OF GOALS**

For the fiscal year of 2015-2016, the goals of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council will focus on the following goals:

1. To maintain and encourage use of the Youth Expression Wall;
2. To meet requirements of the State Youth Council as a chartered member and to increase the YAC's presence on the state level;
3. To continue learning about the community through presentations at monthly meetings;
4. To find ways to connect to students outside of YAC through social media and in person;
5. To continue the YAC newsletter; and
6. To complete an end-of-year project for the 2015-2016 school year.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Youth Advisory Council recognizes the need to continue fostering an environment that initiates and supports multiracial and multi-ethnic dialogue and understanding in the youth community. We respectfully request your support of the following recommendations:

1. The Youth Advisory Council recognizes the importance of building and maintaining effective lines of communication between city government and the youth community. By improving the dialogue with our diverse community groups, city government can ensure that the City of Winston-Salem fosters an environment that is conducive for an atmosphere in which the youth voice is heard. In carrying out its strategic goals, the Youth Advisory Council will **increase its outreach efforts in all areas of the community and will seek input from the City Council on issues or concerns in their respective wards.**
2. We ask that the City Council **support the Youth Advisory Council's goal of building a stronger relationship with City officials.**

The Youth Advisory Council greatly appreciates the continual support it has received from the City Council.