



**What is the Youth Expression Wall?**

The Youth Expression Wall is a project of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council (YAC). It is important to the Youth Advisory Council that young people of all backgrounds have the opportunity to express themselves artistically. From this desire, the Youth Advisory Council came up with the idea of an “expression wall,” which would be free and open to be painted with murals and personal messages by anyone in the community at any time. The youth expression wall is an opportunity to encourage unity amongst Winston-Salem youth and to bring art to Winston-Salem that is by and for the community. The wall will be open to anyone in the community, but the Youth Advisory Council will market it as a youth activity.

The Youth Advisory Council has decided to dedicate the first painting of the wall to the memory of high school students who passed away this school year. A plaque including information about the purpose of the wall will be installed.

**What is the Youth Advisory Council?**

As established by the City Council, the Youth Advisory Council’s mission is to serve as a conduit between city government and their younger constituents. Their core focus includes youth civic engagement through community programming, youth-oriented activities, contributing at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs, providing 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 Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Commission has a strong history of supporting the Youth Advisory Council, and the two share a cooperative relationship.

**What is the timeline for the project?**

The Youth Advisory Council has received a grant from the Youth Grantmakers in Action program to complete the expression wall. This grant requires that the project be completed by June 2011.

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| March-May | Approvals from Recreation & Parks Commission and City Council<br>Marketing/Promotion for Opening Ceremony/First Painting |
| June 3    | Initial project phase completed- Opening ceremony during Gallery Hop   |
| Ongoing   | Youth Advisory Council members contact local youth-oriented organizations to paint their own expressions on the wall     |

**Who will supervise the project?**

The City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department, which serves as staff liaison to the Youth Advisory Council, will supervise the administration of the project. The City of Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department staff will monitor the wall on a daily basis for any inappropriate wording, negative imagery, or defacing. The Youth Advisory Council will maintain the expression wall, should it ever be defaced or painted with negative imagery or wording.