

Youth Involvement Task Force

2018 BEST PRACTICES REPORT

2018 EDITION



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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About The United States Conference of Mayors

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,407 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/usmayors, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.

About The Mayors' Youth Involvement Task Force

The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Youth Involvement Task Force, led by Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis, is dedicated to helping our nation's mayors provide and expand programming that helps young people (middle school through college) engage in civics, leadership development, internship programs, voter registration, community outreach, and more. For more information on the Mayors' Youth Involvement Task Force, please contact James Kirby at 202.861.6759 or jkirby@usmayors.org.

Cover photo: Durham Youth Commission and Durham's Elected Officials

Contents

About the Survey v

Survey Results vi

Individual City Highlights 1

Austin 2

Boston 4

Columbia 6

Dallas 8

Durham 10

Gresham 12

Knoxville 14

Lauderdale Lakes 16

Louisville 18

Richmond 20

Rochester Hills 22

South Bend 24



About the Survey

In 2018, The U.S. Conference of Mayors Youth Involvement Task Force released its Youth Involvement Best Practices Survey to help cities share their efforts in connecting youth with civic engagement opportunities in their communities.

Cities were asked to provide information on their youth councils, leadership programs, internship opportunities, voter registration, hosting city-wide days and events with a focus on youth, connecting elementary school-age youth with civics programming, connecting with youth through social media, and more.

The survey was released in order to obtain critical information surrounding youth engagement to first create a baseline of information for the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ newly established Youth Involvement Task Force, and also to help other cities develop or expand youth programs in their communities. 54 cities total participated in the survey.

PARTICIPATING CITIES:

Albany	Kansas City, MO
Albuquerque	Knoxville
Alexandria	Largo
Anaheim	Las Vegas
Austin	Lauderdale Lakes
Baton Rouge	Little Rock
Boston	Louisville
Clarksville	Madison
Columbia	Merced
Columbus, OH	Miami Lakes
Corpus Christi	Nashville
Costa Mesa	Orlando
Dallas	Philadelphia
Dayton	Providence
Dolton	Reno
Dubuque	Richmond (VA)
Durham	Rochester Hills
Eden Prairie	Rowlett
Elizabeth	Sacramento
Evanston	South Bend
Findlay	Sumter
Fontana	Tacoma
Fort Wayne	Tampa
Grand Rapids	Tempe
Gresham	Torrance
Henderson	Tukwila
Indianapolis	West Sacramento

Survey Results

80% of all cities surveyed maintain an active youth council that helps advise city programming.



89% of all cities surveyed have a youth leadership program that helps young people learn leadership and professional skills.



89% of all cities surveyed administer or help administer an internship program for youth.



85% of all cities surveyed actively engage with youth in their communities through social media.



52% of all cities surveyed are actively engaged in a voter registration effort for youth in their communities.



54% of all cities surveyed actively engage elementary school-aged children in some form of civics programming.



48% of all cities surveyed host a “Youth Day” or hold additional city-wide events for youth.



City Highlights



Mayor
Steve
Adler

Austin

Austin Youth Council

The City of Austin provides a number of programs and initiatives to foster youth leadership and civic engagement. With a variety of departments and organizations working to assist youth, the City has provided many young people with imperative skills and experience.

One of Austin's flagship youth programs is the Austin Youth Council (AYC). The Council advises city programming and specific council initiatives. The AYC has worked on Austin's budget office proposals and has also held citywide homelessness drives to provide homeless individuals with hygiene essentials. In addition, the AYC hosts Career Fest, an annual citywide event where the AYC provides all high school students, throughout the City of Austin, the opportunity to network with over 150 vendors that include colleges, trade schools, businesses, and city departments.

Internship Programming

Austin's Youth & Family Services Office has several Youth Summer Internship Programs for Austin's young people. One, in particular, is the Emerging Leaders Summer Internship Program. This initiative has a focus on enhancing leadership skills for high school students as they gain professional experience in

the workforce. It is a 6-week program where interns work with city departments and other local organizations in the Austin area. Students in the program participate in "Leadership Days," where youth go to the LBJ Library to participate in classroom activities relating to historical events that have impacted the youth of previous generations.

The Emerging Leaders program has also worked with additional organizations within the Austin community including: Leadership Austin, the Conversation Corps, and the Bullock Museum. Each has offered the student interns the opportunity to engage in civil conversations about real topics related to the world around them, while also helping to enhance soft skills.

Austin Corps

Austin Corps is an off-campus government class with the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District (ISD), where high school seniors learn about various departments throughout the City. During each fall semester, students learn about the operations of Austin's city departments. During the spring semester, students intern at specific departments where they learn professional skills such as writing, dressing in proper attire, task-completing, and prioritizing. Prior to beginning their internships, students have three interviews where they

prepare with cover letters, resumes, and a write-up describing why they are interested in their respective internship option.

The Youth & Family Services Office offers additional internship programs for Austin youth. The office has four Youth Summer Internship Programs: the Emerging Leaders Summer Internship Program, the Get Ready! STEAM-based Internship Program, the Aviation Department Internship Program, and the Austin Convention Center Internship Program. There are multiple requirements that the student interns must meet in order to complete their internships. Once they have been accepted, the interns must complete an onboarding process, attend orientation, create three S.M.A.R.T. goals, and create a presentation at the end of the program.

Community Partners

The City of Austin has a number of community partners and departments that assist with youth leadership. The Department of Aviation and the Convention Center have played an important role as they have participated in hosting interns (about 20 each) annually for the last three years. Additionally, Bank of America has been a sponsor for the Emerging Leaders Summer Internship Program for the last six years, providing 100% of the funding. The program employs



Members of the City of Austin's Youth Council

at least 55 interns to work in jobs throughout the City to develop leadership skills and attain real-world work experience.

The Boy Scouts of America has multiple programs and initiatives that focus on the empowerment of underprivileged youth through the means of education. To date, the City has placed 25 high school interns at the Boy Scouts through the City of Austin Summer Internship Program.

Youth Spin is a radio program that offers perspectives through the lens of Austin Youth. The collective has been recognized nationally by the National Federation of Broadcasters as a model for youth radio programs. Youth Spin

also participates in PRX, the Public Radio Exchange. Other City of Austin Departments and Divisions have supported Summer Youth Programs by taking on interns and providing them with professional experience.

Real World Impact

Austin's youth engagement programs have provided youth with the tools they need to further their development both socially and professionally. A previous Youth Summer Program Intern with disabilities completed a 6-week internship program with the Aviation Department in 2016 & 2017. His interest was in Engineering, Computer Science, and

Graphic Design at the time he applied for the Aviation Department Internship Program. This high school student aspired to be active in the community, despite his challenges.

Throughout his internship, this student grew increasingly confident in reporting to work without an anxiety dog. The following year, this intern applied for the 2018 Bank of America Leadership Program where he graduated into Alumni status. This student's parents continue to express their gratitude for providing their son with the opportunity to experience the professional work environment, while sharpening soft skills, and helping him overcome numerous hurdles.



Mayor
Martin J.
Walsh

Boston

Leadership Development

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has been a driving force for many of Boston's youth programs. His office runs a youth leadership initiative that provides over 3,500 youth entry-level employment experience, with more than 200 community-based organizations. These jobs give youth experiences that are engaging and meaningful. The City of Boston additionally offers a youth internship program for those interested in contributing to the inner workings of the City.

Mayor's Youth Council

Mayor Walsh was instrumental in establishing the Mayor's Youth Council, which encourages youth civic engagement and participation in government. Members of the Youth Council are appointed by Mayor Walsh to connect, engage, and empower Boston's diverse youth population. Ninety-six youth from around the City of Boston currently serve on the Mayor's Youth Council. The Council works on specific committees that bring a youth perspective to focus areas such as arts and culture, civic engagement, and education.

Youth Lead the Change

Youth Lead the Change is the first youth-led participatory budgeting process of its kind. Created by Mayor Walsh, this initia-

tive allows youth to decide how one million dollars of the City's budget is spent. Boston youth collaborate with one another - sharing ideas, developing projects, and voting to select projects to fund.

Department of Boston Centers for Youth & Families

The Department of Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) division of Youth Engagement & Employment (DYEE) is a one-stop engagement and resource center for all topics relating to youth. They connect, advocate for, and serve young residents in Boston, helping youth develop the necessary skills and abilities that they need as they continue to move forward.

DYEE connects teens, age 15-18, to jobs throughout the year, engaging Boston's youth in the civic process, and providing opportunities for career development. BCYF offers 200 youth, age 13-14, the opportunity to gain high-quality service learning and leadership experience during July and August. BCYF also offers a program called SuperTeens, an initiative that exists in every Boston neighborhood to help foster teen engagement.

Participants attend weekly leadership development workshops, and gain hands-on employment experience by working in BCYF community centers and participating in field trips to Boston's arts and

enrichment institutions. Teens receive a stipend at the end of the program if they complete all required activities and meet attendance goals.

Youth Voter Registration

The City of Boston not only works to assist youth with their professional development, but also helps register young voters in the community with programs and ordinances to improve civic engagement.

In 2018, Mayor Walsh signed a citywide ordinance increasing access to voter registration. This new legislation aims to provide more opportunities for residents to submit voter registration forms when routinely interacting with City departments and agencies including the Boston Public Library, the Boston Transportation Department, Boston Public Schools, and BCYF. The ordinance has made it possible for City departments to provide voter registration forms to youth at locations that they frequent.

In 2018, Boston Public Schools Welcome Centers and high schools will provide pre-registration information and forms to all students eligible to pre-register to vote, and also to parents or legal guardians when registering children for school. Boston Public Schools will develop a policy to ensure that as many eligible students as possible have the opportunity to vote on Election Day.

Day of Service

Boston regularly administers programs for younger children to participate in a variety of City activities. Annually, BCYF plans a day of service in April, granting the opportunity for elementary school-age children to participate in the “One Boston Day” service events.

This day of service is intended to reflect upon and honor those lost and injured during the Boston Marathon bombings. There are service events and activities held throughout the City. Children, along with their parents or guardians, help clean parks, visit fire stations, and participate in City beautification in Boston’s open spaces.

Community Partners

Since 2015, The United Way Youth Venture partnership with the City of Boston has served 800 youth in Boston, age 16-20. The collaboration invests in teams of youth to develop, launch, manage, and sustain community-benefiting projects, and to provide them with ongoing training, mentoring, and financial support to actualize their ideas. Working with industry leaders in the fields of marketing, technology, community development, and fi-

nance, the program provides experiential learning opportunities for youth - building readiness for jobs and careers through communication, project management, leadership, and teamwork.

Social Media Outreach

To teach youth about City programs, the City of Boston’s social media team works with City departments that engage with youth using Twitter and Facebook to broadcast specific opportunities available to youth. In the Department of Youth Engagement, social media is one of the primary tools used to inform youth of employment and leadership opportunities. DYEE also depends on text notifications to engage and communicate with youth.

Success Stories

Boston’s youth programs have provided many young Boston residents with the skills and experience they need to pursue their aspirations in the world. One young resident in particular is Malachi Hernandez, who was born and raised in Upham’s Corner, a neighborhood of Boston. Malachi is an active member within his community. He has worked with nonprofit organizations, including The City School and

Beantown Society, where he developed and strengthened his leadership skills to become an effective leader for social justice. Malachi has worked at the City of Boston’s Department of Youth Engagement and Employment as well as in the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development.

Serving as an MBK Ambassador and Advisory Board Member for My Brother’s Keeper Boston, Malachi has offered remarks at local community events, has been featured on CNN to speak about the injustices that he experienced growing up in a low-income environment, and also had the opportunity to introduce former President Barack Obama at the final MBK summit at the White House. Mentoring and youth advocacy are two matters that Malachi holds dear to his heart.

Continuously aspiring to be a voice for those in need, Malachi is majoring in Political Science and Communications at Northeastern University, as a TORCH Scholar. It is his hope that he can continue to pave the way for those who can benefit from his example, and to one day even serve as Mayor of the City of Boston.



Mayor
Stephen K.
Benjamin

Columbia

Columbia Youth Commission

The City of Columbia is currently in the process of re-establishing its Youth Commission, and will be expanding it in order to be both representative of the City of Columbia and also Richland County at-large.

Columbia's Youth Commission is a program that provides students with strong leadership skills, and more broadly improves services and programs for youth within the community. Youth Commission members work to bridge the gap between adults and youth, fostering a greater sense of unity, communication, and partnership throughout the City. The program extends a warm welcome to students, between the ages of 14 and 18, to become actively involved with the community.

Roles and responsibilities of the Youth Commission include:

- Commenting on legislation and policies that impact youth;
- Creating public service programs that improve the lives of youth;
- Monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of youth programs and policies;
- Designing program evaluation measures that consider aspects of a program that matter most to youth;
- Partnering with youth organizations on shared issues; and
- Preparing peers for leadership roles, post-secondary education, and professional careers.

The primary purpose of Columbia's Youth Commission is to encourage youth involvement, enhance leadership skills, and to voice the policy ideas and concerns of Columbia's youth. The City also aims to provide civic participation and involvement in the community while promoting positive activities and opportunities for its youth.

Moving Forward

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin believes that it is imperative for youth to be involved with their government and local political process. To create a new avenue for their active leadership, the City of Columbia Youth Commission will meet with the Mayor, City Council, and key city staff to discuss how various issues affect the youth in the community.

Members of the Columbia Youth Commission will be provided with an opportunity

to speak directly with members of Columbia's City Council, key senior staff within the City, and community leaders who work directly in areas that are critical to the community's quality of life. Members of the Commission will receive an education on how local government operates and responds to the needs of its residents.

Additionally, the City of Columbia and Richland County will hold a city and county-wide election, similar to how typical municipal and county elections are held. One youth commissioner will be elected from each city district, with three at-large representatives from the County.

Youth Internship Programming

The Columbia Urban League helps administer Columbia's Science Technology Enrichment Program (STEP), which serves as the City's primary internship effort.

STEP, formerly known as the Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP), is a transition from the Summer Work Experience Leadership Program, and maintains an evidence-based, best-practice career development initiative for primarily disadvantaged and underserved youth, between the age of 14 and 19.

Columbia Urban League

The Columbia Urban League provides work experiences that include exposure to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment in the emerging global workforce.

The program is a way to deter youth from violence and expose them to careers that will help them compete in today's workforce. The City of Columbia, which has been a sponsor of the program since 2010, has provided 23 sites for students to gain valuable work experience. Students work two weeks per session, from June 11 through August 3.

Youth Voter Registration

Columbia has several groups that regularly and actively assist high school students in registering to vote. One group in particular targets

predominantly minority high schools and educates them on qualifications for voting. The University of South Carolina also has a group on campus that works to register college students.

Community Partners

Cigna Insurance recently donated \$25,000 to start the Books 2 Boys + Girls program, which provides free books to K-5 students in Columbia, by hosting themed book fairs. The program has expanded to include a community policing component, encouraging police officers to personally provide the boys and girls with books. The aim is to help build strong, positive relationships between participating youth and Columbia's police officers.

EngenuitySC has a partnership with Richland County School District One. In June of 2013, EngenuitySC launched a new program with Lower Richland

High School to educate students, teachers, and parents on the importance of STEM, and expose them to career opportunities and pathways to success.

Over the past five years, thanks to the leadership of Richland County School District One, this program has expanded to include the arts - taking us from STEM to STEAM - and has extended to three more schools in the Lower Richland cluster: Hopkins and Southeast Middle Schools, as well as Gadsden Elementary School.

As of the 2017-2018 school year, The City of Columbia is also proud to be delivering its signature entrepreneurship and soft skills programs at CA Johnson, Eau Claire and Columbia High Schools.



Mayor
Mike
Rawlings

TEXAS

Dallas

Dallas Youth Commission

Over the past 24 years, The Dallas Youth Commission has provided a much-needed voice for students in Dallas, with the purpose of bringing impactful change to the community. The diverse, 15-member board consists of high school students who are dedicated to public service and aspire to become effective future leaders.

Since its inception, the Youth Commission has spearheaded numerous projects that include youth forums, community service events, crime prevention programs, an anti-smoking ordinance, and a youth resources guide. The Commission maintains a focus on increasing student voter registration and turnout in local and national elections, and utilizes Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to engage directly with youth in the city.

North Texas Regional Youth Forum

Young leaders in Dallas have the opportunity to participate in the North Texas Regional Youth Forum. The forum provides a platform for young people to engage in an open dialogue with each other, across North Texas, on issues of importance to youth.

Participants engage in interactive and focused discussions to address the needs

of young people in their cities, as well as the challenges that they face as future leaders. Participants identify possible avenues for youth to become active in their communities; they also help identify the roles that youth and youth-led organizations can play in current public policy areas.

The North Texas Regional Youth Forum showcases examples and projects where youth are already making a difference. In 2017, the Forum focused on three major issues: education, healthy lifestyle, and career planning.

Mayor's Intern Fellows Program

Dallas has an intensive youth internship program for youth to help kick-start their professional careers. The Mayor's Intern Fellows Program (MIFP) was designed in 2007, with the mission of helping all Dallas youth pursue a college education or career. In an effort to realize this mission, the City of Dallas searched for opportunities to help create an educated workforce that could build effective organizations and strong communities in today's knowledge-based economy. The Mayor's Intern Fellows Program continues to introduce exemplary Dallas high school students to future careers, professional employment opportunities, and valuable workplace skills, while providing local companies, nonprofits

and government entities a meaningful way to make an investment in Dallas youth and its future workforce.

The Mayor's Intern Fellows Program is an eight-week, paid summer internship program that introduces Dallas public high school students to careers and employment opportunities in industries and companies where they express interest. Modeled after the prestigious White House Fellows, MIFP prepares motivated students to become the leaders of tomorrow. Since its inception, MIFP has provided 2,165 students with internships.

Mayor's Intern Fellows work in a variety of fields including accounting, advertising/marketing, architecture, banking and financial services, education, engineering, government, healthcare, hospitality, law, public relations, and technology. The program provides extensive work-readiness training to all students who apply, and additional leadership development to selected interns.

As internships draw to a close in August, students and their employers, program sponsors, and additional area leaders join the Mayor at an impressive Intern Fellows Luncheon celebrating the scholars and their outstanding accomplishments.

Under Mayor Rawlings, the MIFP has vastly increased the number of internships that it provides - from 59 in 2001 to 392 in 2017



Members of the Dallas Youth Commission

- making it one of the largest internship programs in the country. Mayor Rawlings aims to provide even more opportunities for young scholars to gain valuable hands-on experiences as they enter Dallas' future workforce.

Real World Impact: TEDx Kids@SMU

TEDxKids@SMU is a one-of-a-kind experience and the first TED-style conference for kids. Middle school students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade from across North Texas come to SMU's campus to engage in discussions pertaining to innovative and

cutting-edge ideas. The experience is free of charge, and as part of the program, each student volunteers 4 hours of service back to the community.

When Heather Hankamer, the Director of TEDx at Southern Methodist University, saw a news story on Fox 4 that featured high school senior Mary Orsak and her work with the Dallas Youth Commission, she knew that Mary would have a compelling story to tell - a story from a student leader in local government who would undoubtedly inspire an audience of middle schoolers.

In 2017, at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium, Orsak gave her TEDx Kids talk titled "Take Your Seat at the Table." She focused her talk on how no one should ever feel ashamed of their age. In her talk, she highlighted her non-profit organization Story Power Inc. and the Dallas Youth Commission. Her talk was an enormous success, and has inspired middle schoolers from across Dallas to engage in public service.



Mayor
Steve
Schewel

Durham

Durham Youth Commission

The Durham Youth Commission (DYC) was created in 2005 to actively involve youth in policy issues affecting youth, broaden the scope of youth leadership in Durham affairs, promote experimental learning on the functions of government, and develop positive civic leadership for the future of the community.

The DYC is one of 25 chartered North Carolina State Youth Councils and consists of 25-30 high school-age members who are selected through an application process and serve one to four-year terms. Members are taught civic engagement, attend conferences around the state to collaborate and learn from other youth councils, and participate in various service learning initiatives throughout the region.

In 2018, the DYC will work with the City of Durham's Office on Youth to redefine its scope and purpose, with an emphasis on shifting from programming and service to advocacy and youth empowerment. As part of this transition, youth will build skills in racial equity, advocacy, and other areas. Youth participants will work with elected officials and other Durham youth to create new opportunities for authentic youth engagement in local government. The ultimate goal is for youth to have decision-making power in

the City of Durham, and in Durham County, so that they can be active participants in creating community change.

Youth Empowered Solutions

Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!) is a non-profit organization that empowers youth, in partnership with adults, to create community change. YES! is working with the Office on Youth and the DYC to cultivate support and buy-in from city and county leadership to create opportunities for youth to lead and to set the future direction for Durham.

YES! is supporting the DYC in redefining their vision and scope, and providing training in racial equity, advocacy, and other skills. YES! is also working closely with the Office on Youth to develop strategies that truly empower youth as leaders and decision-makers within local government.

Youth Voter Registration

Durham's Office on Youth and the DYC partner on various initiatives with Kids Voting Durham, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, and a program of the Durham County Cooperative Extension, that helps young people understand and believe in the power that they have as active citizens and informed voters.

Each year, Kids Voting Durham provides an authentic voting experience for local, state, and national elections in which K-12 students are given an opportunity to vote on the same candidates and issues as adults. Students also hold their own candidate forum and develop a candidate guide. The DYC partners with Kids Voting Durham to help facilitate these initiatives.

The Durham YouthWork Internship Program

Along with the DYC, the City of Durham offers an internship program for Durham's young people. The Durham YouthWork Internship Program offers Durham youth, ages 14-24, the opportunity to gain work experience and develop skills through paid summer internships in local businesses, nonprofits, as well as within City and County government.

Approximately 200 youth, and more than 70 employers, benefit from the six-week internship program each summer. The City of Durham is committed to expanding the program over the next several years with the goal of eventually hosting 1,000 youth annually.

The YouthWork Internship program operates through a partnership between the City of Durham's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Durham County, Durham Public Schools' Career and Tech-

nical Education, Durham Technical Community College, and Made in Durham. The team takes great care to place students with employers based on fit, needs, and interest. During the selection process, all applicants are interviewed and receive professional feedback on their performance.

Before internships begin, supervisors receive training on best practices for supervising and working with youth. Interns participate in training sessions on career-readiness skills, financial literacy, resume writing, managing time cards, and other fundamentals intrinsic to a professional workplace. Interns receive support from summer counselors during placement, and feedback is collected throughout the process to help inform ongoing improvements. YouthWork is a core component of the education-to-career system being created by business, education, government, and nonprofits partners.

The education-to-career system aims to create a system of career pathways and support mechanisms that enable all Durham youth to graduate from high school, earn a postsecondary credential, and secure living-wage work by age 25.

Connecting Through Social Media

To improve youth outreach, the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Department launched the MyDurham program, a free, membership-based, after-school program open to young adults between 13-18 years old. Activities and events offered are tailored based on youth preferences. Paid teen Marketing Ambassadors help expand outreach to teens by promoting the offerings on social media and keeping announcements fresh and relevant.

The City of Durham, with guidance from youth and Public Affairs experts, is actively investigating strategies to increase its social media presence to engage youth, not only for the MyDurham program, but also for the Durham Youth Commission and Office on Youth activities.

Community Partners

The City of Durham has partnered with a number of organizations to assist Durham youth in multiple areas. For example: GoDurham provides public transportation within the City of Durham and operates bus and demand-response service to residents and to those visiting Durham. GoDurham also helps riders plan transit trips, provides ride-matching tools, and also finds open vanpools and additional transportation services. In August 2018, GoDurham joined GoTriangle, GoRaleigh, and GoCary to launch the Youth GoPass program. This program allows anyone 18 years or younger to ride any bus in the region for free.

GoDurham also enacted a program that enables 19-21 year-olds, pursuing their GED, to ride the bus free of charge. GoDurham is exploring strategies to engage youth in the Youth GoPass roll-out and hopes to create a youth ambassador program that will empower youth to promote the program to peers, take an active role in improving the transit system, and also to develop strategies to increase ridership among youth.

The City of Durham and East Durham Children's Initiative (EDCI) partner on a number of initiatives that support younger children, including preschool programming, recreational opportunities, and a children's savings program. EDCI's mission is to cre-

ate a pipeline of high-quality services from birth through high school graduation for families living in East Durham.

Durham County is an important partner in a number of youth programs. For example, Project BUILD is a gang prevention and intervention program that provides coordinated case management and services to youth, ages 14-21, who are at high risk of gang involvement. The project is based in the Durham County Department of Public Health and is a joint project of Durham County and the City of Durham. A multi-disciplinary intervention team coordinates service delivery for youth in this program.

In 2017, the City of Durham and Durham County jointly created a new youth effort to help provide direction for youth programs throughout the Durham area. The effort aims to ensure that all youth in Durham, ages 5-24, have the resources and support that they need to succeed in life.

The initiative is focused on three priorities:

- 1) Facilitating authentic youth engagement in decision-making processes;
- 2) Fostering better alignment and coordination among youth-serving programs and services; and
- 3) Connecting more youth and families to Durham's resources.

The partnership between the City and County is taking a data-driven approach and partnering with youth, the community, and other stakeholders to identify needs and achieve desired outcomes.



Mayor
Shane
Bemis

Gresham

Gresham Youth Advisory Council

The City of Gresham maintains a strong Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Council members work to bridge and create an overall understanding between local youth and the City by finding creative and effective ways to educate the public concerning issues affecting Gresham's young people.

Gresham's Youth Advisory Council provides a voice to elected officials and City decision makers regarding public issues, projects, and proposals that have an impact on youth. The YAC provides an annual report to the City Council on their projects over the past year and their priorities for the community. During bimonthly meetings, members of the YAC also focus on leadership and professional skill-building.

Gresham's YAC has recently spearheaded two different mural projects in town, in collaboration with the Gresham Police Neighborhood Enforcement Team. The murals celebrate diversity and unity within the City of Gresham. YAC has also helped organize and achieve two Guinness Book of World Records, with members of the Gresham community, at the City's annual Arts Festival.

Gresham Summer Works Program

The City of Gresham has a SummerWorks program that provides paid internships for community youth in every department within the City, supported financially by the County. The program not only provides paid summer work and resume building, but also provides a glimpse of the various public service jobs within the City.

Fifteen interns total are placed throughout City departments during the summer. The internships provide local youth with hands-on experience and a chance to do meaningful work for the Gresham community.

The City offers internship opportunities in areas including: natural resources, recycling solid waste, stormwater, urban design and planning, human resources, IT, fleet services, community livability, summer recreation, facilities, and parks. Internships are also offered within the City Attorney's Office, as well as in the Office of Governance and Management.

Gresham Youth Summit

The City of Gresham hosted a Youth Summit in 2018 that was comprised of youth from six area high schools, including alternative high schools, in the area. Approximately 100 youth came to City Hall,

where Mayor Bemis moderated a discussion that focused on safety in schools, bullying, and technology. The technology segment took a deep dive particularly into the future of jobs and education within the City of Gresham.

The summit began with a presentation of "Youth by the Numbers," where the size, political opinions, and facts about young people in Oregon were presented to participating youth. The summit utilized an app for a live polling feature to gauge the participants' feelings on particular topics and questions. The Mayor's message to the youth was clear: "Be engaged in your community and government. If you want to see a change, you need to be engaged to help make it a reality."

Helping Students Learn About Civics & Community Involvement

Mayor Bemis continues to stay connected to the local community by personally visiting local high schools and guest-teaching a U.S. government class. During the class, the Mayor speaks on issues pertaining to local-government and includes a long Q&A session for the students. He plans to continue guest teaching at local high schools annually.

Each year, Mayor Bemis and the City Council recognize an exemplary youth from each of the eight local high schools. Known as the Great Young Citizen Awards, recognized youth are honored at a reception with the Mayor and also at a City Council Meeting. Recognized youth are nominated by their classmates and demonstrate strong leadership and dedication to public service.

Mayor Bemis and the City of Gresham annually host elementary students for a “City Day.” Fourth graders spend a unit learning about the City, which includes a field trip to City Hall. Mayor Bemis leads a mock council for the children and quizzes them on City facts. The children also have the opportunity to tour the police and fire departments.

Gresham Reads

Mayor Bemis and his wife created a program called Gresham Reads. The program aims to expand literacy among children, from infants to grade school age. Eight Gresham restaurants have bookshelves for the Gresham Reads program. The City stocks the bookshelves with a variety of books from infant to sixth grade reading levels. Children are encouraged to read the books while at the restaurants and even take the books home. The program operates through book donations from local bookstores and residents.

Commission on Children and Families

Two years ago, The City of Gresham established a Commission on Children and Families. The Commission met regularly for a year to research and advise the City Council on the development, implementation, maintenance of strategies, policies, and programs designed to strengthen and engage Gresham’s Children and families. The City has undertaken multiple recommendations from the Commission including: mentoring for youth, youth programming within the City, construction of a Boys & Girls Club, Summer Kids in the Park (SKIP), Late Night Basketball, and more.

One primary recommendation from the Commission was to expand youth mentorship programs, and despite not having many nonprofit programs operating in that space, Gresham got creative and found community leaders who were willing to form a new nonprofit organization to spearhead the initiative.

The City provided office space in the Mayor’s office at City Hall for the team, and helped the new nonprofit raise initial funding to get up and running. The program is now thriving, changing lives, and continues to pull Gresham residents and members of the business community into their mission as they grow.

Social Media Outreach

The City of Gresham strategically uses Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote its youth programs, and to particularly help Gresham’s young people find internship opportunities. Gresham’s social medial platforms are also helpful in highlighting the local projects and efforts of Gresham’s Youth Advisory Commission.

Real World Success

Sarah was a high school student that participated in a paid 180-hour internship with the City in the communications and IT departments. Sarah participated in a digital media and design program in high school and had a passion for photography and graphic design. After her internship, she was offered a part-time position in Gresham’s communications department to extend her internship while she studied integrated media at the local community college.

After a total of 6 months, the City created a new Public Service Apprentice position for Sarah so that she could continue her work for the City and continue to build her skills part-time while attending college.



Mayor
Madeline
Rogero

Knoxville

The City of Knoxville's Save Our Sons Initiative

Knoxville has taken enormous strides to hear the voices of its young people, and bring them to the table when it comes to addressing important social issues that the community routinely faces. A key part of this effort has included the development of numerous strategies to amplify youth voices and help them feel both more protected and heard by their community.

Knoxville's Save Our Sons (SOS) program is an incredibly effective and innovative initiative within the City. In 2013, Mayor Rogero convened a local advisory group of community leaders and stakeholders to form the SOS initiative and identify challenges facing Knoxville's boys and young men of color. The program was established in an effort to eliminate violence-related deaths, address opportunity gaps, and to create a blueprint of success through programs designed to help participants think more broadly about the future.

To be certain that all stakeholders were heard, Mayor Rogero hosted an SOS Summit in 2014. Over 180 participants from more than 60 agencies, organizations, and churches participated. The summit helped participants better understand individual challenges and identify solutions to increase the effectiveness

of current community efforts in creating education and career pipelines.

Building on the SOS Summit, Mayor Rogero hosted the Sons Summit in 2015 to hear from over 150 boys and young men of color, age 10-18, for frank discussions about the barriers they face and the strategies they would like to see developed to increase opportunities for success. Participants discussed how their voices could be used to create safe, healthy, and prosperous communities for themselves and for their peers.

Mayor Rogero empowered the youth to plan, market, and facilitate the summit. Data was recorded and evaluated from both summits leading to the launching of several initiatives and pilot programs to enhance opportunities for youth entering the 21st-century workforce.

SOS Youth Advisory Council

Currently, SOS is in the process of developing a Youth Advisory Council. The Council will consist of eight young men and boys, age 14-24. The young men will become ambassadors for youth involvement, community engagement, and community organizing activities. In addition, the young men will receive personal and professional development training and be provided with a platform to learn how to exercise responsibility and ownership over outcomes for

themselves, their peers, and their community. An application and interview process will be conducted to select the Council.

Community Partnerships

To sponsor youth involvement in Knoxville throughout the year, the City collaborates with community partners to host back to school events, community clean-ups, leadership symposiums, and workshops. The SOS Initiative has hosted multiple Sons Summit Empowerment Sessions that focus on strategies to help participants overcome barriers to success. Surveys are distributed in an effort to receive insight from the young men to increase the overall effectiveness of City and community efforts.

The City's SOS initiative collaborates with additional community partners to help young people develop leadership skills. One such program is Project Reach, a partnership with the YWCA to provide paid internships that offer personal and professional development training, as well as community service learning projects, to at-risk youth.

Project Hope

Project Hope is a partnership with Johnson University that provides a \$500 stipend to teams of high school students to incentivize them to engage with and talk



Youth involved in Knoxville's paid internship program

in-depth about their communities. Each team is responsible for designing and delivering a community-based project that meets a critical need within the City of Knoxville.

The projects can address a range of issues including the criminal justice system, food inequality, health disparities, affordable housing, spatial justice, and economic development. The City also partners with Vine Middle School for the Real Talk Program, an initiative that encourages and empowers

students to focus on topics that impact their futures, particularly pertaining to college and career development.

Internship Opportunities

The City of Knoxville offers six-week paid internship opportunities for young people, age 17-22, during the summer. Internships provide job shadowing opportunities in City Departments, professional development classes, community servant leader training, and a community service project.

Interns are provided the opportunity to use a social media campaign to advertise a City-sponsored skate party that promotes unity and non-violence. In the past, Mayor Rogero, KPD Police Chief David Rausch, KFD Fire Chief Stan Sharp, City of Knoxville Department Heads and their families, and over 200 youth from across the City have participated.



Mayor
Hazelle P.
Rogers

Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Lakes Student Youth Council

In 2009, the City adopted an ordinance that formed a Student Youth Council, composed of students who attend several of the schools in Lauderdale Lakes. The City Commission was determined to create the Youth Council in order to provide an opportunity for the youth to acquire knowledge of and appreciation for the American political system, through hands-on participation.

The Youth Council was established to serve the City in a number of ways: to keep the Mayor and Commission abreast of the issues that affect the City's youth; assist with the planning of social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for youth; and work with the Mayor, City Commission, and City staff to provide service and leadership opportunities for the City's young people.

The Youth Council consists of youth, grades 9-12, from local schools. The students meet five days a week to combine their talents and energy to address particular issue areas, and to design youth initiatives that fit their needs.

The Youth Council has been involved in several noteworthy projects. For example, the "Mayor and Commissioner for a Day" project is an annual program held in May,

in collaboration with the City of Lauderdale Lakes Youth Council and the Lauderdale Lakes Kiwanis Club.

Through participation in this project, the Youth Council has an opportunity to learn about the policy-making process as well as the inner workings of municipal government. On the day before the event, the Council meets with the Mayor, Commissioners, Executive Staff, the Police Chief, and the Fire Chief. Members of the Youth Council later have the opportunity to play each of these roles as part of the program. The youth also have the opportunity to tour City departments and meet with key leaders as they prepare. During the "Mayor and Commission for a Day" event, participating youth conduct a mock Commission Meeting and discuss and vote on topics that are important to their everyday lives.

The Youth Council is also incredibly proud of the work that it's doing with the annual "Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference." The Conference is a collaborative effort, sponsored by Attorney General Pam Bondi, to foster communication and action among practitioners - through the sharing of innovative ideas and prevention strategies that have proved successful in the community.

A major component of the 2018 Conference was directed toward exploring alternatives to violence among young people. The agenda was designed to showcase successful programs and promote a positive exchange of ideas among youth. The Youth Council participated in workshops and panel discussions, providing helpful solutions in preventing crime and violence within the City of Lauderdale Lakes, and throughout the State of Florida.

Since participating in the Conference, the Youth Council has launched the "Stop the Violence Campaign" in an effort to reduce violence in schools. As they continue their efforts, the Council will work closely with state and local leaders.

Voter Registration

In an effort to encourage students to take part in the political process, the City adopted a resolution to encourage residents to take advantage of their opportunity to vote.

A critical component of the resolution reads: "Whereas, 18 to 29-year-olds make up an estimated 31 percent of the electorate, yet on average in the United States turn out to vote less than 50 percent of the time; and Whereas, young people are encouraged to register to vote and most importantly vote."



Youth Internships and Summer Jobs

To assist youth with work experience and career exploration, the City of Lauderdale Lakes participates in the Summer Youth Employment Program through Career Source Broward. The key purpose of the Summer Youth Employment Program is to provide youth, between the age of 16 and 18, with a nine-week summer-long learning experience. The program includes lessons about how to obtain a job, how to keep a job, and how to turn any job into an investment of time and effort for the future.

Summer Youth Employment Program participants also learn how to dress for an

interview, how to conduct themselves in a professional manner, how to value their time commitments to a job, and how to make the most of their translatable skills from any such opportunity. Participants primarily work as clerical and financial services assistants. The youth are left with a wealth of knowledge of working within a municipal entity as well as how to conduct themselves in a professional work environment.

Connecting with Youth Through Social Media

The City of Lauderdale Lakes has used a variety of strategies to reach youth, including social media. As a back to school kickoff this year, summer camp participants created an anti-bullying and school safety

video that was showcased on the City's Media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, the City's Website, and a local cable channel. The children were encouraged to share the video with their friends and family. Moving forward, the Youth Council is currently working on creating its own social media page on Facebook.

This page will highlight the Youth Council's accomplishments and encourage additional youth to become involved with their community efforts. The City's Public Information Officer will assist with this project to ensure that the Council is taking safety precautions and being responsible while developing and utilizing their Facebook Page.



Mayor
Greg
Fischer

Louisville

One Love Louisville

One Love Louisville's "Be The One to Make a Difference" campaign was born out of the Louisville Blueprint for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods: Phase II. Published in 2015, the Campaign is a call to action to all sectors, communities, and neighborhoods in Louisville.

The main focus of this initiative is to allow every resident to realize that they have a stake in the well-being of the City. The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, along with its affiliates and partners, strongly believe that City violence can only be reduced through a collective and organized effort.

One Love Louisville is a citywide strategy to unite neighbors, provide opportunity for youth, and to create healthy objectives to help negate violence. The City of Louisville maintains the belief that it cannot rely on a few individuals to make a last change, it takes everyone.

Youth Implementation Team

The One Love Louisville Youth Implementation Team (YIT), includes youth and young adults, 13-24 years of age, who serve as advisors to the Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods team and also to One Love Louisville.

The primary goal of the Youth Implementation Team is to assist with the execution of the One

Love Louisville Youth Edition Action Plan. As a member of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, YIT has committed itself to narrowing a percentage of its efforts to youth and young adults, from birth to age 24.

Youth Edition Action Plan

Youth Edition focuses on increasing positive outcomes for youth who reside in Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) divisions one, two, and four.

Local data illustrates that young adults, age 18-30 years, lose their lives as a result of homicide at a far greater rate than any other age group in Louisville. By focusing particular efforts on youth 24 years of age and under, Youth Edition has the potential to reduce the number of youth who are exposed to violence, become victims of violence, or, perpetuate violence.

Louisville's Youth Implementation Team (YIT) has five primary goals:

1. Create and promote opportunities for civic engagement;
2. Improve conditions that hinder educational attainment;
3. Support economic growth with a focus on the most economically challenged neighborhoods;

4. Enhance the quality of intervention with individuals and families at the first sign of risk; and
5. Promote a restorative justice community.

Members of the Youth Implementation Team receive:

- Strong insight into local government;
- Leadership development skills;
- Information about collaborative/group processes;
- An opportunity to meet leaders throughout government, community, faith, and corporate organizations;
- Knowledge of comprehensive city violence prevention efforts;
- Attendance to various events and activities;
- The opportunity to have their voices/thoughts/opinions heard publicly;
- Resume building experiences;
- The ability to inform and impact others on a large scale; and
- 40+ community service hours.



Members of Louisville's Youth Implementation Team

Community Partners

One Love Louisville partners include: Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville's Chief of Community Building, Louisville's Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods' Director, Louisville's Youth Engagement and Communications Liaison, Junior Fellows, Louisville's Metro Public Health and Wellness representative, as well as the Louisville Metro Police Department.

Louisville Intern Opportunities

The City of Louisville also provides a number of internship opportunities for youth. One of the more popular opportunities is called SummerWorks. The SummerWorks program is a collaboration with Louisville Metro Government and private and public sector organizations that employ City youth, from age 16-21, during the summer months.

As a participant in this program, students receive information about job opportunities that align with age, interests, and experience. Students are also provided with tips, tools, and workshops on how to land a job that they are truly interested in, as well as how to be an employee that an employer wants to hire. The program helps youth build a resume and assists in polishing their interview skills. Financial management resources are also provided to all program participants.



Mayor
Levar
Stoney

Richmond

Mayor's Youth Academy

Launched in 2010, the Mayor's Youth Academy works with Richmond's future leaders, age 14-19, to develop their professional skills.

It is the mission of the Mayor's Youth Academy to provide development opportunities to youth throughout the City of Richmond, including job readiness training, leadership development, exposure to entrepreneurship, mentoring, and post-secondary career exploration.

The Mayor's Youth Academy strives to accomplish the following goals: provide extensive training for youth, develop employability skills, promote civic engagement, expose youth to post-secondary educational and/or vocational opportunities, provide professional mentors and instructors in a variety of career paths, provide safe and constructive social outlets through supervised out of school activities, and encourage continued school enrollment.

The Mayor's Youth Academy oversees The City of Richmond's Youth Council as part of its Future Leaders program. Youth Council members participate in leadership development activities, higher education exploration, local government participation, civic engagement, and community service.

Youth Council participants are tasked with researching issues affecting teens in Richmond, developing a Youth Advocacy Agenda, and presenting their recommendations to City officials.

Real World Success

The Mayor's Youth Academy has benefited many young leaders since its inception. Three young leaders in particular - Morris, Yalik, and Edward - interned with Renew Richmond during the summer of 2018. Through their six week internship, they worked to convert a 1.5-acre vacant lot, next to a local high school, into a community farm designed to serve as a resource for healthy food, education, and community empowerment.

Mayor's Fellows Program

The Mayor's Fellows Program provides college and graduate school-aged participants with an extended opportunity to develop their leadership and professional skills. The experience has been designed to help participants integrate the knowledge and experiences that they have attained into their studies. Participants are expected to immerse themselves into public service and make significant contributions toward the completion of an important task or project - one that has a tangible, positive impact.

This "real world" setting allows participants to develop and hone their abilities as young leaders. The internships provide participants with an opportunity to think critically about their own actions, and those of others, so that they can become better stewards of their community. The Mayor's Youth Academy additionally offers summer internships at a variety of placements, including the Mayor's office itself.

Youth Voter Registration

To promote student civic engagement, Mayor Levar Stoney has partnered with Inspire USA and Richmond Public Schools to introduce the Mayor's Award for voter registration, which is awarded to the RPS high school with the highest voter registration rate. In an effort to advance this initiative, Mayor Stoney has visited all RPS high schools, along with representatives from Inspire and the City's registrar, to speak with students about the importance of voting.

Community Partners

The City of Richmond's youth programs have been made possible through significant investment from members of the City's philanthropic community. Specific partners include: Altria, The Community Foundation, The Robins Foundation, and United Way.

Additionally, The Community Foundation recently announced the creation of a new shared donor fund dedicated to the support of extracurricular programming in Richmond. United Way has announced the dedication of staff support particularly to help coordinate this programming.

The Community Foundation has also granted the City funds to create the position of Mayor's Senior Policy Advisor for Youth

Initiatives, which will be piloted for 18 months with grant support. On the nonprofit side, the City continues to collaborate with a robust provider network that includes: NextUp RVA, YMCA of Greater Richmond, Communities in Schools, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond.

Connecting Through Social Media

To reach youth through social media, the City has active Facebook and Twitter

accounts, as does Richmond Public Schools. Additionally, both the Superintendent and Mayor Stoney have active individual accounts that they use to directly engage with young people and the broader community.



Mayor
Bryan K.
Barnett

Rochester Hills

Rochester Hills Youth Council

Since 2005, the City of Rochester Hills has maintained a strong and substantive Youth Council program. The Rochester Hills City Council established the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC) to promote youth involvement in local government through active participation and the mutual exchange of ideas and experience.

The Council currently consists of 15 student leaders who are provided the opportunity to develop professional skills through actively participating with local departments and directors within the City. Through the program, participants hone their leadership abilities, and learn how various City departments operate.

Participating students are invited to sit on the dais at City Council meetings and submit a report from the Youth Council at each meeting. Through the program, Youth Council students engage with other youth leaders, network, and develop their communication skills. Students on the Youth Council have the resources and opportunities to become better leaders than they were before.

Youth Council Community Service

Each year, Rochester Hills' Youth Council organizes to launch a few impactful projects. One key project includes a community

clothing drive to benefit a local nonprofit within the City. Students plan this fundraiser to give back to the community throughout the winter months.

Each member is assigned to a particular dropoff location within the City during the clothing drive. Dropoff locations include: City Hall, the Department of Public Services, the public library, and several middle and high schools in the area. Members of the Youth Council help donate truckloads of winter coats, boots, and other clothing to the nonprofit of their choice.

Rochester Hills Youth Summit

Rochester Hills hosts a Youth Summit each year to promote leadership among middle and high school students in the community. The event offers leadership training for youth, and the opportunity for young people to listen to different speakers from the state who have experience within local government, media, and law. The summit also includes breakout sessions with Department Directors within the City.

Youth Voter Registration

The City of Rochester Hills works diligently to reach voters, specifically by encouraging students to engage in various policy initiatives and activities. The Clerk's Office visits each high school to register voters and

answer any election-related questions that students may have. The City's Youth Council also assists the Clerk's Office in voter registration in schools.

Social Media

Social media is used to promote civic participation in the City, and to encourage youth participation in a variety of additional Citywide activities. The City is highly advanced when it comes to social media and is known for utilizing innovative strategies for engaging with the community. The City of Rochester Hills has grown in the last decade, and a big piece of that growth emanates from the City's ability to engage directly with its residents.

Helping Young Children Engage in Civics & Community Programs

Each year, The Mayor's Office works with each Rochester Hills elementary school to plan field trips for the students to visit City Hall. Mayor Bryan Barnett speaks with the students about civic responsibility, and talks to them about how City Hall operates.

These field trips allow students to interact with their City Government first-hand, and to speak face-to-face with elected and appointed public officials.



Mayor Bryan Barnett with Members of the Rochester Hills Youth Council

Making a Tangible Difference

The City of Rochester Hills has partnered with the Rochester Hills School District and the Rochester College Community Foundation to assist in the development and administration of the City's youth programs.

Young people who participate in the Rochester Hills Youth Council often remain active even after they've graduated from the program. It is very common to have Youth Council alumni return in order to volunteer, and to speak with current Youth Council members about their experiences.

Nearly all Youth Council alumni who return to visit reflect on how they have become better leaders and citizens by being a part of the amazing opportunities that the City of Rochester Hills provides.



Mayor
Pete
Buttigieg

South Bend

South Bend Youth Task Force

The South Bend Youth Task Force (SBYTF), established in 2014, is composed of high school student leaders from the South Bend area. The mission of the task force is to pioneer efforts particularly to curb youth conflict and violence. The Task Force also leads community events and efforts to provide a youth perspective on the impact that youth violence has on the broader community.

Members of the SBYTF attend monthly community roundtable meetings in partnership with the South Bend Police Department, the South Bend Common Council's "Not in Our Community" initiative (which works to end the sale and use of synthetic cannabinoids), and also South Bend's My Brother's Keeper Community Initiative. SBYTF members share ideas and discuss ways to engage one another in decision making. Participants also help to strengthen the bond between young people and adults.

Members of the Task Force have routinely been asked to speak at community events and to serve as advisors to more experienced community leaders. Youth Council members have also participated in the South Bend Group Violence Intervention Strategy Core Group to help identify innovative methods for reducing violence within the South Bend Community.

A Tangible Impact

The Youth Task Force has made a positive impact on the lives of countless youth from the South Bend area. Jalen Williams, a current member of the Task Force, said about the program:

"Ever since I've joined the Task Force, I did not realize it, but it filled a void in my heart which I did not know was there," said Jalen.

Jalen has shared how being on the Task Force allowed him to be more involved in the South Bend community, changing the lives of his fellow peers. SBYTF members see themselves as lifetime participants and often return to volunteer their time as mentors and help facilitate SBYTF activities.

Youth Leadership South Bend/Mishawaka

The Youth Leadership South Bend/Mishawaka is an intensive student professional development program that offers youth an opportunity to hone their leadership skills and learn how to become stewards of their community.

One of the program's primary mission is to develop the capacity and commitment of people to recognize, understand, and respond to their community's needs through civic education, skill-building, and public service.

Each year, approximately 40 adults and 40 youth who live in South Bend, Mishawaka, or St. Joseph County receive leadership training facilitated by top community leaders from both the public and private sectors. The program strives to help youth participants recognize the leaders within themselves and to commit to a life of personal dedication and service to their community.

Internship Opportunities

The City of South Bend also has an internship program that is offered to high school and college students. Interns are given an opportunity to work in the Mayor's Office and other departments within the City. Through this program, students are offered real world training in specialized fields that prepare them for future professional careers..

At Washington High School's Medical Magnet Program, students are given internships that allow them to shadow health care professionals twice a week during the school year. Clinical rotations are held in different units at St. Joseph Hospital and Memorial Hospital; the site is required to stay within the curriculum provided by South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC).

The South Bend Chamber of Commerce INTERN South Bend Region program increases the quantity and quality of experiential learning in the South Bend Region. This program particularly helps to connect businesses with South Bend's next generation of talent.

South Bend Code School

The South Bend Code School is committed to making South Bend a "City That Codes" by eliminating the barrier between people and technology. The program accomplishes this by offering the opportunity for youth to learn coding skills and to obtain mentorships. In its one year of existence, the South Bend Code School has worked with seventy-four area students, including thirty-one young men of color.

Dedicated to the positive development of all youth, the Code School also works with WorkOne and the Juvenile Justice Center to provide justice-involved youth with a second chance, by offering them invaluable technical skills for building professional careers.

Voter Registration

The City of South Bend has implemented a number of initiatives to encourage young people to vote. The St. Joseph County African American Democratic Coalition has been particularly active in getting youth

registered and involved through canvassing, phonebanking, and helping other South Bend residents register to vote.

South Bend's young people have particularly been engaged in helping to register City residents to vote. Their desire to get involved in the political process has encouraged members of the South Bend Youth Task Force to start voter registration drives in their schools. Task Force members have worked with the Department of Voter Registration to come to schools in South Bend and speak with children to encourage them to vote when they come of age and register those who are eligible.

Engaging with Youth on Social Media

Social media platforms, like Facebook and Twitter, are used to announce promotions and to interact with youth in the community. The South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) uses its Twitter account to make announcements on youth programming. Each high school also has its own Twitter account where they acknowledge student accomplishments and provide updates on student activities.

Mayor Buttigieg uses his Twitter account to interact with residents, including youth, and often retweets SBCSC tweets, and other

youth-driven programs, so that his followers know about the great work happening in the community. The South Bend Youth Task Force has followed suit to communicate with youth and encourage their peers to serve as leaders within the community.

Community Partners

The Lawn Maintenance and Mentorship Program has been incredibly instrumental to the success of numerous youth in South Bend. The Lawn Maintenance and Mentorship Program was created to provide the City of South Bend with quality lawn maintenance for City-owned abandoned lots, while providing at-risk youth with meaningful work, life skills, and a personal income within a positive learning environment.

The City chose Greater Impact Lawn Care through a public bid to administer The Lawn Maintenance and Mentorship Program. The initiative focuses on teamwork, responsibility, adaptability, coachability, interpersonal skills, time management, self-image, mental toughness, perseverance, money management, and a positive attitude.



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