

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016 - 2017**

**OAKLAND YOUTH
ADVISORY
COMMISSION (OYAC)**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT (YLD)

Letter from the Co-Chairs, 2016-2017 Youth Advisory Commission

Dear Mayor Schaaf and Oakland City Council Members,

It has been an honor for us to serve as Youth Advisory Commission Co-Chairs for the past year and to continue the longstanding Oakland tradition of advocating for youth and community change. We, our fellow Commissioners, and our dedicated staff are excited and proud of the achievements during the 2016-2017 Commission year, despite key staffing transitions.

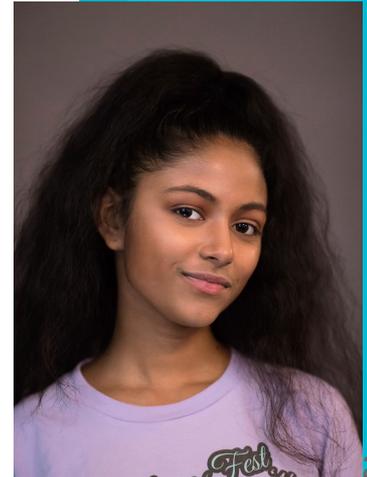
In this Annual Report you will learn about the many activities and accomplishments of the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC) this past year. OYAC is proud and honored to be a part of the growing movement to bridge the gap between youth and government and to continue showing decisionmakers that young people have a significant contribution to make and are the key to unlocking our City's greatest assets and potential.

Since its inception, the Youth Commission has made and will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our City's children and youth. The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission remains dedicated to youth leadership development, civic education/engagement and lifting up the voices of Oakland youth.

Sincerely,

Gloria Guzman and Rachel Dharmapalan

Co-Chairs, Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)



The **OYAC** is a diverse and civic-minded group of 15 emerging public servant leaders, ages 13-21.

2016-2017 COMMISSIONERS

Abel Regalado

12th grade, District 5

Addison Duchin

9th grade, District 4

Bethania Tadesse

11th grade, District 6

Secretary

Daisy Garcia

12th grade, District 5

Daijah White

10th grade, District 5

Elena Larsen

9th grade, District 4

Gloria Guzman

12th grade, District 7

Co-Chair

Jackeline Rivas

11th grade, District 6

Community Affairs Officer

Kamar Nelson,

10th grade, District 5

Kian Nouri,

11th grade, District 4

Media & Public Affairs Officer

Natalie Dharmapalan

7th grade, District 2

Rachel Dharmapalan

9th grade, District 2

Co-Chair

Rahma Mahdi

College Senior, District 1

UC Berkeley, Regents' and

Chancellor's Scholar

Roxana Perez

11th grade, District 7

OPD Explorer Program 2017

Ryan Hunt

11th grade, District 1

Government Affairs Officer

OYAC is housed in the Human Services Department, Children & Youth Services Division
Support Staff: Lindee Lane,
Youth Leadership & Development Coordinator





Established in 1985, the **Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)** works to improve the lives all of young people in Oakland and strives to represent the youth voice when meeting with community and civic leaders to advocate for youth issues.

OYAC works with youth-serving community-based organizations to learn about the diverse needs of Oakland youth and to ensure young people are provided with opportunities and resources that meet their unique needs.

OYAC empowers Oakland youth with leadership training, civic engagement opportunities and provides a platform for young people to enter the public arena and tackle important youth issues related to education, employment, public safety, the environment and health.



OYAC Principles

→ Civic Engagement

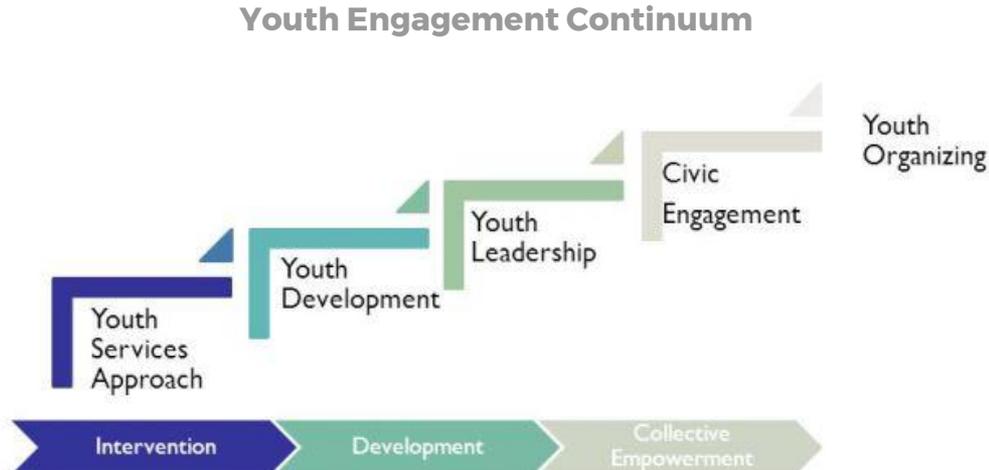
We believe that participating in local government is one of the surest pathways to influence positive lasting change for youth in our community.

→ Leadership

As such, we are committed to identifying and providing opportunities for youth to better understand and engage in local government.

→ Advocacy

We believe that young people know what's best for young people and as a unified voice, with the support of Adult Allies, youth can and will be heard!



Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change, Forum for Youth Investment

YOUTH-LED

What we've been up to in 2017

**Permanent support
staff position filled
at mid-year**

**Onboarding several
new Commissioners
at mid-year**

**Program ramp up
with new staff and
Commissioners**

These key factors led us to prioritize developing the following program areas:

**TEAM BUILDING &
EDUCATION**

AND

**GETTING
ORGANIZED**

Leadership & Team Building Retreat

In partnership with the **Youth Leadership Institute** we developed a youth commission-informed training and infused it with fun and a ton of team building activities at our two day retreat in January 2017:

- ❖ **Policy Making Process**
- ❖ **Public Speaking/Testimony**
- ❖ **Community Building for Change**
- ❖ **Oakland Political Landscape**
- ❖ **Policy Issues & Priorities**
- ❖ **Youth-Adult Partnership**
- ❖ **Youth-Led Research Action Planning**



Key Conferences & Workshops

CA Youth Commission Convention

- Cross-sharing experiences and strategies that work
- Legislative advocacy training and keynote

OUSD All City Council Youth Action Summit

- Learn about best practices for credit recovery
- Students share and discuss root causes of credit recovery and high dropout rate in Oakland

Youth Philanthropy

- Youth-to-youth grantmaking as a strategy
- Consensus building and decision making



Group Communication & Team Management

In order to optimize time and make work more efficient, the Commission is adopting TECHNOLOGY to get organized!

- ❖ **Group messaging phone app**
- ❖ **Exploring group project sharing apps**
- ❖ **Created a google group**
- ❖ **Exploring other google tools such as google sites to serve as info hub**



Public Presence

- ❖ **Commission designed new logo!**
- ❖ **Updated OYAC's City webpage**
- ❖ **Developed a social media strategy**
- ❖ **Created an OYAC Instagram page**
- ❖ **Revamped OYAC Facebook Page**
- ❖ **Developing promotional materials**



In March 2017 Commissioners decided to adopt subcommittees from previous terms as follows:

Public Safety Committee

Education Committee

Environment & Sustainability Committee

- The Commission is working on refining their committee purviews and may develop alternative committees in 2017-2018
- Staff and Commission are working with Urban Habitat and others to identify Adult Allies for each committee
- Each Commissioner has joined one committee and members have developed a standard meeting schedule
- Official committee business has not yet been conducted. Rather, Commissioners used the remainder of the year to build their teams, identify best communication tools and work on various aspects of overall OYAC projects within their respective Committees

Meeting with Mayor Schaaf

In February 2017, Commissioners had a lively Q&A with the Mayor to learn about her youth priorities and to identify overlapping goals and collaborative opportunities.

Women's March

The national Women's March movement represents principles that OYAC believes in and Commissioners expressed a strong desire to lift up these principles by building community together and marching as a team!



CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Commissioners also met with the following City and County departments and community based organizations at their standard meetings:

- **Public Libraries**
 - Teen Services presented by Youth Leadership Council
 - Learned about the need for more Teen Zones at OPL's
- **City Administrator's Office**
 - Government 101
- **Alameda County Public Health Department**
 - Learned about their proposed tobacco control ordinance
- **Secretary of State Alex Padilla's Office**
 - Learned about Register by 16 Vote by 18 Campaign
- **Oakland Natives Give Back**
 - Learned about the Higher Learning Jam , an event to prevent truancy and chronic absenteeism in OUSD
 - Eight Commissioners signed up for their planning team
- **Parks, Rec & Youth Development** *-Pending rescheduling-*
 - Learn about the youth development focus of the department



CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Below is a snapshot of some of the community events attended by Commission members and/or staff:

- ❖ **My Brother's Keeper Career Action Summit & Relaunch**
- ❖ **Oakland Youth Careers Expo**
- ❖ **OUSD Superintendent Search Forum (multiple)**
- ❖ **New Police Chief, Kirkpatrick Swear In & Townhall**
- ❖ **Measure LL Information Session at P.U.E.B.L.O.**
- ❖ **OPD Barbershop Discussions facilitating dialogue between the community and law enforcement**
- ❖ **Breaking Bread in tent city**
- ❖ **EOYDC's MLK Fundraiser**
- ❖ **United Nations Summit (Commissioner R. Perez)**
- ❖ **Fortune Builders financial literacy camp**
- ❖ **CORO Youth Development Fellowship Program (staff)**
- ❖ **AIDS HealthCare Foundation, Rise Above event**

**BE THE
CHANGE**



Staff met with the following organizations to build mutually beneficial partnerships:

SF Youth Commission

East Bay College Fund

Marin County Youth Commission

Urban Strategies Council

Fresno Youth Commission

Youth Leadership Institute

OUSD All City Council

Moving Forward Institute

OPL Youth Council

Movement Strategy Center

Urban Habitat

Oakland Natives Give Back

Key Issues & Impact

POLICY ACTIVITY

October 2016

Measure HH, Oakland vs. Big Soda;

presented by Roger Saechao, Organizing & Leadership Fellow

ACTION: OYAC voted unanimously to support Measure HH.

May 2017

Oakland Children Smoking Prevention Ordinance;

presented by, Alameda County Public Health Department

ACTIONS: OYAC voted unanimously to support the ordinance.

- ❖ OYAC drafted a letter of support and sent it to the Mayor and City Council Members
- ❖ OYAC Co-Chairs, Rachel Dharmapalan and Gloria Guzman testified in support of the ordinance at the May 9, 2017 Life Enrichment Committee Meeting of City Council.



Key Issues & Impact

In 2017, OYAC went through an extensive youth-led research action planning process and identified two high priority issue areas to focus on for project development:

1. **Youth Immigrant Issues**
2. **Youth/Community-Police Relations**

To learn more about their identified priority areas, Commissioners met with the following organizations:

- **Centro Legal de La Raza**
 - Topic: Immigration - Know Your Rights
 - Topic: Youth Law Academy Program
- **Oakland ReCAST**
 - Topic: Goal 3 - Improving Community-Law Enforcement Relations

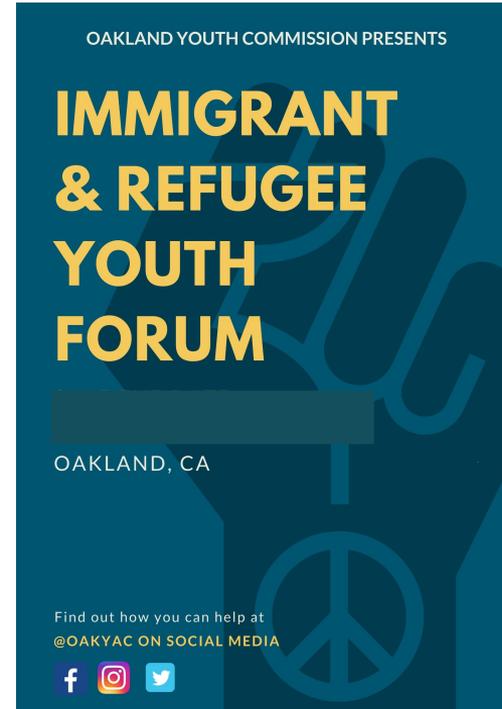
Key Issues & Impact

In response to their key priority areas, OYAC is developing the following projects that will carryover into the 2017-2018 Commission year:

The aim of this youth forum is to bring undocumented, refugee and immigrant youth together who are dealing with similar issues; providing a safe space to share their experiences, learn about their rights and get connected to the resources and support that is available to them in the Sanctuary City of Oakland.

- ▶ **OYAC has surveyed nearly 100 youth to identify the agenda for this event**
- ▶ **This is a community-wide event. The support and presence of community leaders and elected officials is key**

The forum will take place in Fall 2017!



PROJECTS

Key Issues & Impact

#OYACgivesback

Youth-to-Youth Mini-Grants for Improving Relations between Law Enforcement, the Community and Youth in Oakland

HSD recently launched **Oakland ReCAST**, a new project funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), which focuses on resiliency and equity for communities that have been impacted by high levels of violence, trauma and civil unrest.

One of the goals of ReCAST includes supporting community work to address tensions in law enforcement-community relations and promote community healing. **#OYACgivesback** is one component of this goal and enables Youth Commissioners to help select creative and dynamic projects developed by their peers.

#OYACgivesback allows young people between the ages of 13-21 in partnership with at least one Adult Ally to apply for **up to \$7,500** to fund their project idea that seeks to improve relations between law enforcement, community and youth in Oakland.



PROJECTS

Future

Many of the issue and program priorities, as well as major projects described herein will carryover into the 2017-2018 Commission year. The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC) will also be holding a strategic planning session in the Fall to develop their 2017-2018 agenda. At that time, OYAC would like to meet with Council Members and Mayor Schaaf to present their ideas and receive feedback.

The Commission requests that City Council accept this annual report and encourages Council to continue referring policy issues relevant to youth to the Commission for consideration and recommendations.

The Youth Advisory Commission would like to thank the Mayor and City Council Members for the support each of you offer to Commissioners and young people in general. In the coming year, the Commission looks forward to an even deeper level of interaction between the youth and adult leaders of Oakland.

Sincerely,
Oakland Youth Advisory Commission

THANK YOU!

Connect with OYAC:

Social Media

@oakyac on FB & IG

Online

tinyurl.com/oakyac

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lindee Lane

llane@oaklandnet.com or 510.238.3245

GLORIA GUZMAN