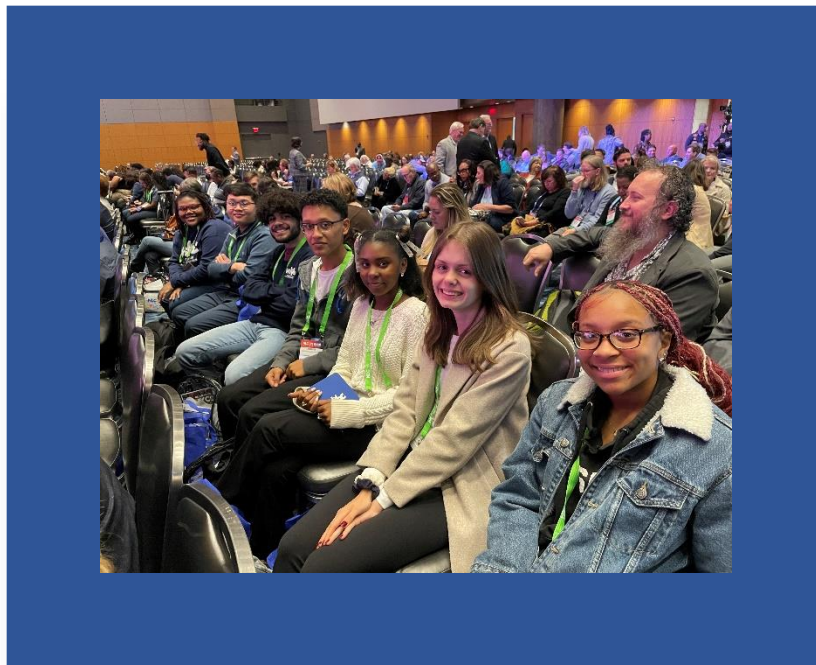
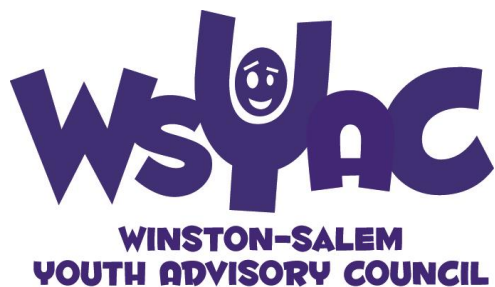


# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023-2024



## CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



Staff Administrator:

Dr. Ronnie Christian

Interim Human Relations/DEI Director

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## **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/Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 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/Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 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/Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 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 COUNCIL'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 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

School	First Name	Last Name
Atkins High	Max	Chen
Early College	Cristofer	Gallardo-Acevedo
Early College	Athena	Perez-Perez
Early College	Jada	Taylor
North Forsyth	Nicolas	Spencer
Middle College	Robin	Angat
Middle College	Laila	Johnson

Middle College	Jayla	Page-Thomas
Mount Tabor High School	Madysun	Williams
Parkland	Ghufran	Abd
Parkland	David	Lovette
Reagan High	Ava	Banner
Reagan High	Daniel	Reyes
West Forsyth	Maria	Efremov
West Forsyth	Mariangel	Noriega

## MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTS

DR. RONNIE CHRISTIAN, HUMAN RELATIONS/DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INTERIM DIRECTOR



The Human Relations/Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 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, 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 and the State of North Carolina by way of competitive funding for their annual project. We are excited to continue to see the YAC flourish in the future. Even in the face of the historic global COVID-19 pandemic, the YAC persevered with having virtual monthly meetings; being awarded a grant from the State of North Carolina Youth Council, and

leading a successful annual youth community leadership project, which included organizing mental health care bags for high school students.

**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	May – End of Year Project Planning and Wrap-Up
December/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 by planning, creating, and disseminating a quarterly written publication.
  - See attachment A.
- Produce annual project that is a benefit to the community.
  - The Council received a \$500 grant from the State Youth Council to help fund the annual project.

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

MEETING PURPOSE	CITY OFFICIAL(S)
Annual Report Presentation	CDHGG Committee of City Council (May 13th, 2024)
Attend a City Council Meeting	City Council
Attend National League of Cities City Summit	City Council

**2023-2024 MAJOR PROGRAM /PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Annual Project:** The 2023-2024 Annual project was focused on bringing awareness to inequities that can affect/contribute to barriers in learning among students in the WS/FC School System. The council focused on one elementary school in an underserved community to provide tutoring, school supplies and test practice packets to assist in preparation for End of Grade Testing. In addition, high school students were also surveyed regarding how the school system's transportation challenges affect student learning. Results of that survey will be presented to members of the school board in May.
- **State Youth Council Involvement:** The Youth Advisory Council applied for a State Youth Council state grant and was awarded \$500 to use towards their annual project. We had council members attend three of the five State Youth Council conferences: Mini-grant Conference in Rocky Mount, NC, Team Building Conference in Concord, NC and the Spring Convention in Lake Norman, NC.



- **Human Relations Student Awards Banquet:** The 44th Annual Human Relations Student Awards Ceremony was held in person for the first time since 2019. The Youth Advisory Council served as greeters and ushers and the council chairperson gave a welcome to the audience.
- **City Officials:** Youth Advisory Council members attend and observe two City Council meetings each year. They were also youth delegates at the National League of Cities City Summit held in Atlanta, GA.

## WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2024-2025 OUTLINE OF GOALS

For the fiscal year of 2024-2025, 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 host one SYC sponsored conference;

4. To continue learning about the community through presentations at monthly meetings;
5. To find ways to connect to students outside of YAC through social media and in person;
6. To continue the YAC newsletter; and
7. To complete an end-of-year project for the 2024-2025 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.