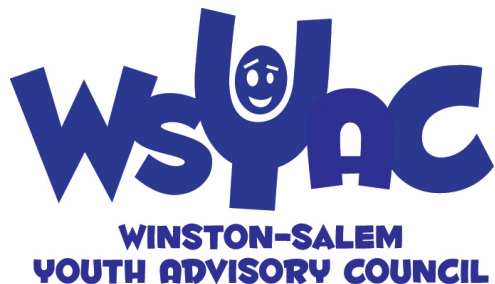


# ANNUAL REPORT

## Fiscal Year 2020-2021



## CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



Staff Administrator:  
Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD  
Human Relations 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 Department on matters that relate to the community's youth population.

## **HISTORY**

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

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

## **DUTIES**

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

## THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO CITY GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

## THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE STAFF

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

## THE COMMISSION'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY

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

## YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

School	First Name	Last Name
Atkins High	Sasha	Sagar
Atkins High	Simran	Vadgama
Bishop McGuinness	Sunita	Agarwala
Bishop McGuinness	Daniel	Cancro
Carver High	Quinton	Daniels
Carver High	Abril	Salas-Loeza
Early College	Jacob	Taylor

Early College	James	Taylor
Glenn High	Jajhayra	Foncess-Roque
Glenn High	Skylar	Peddle
Kennedy High	Gizelle	Guerrero-Hernandez
Middle College	Cameron	Allen
Middle College	Brooke	Lachey
North Forsyth	Jayla	Blair
North Forsyth	Celeste	Colato
Reagan High	Nasi	Bongweni
Reagan High	Daniel	Reyes
Reynolds	Tamara	Smith
Reynolds	Addison	Truzy
Walkertown	Melody	Jackson
Walkertown	Obed	Salazar
West Forsyth	Caedance	Brady
West Forsyth	Xander	Patton
Winston-Salem Prep	Porsche	Smith
Winston-Salem Prep	Almarie	Williams

## MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTS

WANDA ALLEN-ABRAHA, HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR



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

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

Although the YAC was established in 1989 under the leadership of Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke, the Human Relations Department was designated as the administering department for the YAC in June 2010. Since that time, the YAC has been restructured in order to enhance its focus and goals. Specifically, the each member of the YAC has been charged with fulfilling 40

hours of community service during the course of the school year. To that end, each month focuses on a different topic that relates to the YAC's mission and the community at-large. Topics have included civics, government, housing, and the environment.

The YAC has thrived this year and has established itself as a welcome youth voice in the community. Their hard work has been recognized by the Winston-Salem Foundation's Youth Grantmakers 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 two grants from the State of North Carolina Youth Council and Winston-Salem Foundation's Youth Grantmakers in Action; and leading a successful annual youth community leadership project, which included organizing youth hunger educational materials for a Community Open House and a YAC Attacks Hunger Virtual Food Drive.

## 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 through 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.
  - The Council received a \$500 grant from Youth Grantmakers in Action 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 11, 2021)
Attend a City Council Meeting	City Council (November 6, 2017 and April 16, 2018)

**2020-2021 MAJOR PROGRAM /PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Annual Project:** The 2020-2021 Annual project partners with the Mayors THINK ORANGE campaign to fight childhood hunger. The Youth Advisory Council has worked very hard on their YACATTACKS HUNGER: Virtual Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank.



- **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 a group of members attend virtual conferences throughout the year.



- **Human Relations Student Awards Banquet:** The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Human Relations Student Awards Ceremony was virtual this year. The Youth Advisory Council joined into the virtual fun by providing a congratulatory message. The Youth Advisory Council Chairperson gave a welcome to the audience.
- **City Officials:** Youth Advisory Council attends and observes two City Council meetings each year. This year, they attended meetings on December 3, 2020 and March 4, 2021, to

learn more about local government

- **Hunger Event with Rhythm Lounge and Grill:** The Youth Advisory Council started off the year working hard with the Rhythm Lounge and Grill to help provide meals to people in need in Winston-Salem. Over 200 meals were served and given a bag of food and personal items to take with them. This was a project that carried over from the 2019-2020 Youth Advisory Council, due to COVID restrictions.



## **WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2021-2022 OUTLINE OF GOALS**

For the fiscal year of 2021-2022, the goals of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council will focus on the following goals:

1. To maintain and encourage use of the Youth Expression Wall;
2. To meet requirements of the State Youth Council as a chartered member and to increase the YAC's presence on the state level;
3. To continue learning about the community through presentations at monthly meetings;
4. To find ways to connect to students outside of YAC through social media and in person;
5. To continue the YAC newsletter; and
6. To complete an end-of-year project for the 2019-2020 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.

# YAKETY YAC NEWS

Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council

## LETTER FROM 20-21 YAC COUNCIL CHAIR

BY: PORSCHE SMITH

It is with great pleasure that I serve as the 20-21 Chair of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council. As a third-year member, I had the opportunity to watch the council blossom at state conferences, dedicate their time to writing grant proposals, and connect with peers through public advocacy. YAC is upholding their values, even amid a global pandemic, convening to combat childhood hunger and representing YAC at city council meetings. I am impressed with their willingness to network with local businesses to have the most utmost impact on the Winston-Salem communities. Thank you all, advisors and council members, for your engagement and efficiency.



### Mini-Grant Conference 2020

By: Cameron Allen

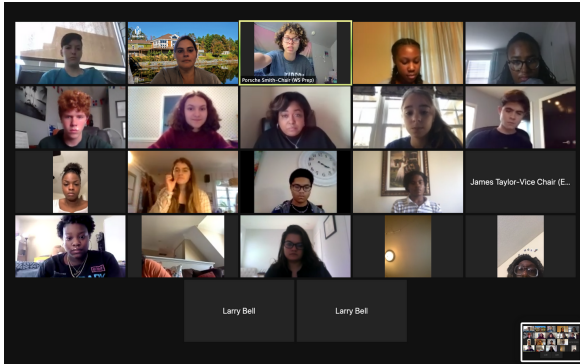
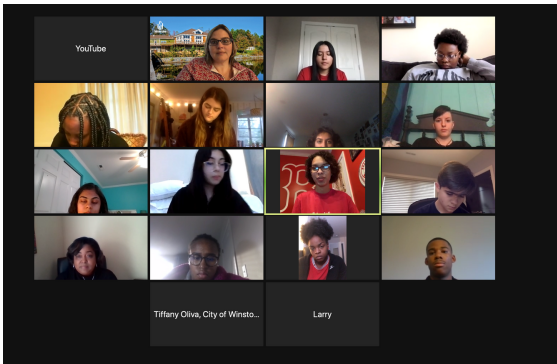
The 2020 Mini-Grant Conference was an experience that truly proved the confines of COVID-19 could be overcome. The meeting consisted of eight different councils, and nineteen proposals; however, only four of the proposals were addressed and debated. Each council worked in harmony to form a consensus on the grants that were proposed. Thank you for all of the hard work and dedication put into our own proposal, and thank you for the time put into preparing our propositions. The meeting was called before any more proposals were presented, and the rest will be presented similarly at a later date.



Atkins High School- Simran Vadgama, Sasha Sagar  
 Bishop McGuinness- Sunita Agarwala, Daniel Cancro  
 Carver High School- Quinton Daniels, Abril Salas-Loeza  
 Early College- James Taylor, Jacob Taylor  
 Glenn High School- Jajhayra Fonceca-Roque, Skylar Peddle  
 North Forsyth High School- Celeste Colato, Jayla Blair  
 Middle College- Brooke Lackey, Cameron Allen  
 Reagan High School- Daniel Reyes, Nasi Bongweni  
 Reynolds High School- Addison Truzy, Tamara Smith  
 West Forsyth High School- Xander Patton, Caedance Brady  
 Walkertown High School- Melody Jackson, Obed Salazar  
 Winston-Salem Prep- Almarie Williams, Porsche Smith  
 Kennedy High School- Gizelle Guerrero- Hernandez

## YAC Orientation By: Brooke Lackey

The Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council kicked off their 2020-2021 year with a virtual meeting on September 22, 2020. While we typically conduct this meeting in person, we were able to fully explain the purpose of the Youth Advisory Council and what to expect for the upcoming year. We elected our Executive committee officials, as well as our Community relations, Public relations and Government relations committees. We also brainstormed our annual project for the upcoming school year.



### City Council:

Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

### Human Relations Department Staff:

Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD, Human Relations Department Director; Adolfo Briceño, Specialist/Hispanic Outreach; Iris McKnight, Specialist; Jayme Waldeck, Specialist/Outreach; Karlyn Duncan, Admin, Asst./Intake

## 19-20 Annual Project By: Brooke Lackey

For the 2019-2020 school year, YAC decided to make the focus of our annual project on mental health. While using mental health as a backbone, our project aimed to spread information on the topics of hunger, vaping and teen violence. We were able to give out this information through our SYC TeamBuilding Conference, in which different Youth Councils across the state came and completed different team building activities. We completed most of the project by hosting Teen Trust Talks and lessons on hunger through the Think Orange campaign, but we were not able to complete our annual project due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we have reevaluated and have decided to use a virtual food drive to round off our 2019-2020 project.

## Rhythm Lounge and Grill Partnership By: Celeste Colato

For the 2020-2021 school year YAC has decided to continue working alongside the ThinkOrange Campaign, fighting hunger in the Winston-Salem area.

We have decided to partner with Rhythm Lounge and Grill, a local restaurant to help serve food to those in the community by hosting a food event during the holidays. Owner, Georjean Tompkins plans to serve at least 200 plates of delicious food with the help of YAC. We hope to target hungry areas in Winston-Salem, such as people living near e-learning hotspots.



# YAKETY YAC NEWS

Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council



## VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE WITH THINK ORANGE AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

BY: SASHA SAGAR, ATKINS HIGH SCHOOL

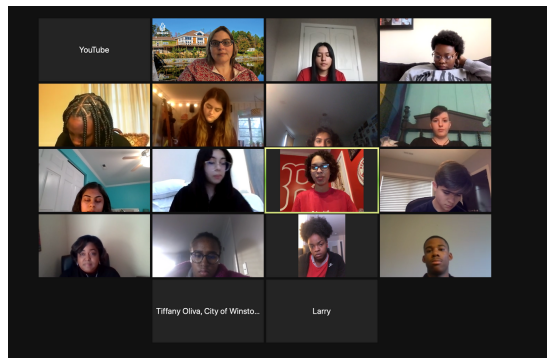


Youth Advisory Council members, in partnership with Think Orange, are conducting a virtual YAC Attacks Hunger Virtual Food Drive, as we recognize that the pandemic has increased food insecurity among residents in our community. We are hosting this food drive to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank from April 12 - May 7, 2021 with a goal of raising \$20,000. We encourage monetary donations starting as small as \$1 to \$20 or more. Our main form of outreach is via social media, but we also reached out to high schools and local businesses in our county to spread the word. YAC members are holding school events in partnerships with their respective clubs, such as car washes, to raise money for the food drive. We are so thankful that we have been able to work with THINK ORANGE for the past three years.

### City Council Meeting

By: Cameron Allen, Middle College

Youth Advisory Council members attended the March 22, 2021 City Council meeting. The meeting, once again, posed as the epitome of a great governing body. It was an eye-opening experience that provided YAC with more insight into the actions being enforced in Winston-Salem. Thank you to our City Council who work hard each year for the greater good of our city.



- Atkins High School- Simran Vadgama, Sasha Sagar
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- Kennedy High School- Gizelle Guerrero- Hernandez

## State Youth Advisory Council Conference

By: Daniel Reyes, Reagan High

On April 10, 2021, members from the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council, along with members from other advisory councils across North Carolina, attended the 2021 State Youth Advisory Council Spring Convention.

Domonique Dickerson read a wonderful poem detailing the oddness of this year and how the youth of North Carolina overcame the many challenges that came. Several awards were given, recognizing the tireless efforts of Youth Councils across the State. Keynote speaker, Ray Palma, delivered an inspiring speech that gave wise lessons about leadership. The morning closed with speeches from Nyanna Sherrod, the Chair of the State Youth Council, and Todd Rosendahl, Youth Advisory Chair. This was a great experience for Winston Salem YAC to connect with fellow youth councils. We are thankful for all of the efforts made by the State Youth Council to organize and host this great event!



### City Council:

Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

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## Senior Spotlight!

**Porsche Smith, Winston-Salem Prep:** I will be attending Emory University on a full-ride scholarship to pursue Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology with a minor in neuroethics. I hope to continue my work in community outreach through Questbridge and the Atlanta community.

**James Taylor III, Early College:** I am attending North Carolina A&T State University as an Early Assurance Scholar. I then will attend East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine. I plan on majoring in Biology/Pre-Med.

**Sunita Agarwala, Bishop McGuiness:** I will be attending UNC Chapel Hill on an Air Force ROTC scholarship I plan on becoming an air force doctor!

**Celeste Colato, North Forsyth:** I am attending Rice University as a Questbridge Scholar! I plan on majoring in Latin American studies.

**Jajhayra Fonceca, Glenn High:** I will be attending North Carolina State University! I plan on majoring in political science.

**Skylar Peddle, Glenn High:** After receiving my bachelor's degree in Exercise Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I will be attending Graduate School to become a Physical Therapist.

**Sasha Sagar, Atkins High:** I will be attending UNC Chapel Hill!! I plan on majoring in biology on the pre-med path.

**Tamara Smith, Reynolds High:** I will be attending High Point University. I plan on majoring in Business Administration.

**"YESTERDAY IS HISTORY,  
TOMORROW A MYSTERY AND  
TODAY IS A GIFT. THAT'S WHY  
WE CALL IT THE PRESENT."**

**The Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council  
sends best wishes to our community.  
If you are in need of support, here is a short  
list of resources for you and your family.**

**Food Resources:**

**Agape Care and Share**

(3650 Patterson Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC)

**Samaritan Ministries- Soup Kitchen**

(414 E NW Blvd, Winston-Salem, NC)

**Second Harvest Food Bank of NWNC**

(3655 Reed Street, Winston-Salem, NC)

**Financial Resources:**

**Crisis Control Ministry**

(200 East Tenth Street, Winston-Salem, NC)

**Salvation Army, Emergency Assistance**

(1255 North Trade Street, Winston-Salem, NC)

**Experience in Self-Reliance, Inc**

(3480 Dominion Street, Winston-Salem, NC)

For a longer list of local resources please go to:

**[www.thinkorangews.com](http://www.thinkorangews.com)**





*The Rhythm*  
LOUNGE & GRILL



# HUNGER RELIEF PROGRAM

"COME FILL UP ON LOVE"



"COME FILL UP ON LOVE"

**DECEMBER 18TH @ 1PM-6PM**

Your friends at The Rhythm Lounge & Grill would love to share a free hot meal and care package to all. Backpacks will also be given to children in our Winston Salem community.

**2101 PETERS CREEK PKWY, #26  
WINSTON SALEM NC. 27127  
(336) 695-8857**



# YAC ATTACKS HUNGER!

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

TO BENEFIT SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

APRIL 12 - MAY 7

GOAL: \$20,000

DONATE AT [TINYURL.COM/YACATTACKS](http://TINYURL.COM/YACATTACKS)



WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL