

YAKETY YAC NEWS

Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council



PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES-CITY SUMMIT BY: GHUFRAN ABD, PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL



On the evening of December 5, 2022, Winston-Salem's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) attended the monthly city council meeting to present & debrief on their recent trip to Kansas City, Missouri to attend the National League of Cities Conference. Each of the four YAC members detailed the ways in which each part of the conference had a profound, fervent impact on them. Vice Chair, Ava Banner, opened the presentation by detailing the absolute importance that having a presence on a national level is, and the need for our YAC to be in those spaces in order to serve the youth of Winston-Salem more effectively. Jordan Moore continued on, dissecting two of the four youth workshops at the conference, Mental Health & Civil Discourse, two extremely relevant topics within youth today, and the invaluable lessons to be learned from those workshops. Moore passed it on to Secretary, Ghufuran Abd, who discussed the Youth Engagement & Social Entrepreneurship workshops at the conference. Overall, the workshops provided necessary instruction to our Youth Advisory Council and will assist greatly in their pursuit in serving the youth of the community. Jada Taylor continued the meeting by thanking sponsors & business leaders who funded the trip, summarizing the massive impact that attending the conference had on the eight Youth Advisory Council members who went. Jacob Taylor ended the presentation with a warm, grateful shoutout at the end to said sponsors. Overall, the impact the National League of Cities Conference had on the YAC members who attended is great and undeniable!



Letter From The Chair Addison Truzy, Reynolds High School

Hello everyone! My name is Addison Truzy, and I am chair for the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council 2022-23 year! With being a part of this council since my freshman year, this is such a surreal opportunity for me. There have been numerous youth leaders who have made tremendous impact on the Winston-Salem community within this council, and I look forward to continuing the legacy set before me. This council truly embodies community, leadership, and service. I am so grateful to be able to lead for the 2022-2023 year. Each year, YAC members bring new perspective, passion, and impactful solutions to benefitting the youth within our community. As Chair, I want to create a space that celebrates new ideas and work to implement those ideas into our community through our service and annual project.

Once again, I am incredibly honored to serve as chair for this 2022-23 year and cannot wait to see what impact YAC will make in our community!

2022-2022 Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council

Atkins High School- Michael Gallagher, Max Chen
*Career Center-*Nasi Bongweni
Carver High School- Leah Raiford
Early College- Jacob Taylor, Jada Taylor
*East Forsyth-*Gracie Brown
*Kennedy High-*Jordan Moore, Jeremiah Washington
*Middle College--*Jayla Page-Thomas
*Mount Tabor High-*Makayla Beard, Nattapat Ruangrat, Madysun Williams
North Forsyth High- Nicolas Spencer
Reagan High School- Daniel Reyes, Ava Banner
Reynolds High School- Addison Truzy
*Parkland High-*Litzy Castillo-Olivera, Ghufuran Abd
Walkertown High School- Ryah Newton-Roseboro, Britney Speaks
Winston- Salem Prep- Serenity Heckstall, Aranza Cortez-Arana

International Village Food and Music Festival

By: Max Chen



On October 15, 2022, members Ava Banner, Max Chen, and Ghufran Abd from the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council volunteered at the International Village Food & Music Festival. Ava and Max, along with Nathan Hoang from the Winston-Salem College Advisory Board, assisted other volunteers in setting up the festival in the morning by setting up chairs for the audience of the main performances, canopies for the performers and audience members, and picnic areas. They also decorated the area around the festival with flags to represent the many different cultures that were part of the festival. Ghufran volunteered later in the day, helping out people who attended the festival.

True to its name, the International Village Food & Music Festival celebrates and showcases the many diverse and rich backgrounds and cultures of Winston-Salem's locals. From Korean Taekwondo to West African drumming, heritages from all around the globe are represented at the festival. Though this one already happened, the International Food & Music Festival isn't a one-time thing, so make sure to attend the next one to support our local communities!

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/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department, Staff Advisors

Wanda Allen-Abraha, J.D., Director
Jayme Waldeck, Senior Outreach Analyst



Race Relations Forum

By: Jayla Page-Thomas, Middle College

One September 29, 2022, the 3 members of the Youth Advisory Council Members hosted Winston Salem's Annual High School Race Relations Forum. The Forum takes students from all over WSFCS high schools and puts them up to the task of speaking out about racial and social issues that face them at their schools.

Ava Banner, Daniel Reyes (Reagan High School), and Jayla Page-Thomas (Middle College of Forsyth) hosted about 20 people from all around the county and city including WSFCS' Superintendent Tricia Mcmanus, Winston Salem Mayor Pro Tempore Denise Adams, Commissioner Kerry Higgins, and and Wanda Allen-Abraha from Human Relations.

The hosts asked the students very hard questions like their comfort of talking about race in schools, how the students interacted with people outside their own race at their school, and even how race affects the classroom and education. The students gave clear and meaningful answers about their own experiences and ideas on how schools can change. They stayed engaged in the conversation and gave the leaders in our community a look into what is happening in the schools.

When watching the forum, you will learn about different experiences of discrimination at schools in WSFCS and in personal experience. The forum is very educational and reflective on what is going on in the schools and how we can propose change in our schools. The forum from 2021 and 2022 is both on the City of Winston Salem's Youtube Channel and can even be seen on the Winston Salem channel on rotation if you are interested in hearing the voices of our schools.