

# CITY OF OAKLAND



YOUTH LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT • 150 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUITE 4211 • OAKLAND, CA 94612

Department of Human Services  
Oakland Youth Commission

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September 14, 2004

Oakland City Council  
Life Enrichment Committee  
Oakland, CA

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Annual Report of the Oakland Youth commission 2003 – 2004

The Oakland Youth Commission's Annual Report 2003 – 2004 is attached for your information and action. This status report provides a summary of the Oakland Youth Commission's (OYC) activities from September 2003 through July 2004. The Youth Commission has achieved its goals of concretely addressing the violence problem in Oakland and facilitating the creation of youth led multi purpose teen centers in Oakland.

The Youth Commission is comprised of 25 youth people ages 13 to 21 who advise the Mayor, City Council and other City officials on issues affecting young people in Oakland. The OYC provides an opportunity for youth to be involved in the City's decision-making process and for City agencies to obtain youth input on projects and programs. Currently, there are 13 vacancies on the Commission for the 2004 – 2005 cycle.

The Youth Commission is moving forward with a desire to take on more tangible achievable projects for the 2004 – 2005 year and wishes to advocate for the continued realization of the longer term Commission goal of the proliferation of multi service teen centers in violence ridden neighborhoods throughout Oakland. The Youth Commission will work together with the Mayor and the City Council to advocate for youths concerns in the City by reviewing policies that pertain to youth and giving recommendations, and by offering strategies and solutions to the issues that concern youth in the City of Oakland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rayna Garcia".

Rayna Garcia  
Chair, Oakland Youth Commission

Attachment

FORWARDED TO THE  
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl A. Thompson".  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item: 9  
Life Enrichment Committee  
Sept. 14, 2004

# Youth Leadership & Development



# Youth Commission

Annual Report 2003 - 2004

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# 2003 – 2004 Youth Commissioners

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## Sworn Commissioners

Kenisha Bogans	District 4
Ebonee Chambers	District 6
Brianna Cane	District 7
Monica Bogans	District 4
Amber Cox	District 4
Kimberly Steele	District 3
Eduardo Rivera-Garcia	District 6
Audarius Goins	District 7
Rhonda Goodwin	District 6
Symantha Murdock	District 7
Alasha Raynor	District 4
Joshua Rose	District 7

## Advisory Commissioners

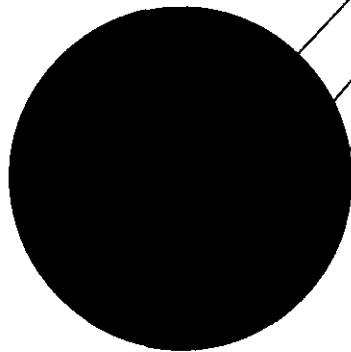
Rayna Garcia, Chair	District 4
Craig Gentry	District 7
Charles Kong	District 4
Jacky Johnson	District 4
Abdull Dominguez	District 3
Abdiel Fikes	District 7
Kameron Moore	District 5
Joseph Shaps	District 2
Samuel Styles	District 7
Rickey Robinson	District 1
Clarissa San Diego	District 5
Randy Leonard	District 1
Ria Curry	District 2

# Civic Engagement

Layers of Engagement from Policy to Practice

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- Resolutions
- Baltimore CCFY Conference
- YES Council
- Community Policing Advisory Board Leadership Summit
- Violence Prevention Task Force
- First Aid/CPR Trainings
- Youth Recognition Day
- Mural Project
- Who Rocks The Mic?



Youth involved in service

Youth gain leadership

Youth affect policy



# Resolutions

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## **Youth Center Policy Recommendation**

The Youth Commission has worked for years to create safe, fun, relevant places for youth in Oakland. Towards that goal the Youth Commission recommended specific policy actions for the City Council and the Mayor to focus on in an effort to reduce the violence in Oakland.

## **Youth Recognition Day**

The Oakland City Council passed a resolution on Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> declaring May 14<sup>th</sup> Youth Recognition Day in an effort to recognize the Youth Commission and other youth who do outstanding work for their community in Oakland.

## **Support of Measure R**

The Youth Commission formally endorsed Measure R on the March ballot. Commissioners met with the task force for several months leading up to the vote and provided valuable input to the process.

# Youth Center Policy Recommendation

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## Youth Recreation Proposal

The Oakland Youth Commission is dedicated to the improvement of conditions and safety of Oakland's youth. Towards this goal the Youth Commission identified key issues that young people face in Oakland. Violence and abuse ranked high among these issues. Youth need more choices for the after school and weekend times when most of the violence and abuse happens.

The focus of the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth on after school programs is a step in the right direction. However, the overwhelming majority of that funding goes toward elementary and middle school programs. Teens need more creative and attractive options to keep them in positive constructive activities during these high risk hours.

The Youth Commission recommends that the City of Oakland, the Mayor and the City Council focus its resources and influence to assist and collaborate to create more teen centers in Oakland's neighborhoods where the violence and poverty is most acute. There are many centers that have space where youth are welcome but not many that include youth in the planning and programming or involving youth as an advisory partner.

This is a crucial component to creating activities for youth today because without youth input adults scratch their heads wondering why youth don't use the facilities. Youth must be included in the planning and implementation of youth centers to offer relevant programming for the youth population in that neighborhood.

Towards this goal, the Youth Commission encourages the Parks & Recreation Department to partner with more youth serving organizations to allow programming at the Recreation centers. The most effective model as of now is the Project YES! Youth advisory Council for the 25,000 square ft. facility being build in East Oakland. West Oakland, North Oakland, and Central Oakland also need similar projects, perhaps smaller in scale but similar in process to garner public and private funds and involve youth in the process.

Effective recreational opportunities for youth look very different from what they looked like in the past. Therefore the Youth Commission urges the City Council and the Mayor to focus it's financial resources and departments that are geared toward youth and youth services to support, assist and facilitate the proliferation of youth centers that address the current needs and interests of youth such as the Project YES model and the McClymonds Youth & Family Center. These models reflect the proper funding resources and youth involvement that is necessary to build the teen center of today, that will be fully utilized and greatly improve the health and well being of not only young people in Oakland but the communities as well.

Rayna Garcia  
Commission Chair



# Support for Measure R

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Measure R, authored by Council member Nancy Nadel

WHEREAS, violence in Oakland has had a disproportionate effect on young people,

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission endorses the violence prevention efforts of various organizations and agencies across the City, directly and indirectly,

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission does not support a huge unbalanced attempt to push for more law enforcement in Oakland as a response to the violence,

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission fully endorses the Measure R on the March ballot as a comprehensive balanced approach to addressing the violence in Oakland.

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Rayna Garcia  
Commission Chair

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# Civic Engagement

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## **CCFY CONFERENCE**

The annual conference for the Council of Community Foundations for youth was attended by the Youth Commission in October of 2003. Youth Commission staff accompanied the 3 commissioners to the 2-day conference in Baltimore, Maryland and caucused with Youth Commissions from several other states, sharing best practices and policy objectives of local commissions. The conference was the culmination of the final year of funding nationwide of the Youth in Civic Engagement Grant which the Youth Commission received for 3 years.

## **PROJECT YES COUNCIL**

Project YES is a County and City collaborative that involves City, County, and local youth serving organizations to renovate a 25,000 square foot facility in East Oakland next to Castlemont High School. The youth center will serve youth in one of the most troubled neighborhoods in Oakland, plagued by poverty and violence but rich in concerned residents and organizations willing to help make a change. The YES Council was created so that young people can participate by making crucial decisions about the operation of the center. Three Youth Commissioners are on the YES Council and participate in the committee working groups to shape the policy of the youth center. The Youth Commission has been working collaboratively with the YES Council, the policy making body for the youth center since its inception. The Youth Commission has hosted many of the YES Council meetings and continues to assist the YES Council with its training and recruitment of youth and community members to help support the opening of the Youth Center in October of this year.

## **COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY BOARD SUMMIT**

The Youth Commission sat on a panel of speakers for the "Partnering with schools & youth" session at the summit at Laney College with the police chief Richard Word and community policing advisory board members. The commissioner who sat on the panel voiced opinions of youth about community policing and the efforts of the youth to inform and help shape the process.

## **VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE**

Several Commissioners attended Nancy Nadel's task force on Violence Prevention and participated in subcommittee group meetings to brainstorm on a plan to reduce the violence in Oakland. The task force was created out of a response to the defeat of Measure FF to add 100 police officers to the OPD, and the need to generate a more comprehensive plan to address violence in Oakland that involves a more diverse group of community members in the planning of it.

## **FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING**

In an effort to better equip Youth Commissioners to respond to the needs of the community and be advocates and allies to youth wherever they are, the Youth Commission established a relationship with the Oakland Fire Department to be trained in CPR and First Aid. Several commissioners received the training and were certified at the completion of the training.



# Youth Commission

## 2003 – 2004 Projects

Main Issue: Violence Prevention

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Youth Commissioners identified major issues for young people.



Commissioners formed 3 primary working committees.



Committees planned & implemented several projects to address major issues such as violence prevention and job opportunities.



# Violence Prevention

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## **YOUTH RECOGNITION DAY**

The Youth Commission chose to honor youth for the positive contributions they make to the community every day with a ceremony and an official day. Youth Recognition Day was successfully passed by the City Council and on May 14th, the Youth Commission held a ceremony honoring dozens of youth from all over Oakland. Nominations were submitted from various organizations nominating youth for various work in the community. The Youth Commission planned and coordinated the entire day. Approximately 150 people were present for the ceremony that was held in the City Council Chambers. The resolution passed declaring May 14 Youth Recognition Day, and efforts will continue to make this an annual event for the Youth Commission.



# Violence Prevention

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## **The Mural Project**

The Youth Commission Mural project started last year has continued to inspire and spread the message of nonviolence among Oakland youth. The Mural was erected onto a billboard with the help of Clear Channel Outdoor, Councilmember Desley Brooks and dozens of community partners and after a press conference was held at the unveiling of the billboard, further support came in the form of donations to print up posters to give out to people and organizations who donate money to keep the positive image of the billboard up longer.

As a result, 1,000 posters and 5000 postcards were printed up to spread the image and the message of nonviolence in Oakland. The actual mural is painted on a malleable canvas and the Mural has been used as a backdrop for numerous events and festivals. The image continues to be a positive and healing monument for the survivors of murder victims in Oakland. Many parents who have lost their children have called the office and expressed their gratitude for the image and the work the Youth Commission has done with the young people who have lost relatives to the violence.



# Violence Prevention

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## **Who Rocks The Mic?**

The 3rd annual Who Rocks The Mic? youth competition was held Friday May 21st at the YMCA Teen center in East Oakland. The Competition was originally started by the Youth Commission to showcase youth talent from around the City and also to recruit and provide exposure for the Youth Commission. The event has grown with collaborations with the YMCA and other performing youth groups like Youth Movement Records providing the venue and professional entertainment. This year's event was larger than ever with over 100 attendees and a dozen performers and acts.

# Future Direction

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The civic Youth Commission is an ever evolving movement in this country and there are significant efforts to increase responsible youth representation in government. The process of transferring relevant power to youth is a long slow but Oakland is at the forefront nationally with the Youth Commission and the Oakland Fund for Children & Youth. Nowhere in the country do youth have a stronger voice and say over so much policy and money for youth programming.

The Oakland Youth Commission wants to push the envelope further and advocate for a youth Council seat. When given the right opportunities, any young person can rise to the occasion and cultivate the leadership necessary to make the critical decisions that the City Council makes every week.

We hope to get a broad base of community support as well as full governmental support for the fair negotiation of these efforts to bring more support to youth voice when they need it the most.

9