



Oakland Youth Commission

Established in 1985, the **Oakland Youth Commission (OYC)** works to improve the lives of all young people in Oakland and strives to provide youth voice when meeting with community and civic leaders to advocate for youth issues. Youth Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor.

OYC 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.

Calendar

- The OYC runs from September - June
- We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays in City Hall
- We convene for 2 weekend retreats a year
- We attend occasional community and city events throughout the term

Eligibility Requirements

- Live in Oakland
- Ages 13-21
- Demonstrate a passion for civic engagement, social justice, and desire to collaborate and learn

Current Commission

- 17 youth
- At least 2 commissioners from each district
- Schools: 70% attend public schools; 30% attend Private or Charter schools
- Race/Ethnicity: 38% Black, 32% Latinx, 25% AAPI; 5% Arab/Middle Eastern

Staff

Sara Tiras (she/her) has been leading the OYC since 2022. She comes with over 20 years of experience as an educator and youth organizer. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Sara has lived in Oakland for 20 years. She graduated from UC Santa Cruz with honors in American Studies and went onto earn her Teaching Credential and Masters in Education at Mills College. She taught high school history and government for a decade; as well as trained new teachers at Mills College and in OUSD. Her work with youth is grounded in values of love, justice, and youth empowerment. Sara can be reached via email at Stiras@oaklandca.gov

What do Youth Commissioners do during their term?

- Learn how to facilitate and conduct public meetings
- Learn how city government works
- Give feedback and youth input into city policies and programs to Department leaders
- Speak with the press on key youth issues and current events
- Draft letters of support or give public comment at city council meetings
- Organize campaigns
- Train youth and adults on Adulthood and Youth empowerment
- Conduct research on youth issues (YPAR)
- Join youth coalitions in the City

Recent Accomplishments

- In 2022, OYC and Youth Advisory Board co-hosted a hearing on youth homelessness and successfully advocated for a Youth Homelessness Task Force in the County
- In 2022, OYC and Youth vs Apocalypse co-hosted a Youth Speak Out event
- In 2022, OYC staff and youth co-developed an Adulthood and Youth Empowerment Training which we have led to City Staff, OUSD students, and community organizations over 3 years
- In 2023, OYC conducted research in Oakland high schools on the transitions to adulthood
- In 2023, OYC advocated for digital equity in East Oakland and helped secure \$12M funding for Oakland's digital equity plan
- In 2024, OYC helped launch the first ever Oakland Youth Vote by securing implementation with the County, registering 1500 new youth voters, and co-hosting several events to inform and motivate first time youth voters to turn out

Additional OYC Resources

Check out our [Website](#) for our Meeting Agendas, Notes, and Recordings

Follow us on Instagram: [@oakyac](#)

Read our 2023-2024 [Annual report](#)

Sign Up to Receive our [Quarterly Newsletter](#)

