



# 2023-2024 Annual Report

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES & EDUCATION COMMITTEE



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The San José Youth Commission enjoys a long history of youth advocacy and civic engagement. We are the official advisory group to the Mayor and City Council who are leading youth representation in local government. As the Chair of the Commission, I am proud and honored to have led such an amazing group of youth advocates and trailblazers. Our Commissioners are responsible for developing policy recommendations and representing over 20,000 youth constituents in their respective districts. The mission of the Youth Commission is to empower and encourage youth to be civically engaged through local and city-wide events and initiatives.

However, youth inclusion in local government is drastically different now than in the past. At the start of this year, the Commission changed the municipal code as a beginning step to engaging youth and local government on a deeper level. This included the age restrictions for commissioners and the implementation of compensation, fostering greater diversity and inclusion for socioeconomically disadvantaged youths to participate in City government. Additionally, we established a pipeline for youth-related policies, ensuring that issues directly affecting youth are sent to the Youth Commission for recommendation and comment before proceeding to the City Council.

Our primary objective throughout the year has been to promote transparency within local government and inclusion of youth voices and experiences in the process. This is evident in a much more narrowed work plan, youth-directed projects, and youth inclusion in decision-making processes.







## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We created three ad hoc committees in alignment with our work plan goals. The first goal in our work plan was to establish the Youth Participatory Budget project. We distributed a city-wide survey that received over 900 responses from youth and highlighted their priorities.

The second goal, environmental advocacy, included several city-wide projects—such as our Oak Tree Planting event—to foster community engagement, City beautification, and green activism.

Finally, our third goal was gender-based violence and sexual harassment awareness. We focused on policy-specific issues, such as a memorandum on preventing human trafficking.

*"The Commission changed the municipal code as a beginning step to engaging youth and local government on a deeper level."*

As we reflect on our accomplishments and progress, I trust that the Youth Commission will remain committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable community where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. In the future, we envision even greater strides in youth engagement and representation in local government.

With gratitude,

**DEITRA V. HOANG**  
CHAIR, YOUTH COMMISSION  
CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

# YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission is the official advisory group to the Mayor and City Council, which empowers and encourages youth to be civically engaged through local and city-wide events and initiatives.



## Aanya Mishra

Commissioner | District 1

- 1st year on the Youth Commission
- Junior at Lynbrook High School
- Participated on the Gender-Based Violence and Youth Participatory Budget Program Pilot ad hoc committees
- Public Forum debater
- Bharatanatyam dancer



## Neyha Pradeepkumar

Commissioner | District 2

- 1st year on the Youth Commission
- Sophomore at Presentation High School
- Participated on the Gender-Based Violence and Youth Participatory Budget Program Pilot ad hoc committees
- Bharatanatyam dancer graduating this summer with her solo arangetram performance



## Deitra Hoang

Chair | District 3

- 2nd year on the Youth Commission
- Senior at Gunderson High School
- Participated on the Environmental Advocacy, Gender-Based Violence, & Youth Participatory Budget Program Pilot ad hoc committees
- Authored and passed five policy recommendations
- Will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the Fall



## Thy Luong

Commissioner | District 4

- 1st year on the Youth Commission
- Senior at Notre Dame
- Led the Youth Participatory Budget Program Pilot ad hoc committee
- Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate
- Will attend Yale University in the Fall



# YOUTH COMMISSION

Youth Commissioners develop policy recommendations concerning youth and support youth who serve their community through civic engagement and participation.



## **Andrew Lieu**

Commissioner | District 5

- 3rd year on the Youth Commission
- Junior at William C. Overfelt High School
- President of Region 4 of the California Association of Student Councils, 2023-2024
- Student Body Co-President at Overfelt High School
- Runs cross-country and track



## **Amiya Bansal**

Communications Officer | District 6

- 2nd year on the Youth Commission
- Junior at Notre Dame
- Participated on the Gender-Based Violence ad hoc committee
- Intern for the Mayor's Office



## **Megan Luong**

Commissioner | District 7

- 1st year on the Youth Commission
- Senior at Notre Dame
- Led the Gender-Based Violence ad hoc committee and participated on Youth Participatory Budget Program Pilot ad hoc committee
- Will attend Stanford University in the Fall



## **Aldojoell Gonzalez-Muñiz**

Commissioner | District 8

- 2nd year on the Youth Commission
- Junior at William C. Overfelt High School
- Plays on Overfelt JV Soccer team
- On the school beautification committee in Overfelt Leadership
- Works with Project Hope for the past 3 years

# YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission promotes resources and opportunities available to youth and provides equitable access and support to marginalized youth communities.



## Agam Singh

Commissioner | District 9

- 3rd year on the Youth Commission
- Junior at Leigh High School
- Participated on the Environmental Advocacy ad hoc committee



## Nolan Mascarenhas

Vice Chair & Outreach Officer | District 10

- 1st year on the Youth Commission
- Junior at Branham High School
- Participated on the Environmental Advocacy ad hoc committee
- Intern for the District 10 Council Office



## Vedant Janapaty

Commissioner | Citywide

- 2nd year on the Youth Commission
- Senior at Silver Creek High School
- Led the Environmental Advocacy ad hoc committee
- Recipient of the Eagle Scout Award
- Will attend university in the Fall

## STAFF

### Megan Maloy

Librarian II & Youth Commission Coordinator

### Ananya Sriram

Youth Intern

### Lizzie Nolan

Senior Librarian

### Vidya Kilambi

Division Manager

### Dziem Nguyen

Administrative Assistant

### Karla Alvarez

Deputy Chief of Staff



# ADOPTED **WORK PLAN**

The San José Youth Commission developed a Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and presented it to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee on September 14, 2023.

As the official advisory body to the Mayor and City Council, representing approximately 248,000 youth under 19, our mission is to empower youth in civic activities, promote resources, ensure equitable access, support marginalized youth communities, and develop policy recommendations.

## **YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAM PILOT**

- Gather youth input through various events and initiatives to determine their priorities.
- Convey youth priorities to City Council and other relevant municipal authorities.
- Implement a City Budget Priority Session to gather insight and input from the youth on City Budget priorities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY**

- Collaborate with local organizations and city departments to launch an awareness campaign by youth in order to show the impact of environmental issues.
- Participate in litter pick-ups, dumpster days, and other clean-up events in collaboration with city departments and organizations.
- Collaborate with school clubs and encourage the creation and preservation of school/community gardens.

## **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND SAFETY**

Collaborate with local organizations and city departments to conduct research and support an awareness campaign by youth around issues including but not limited to:

- Sexual harassment
- Assault / domestic violence
- Healthy relationships

# OUTREACH PLAN

With the new addition of the Outreach and Communications Officer roles, the San José Youth Commission developed and accepted an Outreach Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 at their meeting on October 28, 2023.

## PROMOTE YOUTH COMMISSION AND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL EVENTS

Objective	Strategies	Success Metrics
<p>Increase the number of youths who know about the Youth Commission.</p>	<p>Post on social media, create flyers and share information at schools and through youth organizations.</p>	<p>Engagement across social media, the number of youths who know about the Youth Commission, and the number of Youth Commission applications.</p>
<p>Increase the number of youths who participate in YACs.</p>		<p>Number of youths who participate in Youth Advisory Councils.</p>

## CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Objective	Strategies	Success Metrics
<p>Host community based organizations and city departments as presenters at Youth Commission meetings.</p>	<p>Identify organizations, departments, groups, and activities that align with the Youth Commission work plan.</p>	<p>Number of presentations at Youth Commission meetings and the Youth Commission work plan objectives.</p>



# BILL OF RIGHTS

for Children & Young Adults for Santa Clara County



Every young person must get what they need when they need it, no matter their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, mental or physical ability, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, first language, skin color, education status, or wealth. We value the diversity of our children and young adults in Santa Clara County and believe we must treat each of them with respect and dignity.

## All children and young adults have the right to:

**Healthcare:** Affordable, timely, and quality mental and physical healthcare that they can access at any time.

**Mental health:** Mental and emotional health and well-being and support systems in and outside of the home that promotes emotional and social safety.

**Love and emotional connections:** Meaningful connections with consistent, caring adults and peers who love and appreciate the young person for who they are and want to see them grow.

**Support and Guidance:** Receive support and guidance from role models who are dedicated to helping them achieve their dreams and goals.

**Life Skills:** Training to develop life skills and knowledge as well as opportunities to apply them for their growth.

**Education:** A relevant and engaging education that exposes them to other cultures and promotes lifelong learning.

**Job Opportunities:** Job opportunities that provide safe and reasonable working conditions, and a living wage, and allow them to grow their careers.

**Personal Development:** Time, space, and resources to pursue any interest or opt for rest.

**External support for family:** Support that will allow their families to be taken care of so they can pursue their dreams.

**Modern needs:** Reliable transportation and wifi, computers that meet their needs, and phones when applicable.

**Basic needs:** Enough quality food and water, showers, clean clothes, and hygiene products to keep their bodies healthy.

**Housing:** Affordable, stable, safe, and comfortable housing that meets their needs as individuals.

**Green spaces:** Easily accessible and clean green spaces that will be preserved for future generations.

**Safety:** Feel and be safe in all environments they are in, such as their schools, homes, neighborhoods, and online.

**Voice:** Be treated as equal partners in identifying problems, developing solutions, and making the decisions that they are impacted by.

**Choice:** Make important decisions for their lives and set boundaries that are respected.

The rights above have not been fulfilled for all youth. Many are limited by the inflexible and overly restrained structure of the environments designed for them. Change to these environments will not happen without mass commitment and action. By combining our personal power and expertise through continuous collaboration, we have the ability to create lasting change for Santa Clara County youth.

**For more information:** [www.kidsincommon.org](http://www.kidsincommon.org)

# ENHANCING THE YOUTH COMMISSION



On September 12, 2023, the City Council unanimously approved an ordinance strengthening the Youth Commission's functions, powers, and duties.

Consideration and implementation of Council direction created an opportunity for Youth Commissioners and staff to revisit related policies and procedures to include and uplift the lived experiences of young people in the City of San José who are most vulnerable, have been underserved in the past, and are often the hardest to reach.

## Recommendation

Amend Section 2.08.4840 of Chapter 2.08 of the San José Municipal Code to ensure the Youth Commission and Youth Advisory Councils are inclusive and representative of the City of San José.

## Recommendation

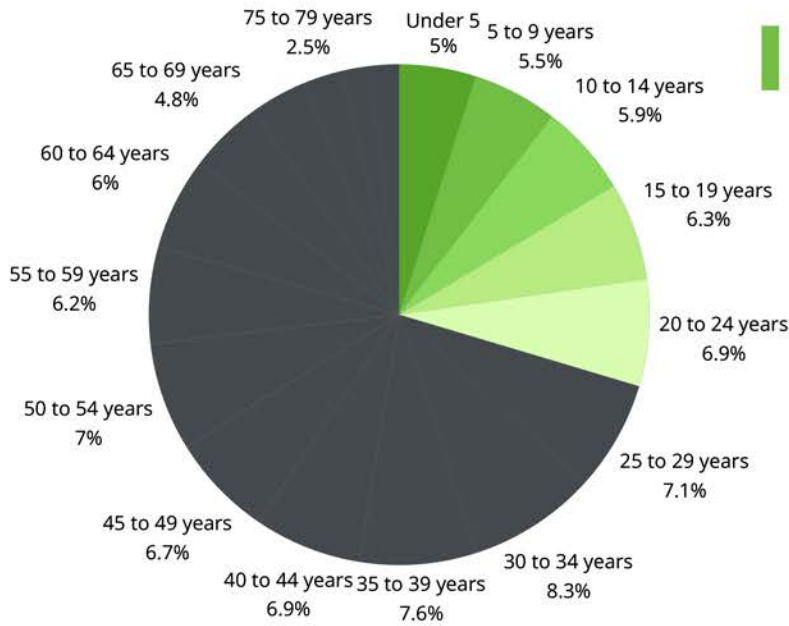
Amend Section 2.08.4850 of Chapter 2.08 of the San José Municipal Code to revise and expand the advisory and recommendation powers of the Youth Commission to City Council and the Mayor and, following the revised municipal code power and duties, designate youth representatives to other San José Commissions.

## Recommendation

Add Section 2.08.4835 of Chapter 2.08 of the San José Municipal Code to compensate appointed Youth Commissioners to encourage the participation of economically diverse youth, increase engagement among Commissioners while maintaining fulltime student status, and align with the citywide policy to reduce financial barriers to serve on boards.

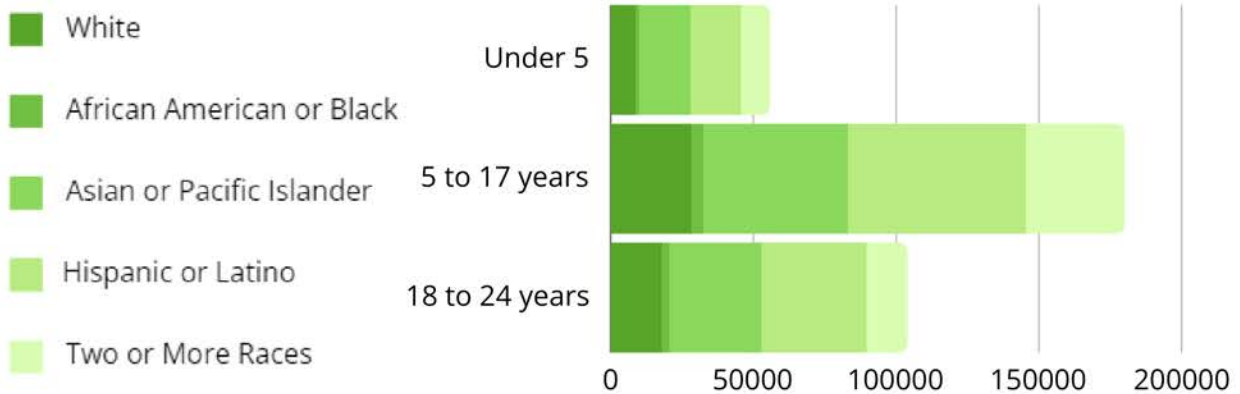


# YOUTH IN SAN JOSÉ



## CHILD, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT POPULATIONS

San José is the most populous city in Santa Clara County, with children, youth, and young adults under age 24 accounting for nearly 30% of its almost one million residents. Of these, 37.5% are Asian, 31% are Latino/x, 24.4% are White, 3% have Black/African ancestry, and 4.1% identify as another race or ethnicity. Approximately 40% of residents are foreign-born, and 50% speak a language other than English.



## YOUTH AND POVERTY LEVELS

While San José is one of the wealthiest cities in the country, many families are struggling financially in the region. 8.2% of San José residents under the age of 18 are below the federal poverty level, compared to 7.4% of the overall population of the city. For families with children under the age of 18, 6.5% live below the poverty level.

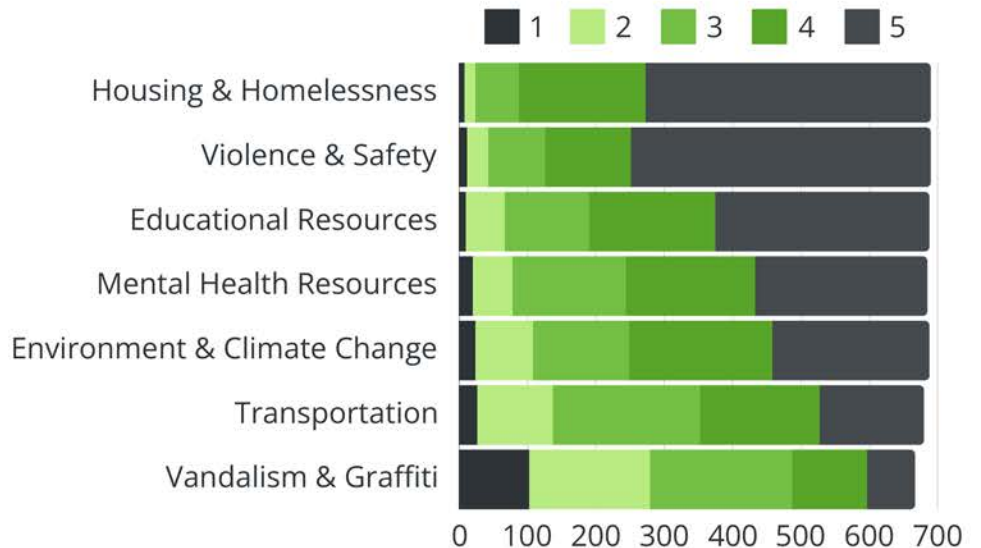
	Total Population	Below Poverty Level
Under 5	47,067	10.4% (4,915)
5 to 17	146,563	8% (11,723)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

# YOUTH PRIORITIES SURVEY REPORT

## Importance of issues on a scale of 1 (lowest priority) to 5 (highest priority)

The Youth Commission creates and distributes an annual survey to youth throughout San José that serves as a tool for gauging youth priorities and sentiments towards various issues and Commission activities. This year, the survey collected almost 900 responses and ideas related to our work plan and was a foundation for the Budget Summit.



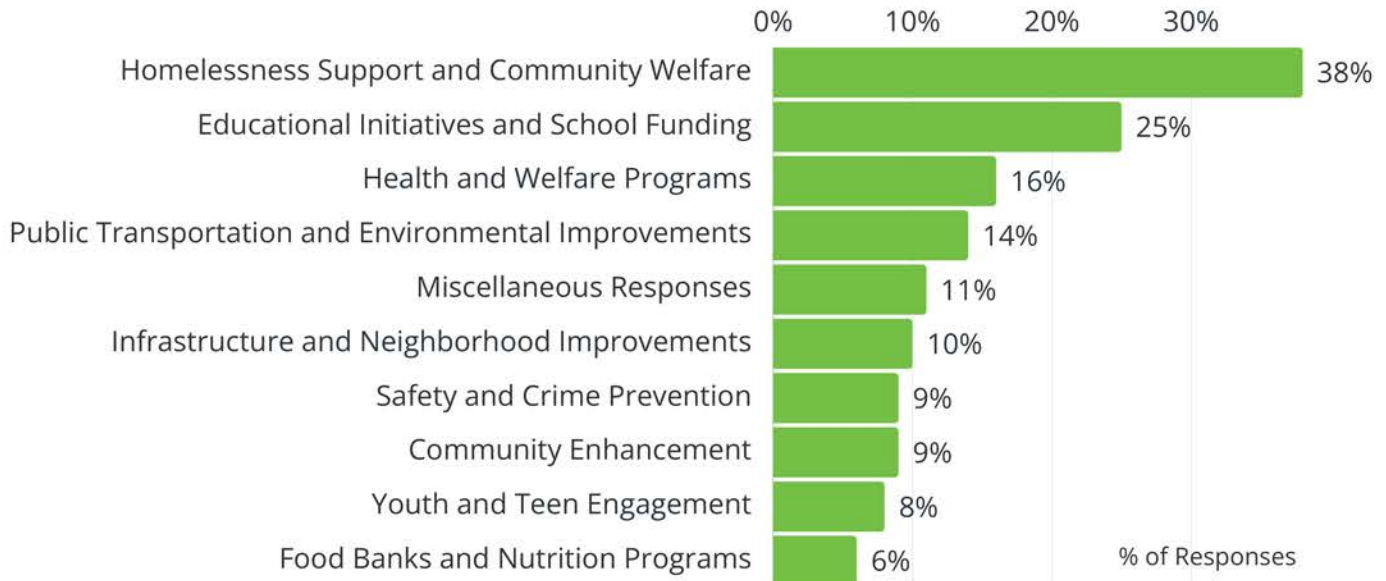
We asked respondents what issues they found most relevant. Respondents considered poverty, housing and homelessness, violence and safety, and educational resource availability to be the top three issues. We were impressed by the multitude of resolutions when asked what your ideas were to address or solve these issues. We noticed that most concerns were poverty, homelessness, and educational equity. Many of the solutions we were provided had an underlying theme of personal and community. Additionally, we noticed an overarching theme of youth advocacy.

<p>"Schools and other city properties could replace non-native lawns with drought tolerant native plants."</p>	<p>"There should be more high school-aged or young adult-focused programs like SJPLF's Resilience Corps."</p>	<p>"Educational resources to parents on mental health to reduce stigma around these topics, encouraging diversity within existing school curriculums."</p>
<p>"Clean up the trash on the roads and highways, better police presence, there is too much vandalism and theft - makes me feel unsafe."</p>	<p>"Provide funding for schools and public institutions to improve surveillance and security technology in order to prevent abuse/violence from occurring."</p>	<p>"Form advocacy plans, and make voices heard. Change won't happen unless you speak up."</p>



# YOUTH PRIORITIES SURVEY REPORT

## If you were given \$100,000 to improve your community, how would you invest the money?



We asked if you were given \$100,000 to improve your community, how would you invest the money? Since this is a vast question, we specified it by asking if you would expand specific programs or services. Would you invest in new ideas or solutions? Over 36% of respondents wanted to invest in homelessness support and community welfare, followed by education and school funding.

"I would invest some in homeless/drug abuse support, and would link this to a plan to more resources for education to help the lower classes access jobs."

"Creating a shelter that helps people that are struggling with mental health or abuse."

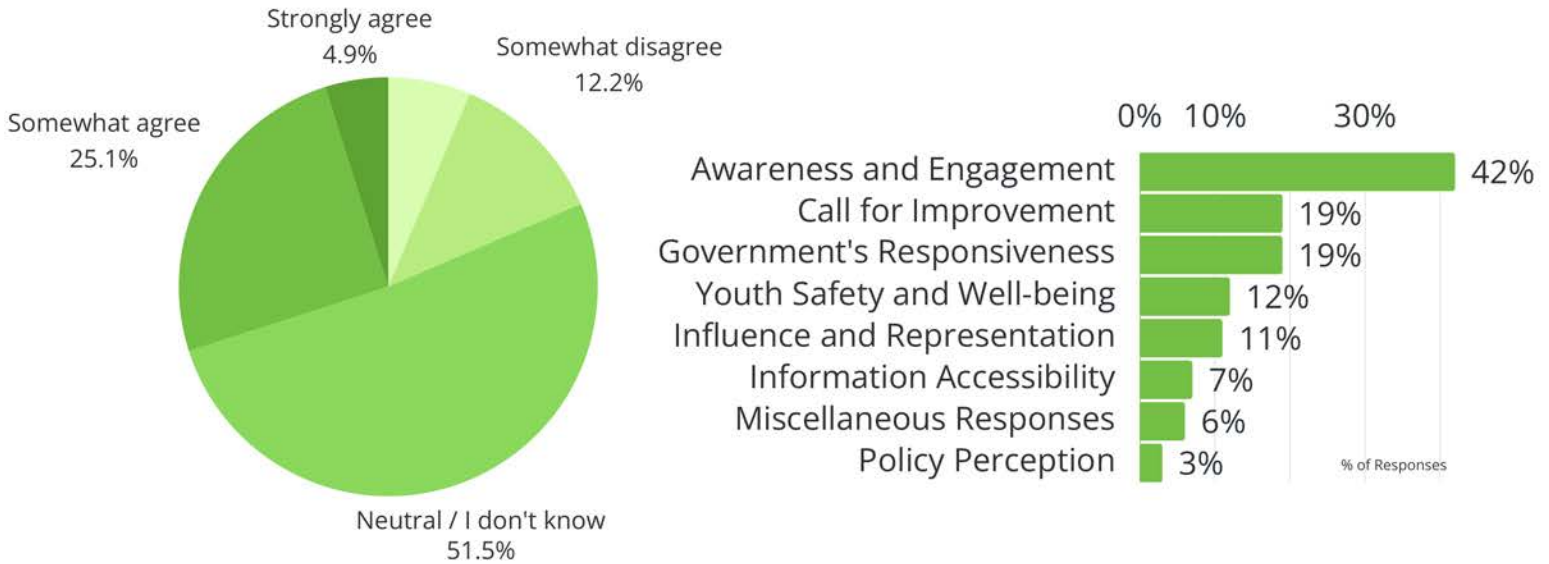
"Everywhere around San José, there is a homeless person. I want to invest in a home or a support center for all homeless people where they can stay under a roof and work on finding ways to get themselves their own home. I want them to feel supported so that they have that motivation to get a job and get a home. If I make a care center for homeless people with \$100,000, I know this will help lots of people."

"Invest in education, ending homelessness, and safe public transit."

"Invest in homeless shelters/food banks instead of donating some to different programs, which might not be as beneficial as the funds will run out more quickly."

# YOUTH PRIORITIES SURVEY REPORT

## The local City of San José government reflects youth priorities.



The pie chart shows the split of responses received when asked if the city government reflects youth priorities. We found it surprising that 50% of the respondents said they didn't know how their local government felt about youth needs. When explaining why they chose their answer, we found that over 42% of survey takers felt that awareness, engagement, and lack thereof were the main reasons behind their choice. It's evident from these results that there is room to grow regarding outreach around program and resource awareness. This lack of engagement and the role that youth play in the design and implementation of community programs and their local government is the gap the San José Youth Commission is trying to bridge.

"No knowledge on how much the city prioritizes youth needs."

"I have not heard of one program that the city has to offer for children."

"To be honest I'm not sure about it so that's why I choose the neutral."

"Before YAC I didn't even know that San José youth had a voice in policies making decisions. I didn't know the city council even cared about we thought."

"The youth follow in the footsteps of the society they live in."

"Schools take initiative towards youth and encourage them to fulfill their dreams. Resources are all present, but not many people know about them. Thus, making resources more accessible would be very helpful."





# WORK PLAN **OBJECTIVE**

## **YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAM PILOT**

Led by Commissioner Thy Luong and comprised of Commissioner Deitra Hoang, Commissioner Megan Luong, Commissioner Mishra, and Commissioner Neyha Pradeepkumar, the Youth Participatory Budgeting ad hoc committee first convened in September 2023.

The ad hoc committee focused its work on three key initiatives:

1. Gather youth input through various events and initiatives
2. Convey Youth Priorities to City Council
3. Develop a recommendation for a Youth Participatory Budget Program pilot

Youth Participatory Budgeting programs exist worldwide to increase civic engagement and allow youth-directed decision-making processes. For example, Boston, Massachusetts's participatory budget campaign, "Youth Lead the Change," allocates \$1 million for residents aged 12-25 to ideate, narrow down, and vote

# YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAM PILOT

on projects addressing local issues that their city government eventually implements. Recognizing the tokenization of youth voices in San José and the lack of youth input to local government, the ad hoc committee focused on establishing pathways toward funding youth projects.

From October 2023 to December 2023, the ad hoc committee developed and released its annual Youth Priorities survey, soliciting the opinions of nearly 900 youth voices on identifying topics important to young people. Youth ranked seven key city issues and identified poverty and homelessness, violence and safety, and the availability and quality of educational resources as their top three areas of importance. The ad hoc committee worked to sort and synthesize diverse responses to questions concerning youth priorities, wellness, the representativeness of local government, and more.

Youth also provided input on budget priorities through the



Youth Commission’s annual Budget Priorities Summit in January 2024, generating project ideas that would address issues in areas of poverty and homelessness, violence and safety, educational resources, mental health, climate change, and transportation. The summit engaged over fifty city youth in project ideation to solve city issues and ended in a community conversation with District 4 Councilmember David Cohen.

Based on the Teen Priorities Survey, the Budget Priorities Summit, and Commissioner input, the Youth Participatory Budgeting ad hoc committee began writing a Manager’s Budget Addenda to allocate \$16,000 to uplifting youth priorities and voices in San José to be considered through the City budget process. ■





# WORK PLAN **OBJECTIVE**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY**

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The San José Youth Commission recognizes the need to alleviate climate change stress among youth. Hence, in its August Retreat, the Commission agreed that implementing community-wide solutions, awareness campaigns, and youth advocacy is the best way to elevate existing environmental awareness efforts. With that vision in mind, the Commission announced the formation of an Environmental Advocacy ad hoc committee composed of

Citywide Commissioner Vedant Janapaty (ad hoc committee Chair), District 3 Commissioner Deitra Hoang, District 9 Commissioner Agam Singh, and District 10 Commissioner Nolan Mascarenhas.

The Committee focused on upscaling environmental awareness around native plant rehabilitation, food waste, litter pickups, and school and community gardens — all areas of importance detailed in the Commission’s 2023-24 Work Plan. The following report presents the work done to achieve the Commission’s environmental objectives.



## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

### Marijane Hamann Park Oak Planting Project

On March 16th, led by Citywide Commissioner Vedant Janapaty, the Environmental Advocacy ad hoc committee successfully led the planting of twelve native oak trees. Inspired by the work of environmental nonprofits such as Grassroots Ecology and Keep Coyote Creek Clean, the committee looked to underscore oaks for their high carbon capture capacity, maintenance of soil quality, and cultural significance. Three species of oaks were finalized, including the blue oak, coastal live oak, and valley oak. Google donated eight coastal live oaks and valley oaks, and four blue oaks were purchased from Capitol Wholesale Nursery in San José. The Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services department and the Volunteer Management Unit provided tactical support in delivering the oaks, tools, and supplies to the project site. Grassroots Ecology, Keep Coyote Creek Clean and Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action partnered with the Commission to promote the event to youth in San José and beyond.





# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

## Silver Creek High School Native Garden

The Commission recognizes the need to involve school communities in the City's youth environmental movement. To that end, a campaign was established in Silver Creek High School to highlight the importance of native plants in thwarting California's wildfires and to restore California plant species that have been decimated due to the relentless spread of non-native, invasive species. California native plants were introduced into a vacant plot at Silver Creek High School. The project was funded through farmer's market sales in the local community. Among the native plants introduced were the California sunflower, fuchsia, deer weed, sticky monkey flower, California rose, Lewisia, goldenrods, wire rush, and yarrow.

## Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Status

In October, the Youth Commission received an update from the Environmental Services Department on its stormwater elimination system. Deputy Director Rajani Nair described how the ESD expands solutions to broaden trash load reduction goals. Additionally, the ESD highlighted their vision to implement sediment control measures in "Old Industrial Areas" and to manage PCBs-containing materials from building demolitions. The Commission seeks to implement these solutions by expanding stormwater and trash reduction campaigns. This will continue to be a major area of interest in the 2024-25 fiscal year. ■





# WORK PLAN **OBJECTIVE**

## **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & SAFETY**

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Led by Commissioner Megan Luong and comprised of Commissioner Deitra Hoang, Commissioner Amiya Bansal, Commissioner Aanya Mishra, and Commissioner Neyha Pradeepkumar, the Gender-Based Violence and Safety ad hoc committee first convened in September 2023.

The ad hoc committee focused its work on the following:

Collaborate with local organizations and city departments to conduct research and support an awareness campaign by youth around issues including but not limited to:

- Sexual harassment
- Assault / domestic violence
- Healthy relationships

We did this by:

1. Gathering youth input through various events and initiatives,
2. Researching the availability of preventative measures, support programs, and educational resources relating to gender violence,



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & SAFETY

3. And writing a memorandum on implementing helpline placards in city bathrooms as a safety measure.

### Gathering Input

Recognizing the importance of amplifying youth voices in combating gender violence, we engaged with various stakeholders to gather insights and experiences. This included meeting with the Coalition for Social Justice at ESUHSD and connecting with student survivors and their stories. Notably, discussions with TEA club members at Andrew Hill High School shed light on the prevalence of violence among peers and the support networks that exist. Furthermore, the Committee drew upon the personal experiences and observations of its Commissioners, which included instances of gender violence witnessed among elementary-aged peers, as well as a notable surge in social media disclosures from San José high school students regarding experiences of rape and sexual violence.

These accounts collectively underscored the necessity of our ad hoc work. Supplementary corroborative data gleaned from the Annual Youth Survey further substantiated the concern and provided input.



### Researching Community Resources

Collaborating with organizations like the YWCA proved instrumental in our efforts to understand and leverage existing preventative measures and support programs. Through these partnerships, we gained valuable insights into initiatives such as the TEA Club and safety workshops, which address the root causes and ongoing effects of gender violence in our community.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & SAFETY

### Implementing Change

In pursuit of tangible policy solutions, the committee explored innovative approaches to addressing gender violence. At the 2024 budget summit, discussions centered on establishing a safety map to track instances of violence in real time, led by Commissioner Mishra. Additionally, recognizing the need for immediate action, we championed the implementation of Gender-Based Violence Helpline Placards in city bathrooms.

This policy, aimed at responding to the Bay Area human trafficking crisis and promoting public safety, underscores our commitment to proactive intervention. By prominently displaying helplines for sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic violence, we seek to raise awareness and provide vital support to those in need. The policy has garnered support from Councilmember Doan and his legislative team, who have championed its advancement. As a result, the policy is currently undergoing the implementation process. ■





# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 1

BY AANYA MISHRA

In September 2023, I established the District 1 Youth Advisory Council. We are a team of seventeen civically engaged high school students who dedicate our time, talent, and ideas to promote positive change in our community. Along with the San José Youth Commission, our primary goals are to provide the San José Mayor and City Council with policy recommendations, identify and address youth issues, host exciting events, and address the needs of our district residents.

A dedicated officer team runs the District 1 Youth Advisory Council and meets biweekly, ensuring regular and focused efforts toward our shared objectives.

On December 15th, 2023, we had the privilege of hosting Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei at our Youth Advisory Council meeting. We had the opportunity to share our policy proposals with her. In return, Vice Mayor Kamei offered invaluable insights and feedback, suggesting strategies to enhance the reach and impact of our initiatives.



## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 1

On March 22nd, 2024, the District 1 Youth Advisory Council successfully organized the first-ever Career Exploration Fair at Cupertino Library. This event featured fourteen student-led organizations, school clubs, and nonprofits and was attended by over 250 students and parents. Attendees were immersed in a wealth of resources aimed at illuminating various career trajectories and highlighting the plethora of opportunities available to students. It provided a unique platform for attendees to ask questions, seek advice, and gain insights from individuals eager to share their knowledge and experiences. In doing so, the event fostered a sense of community engagement.

In addition, the District 1 Youth Advisory Council has drafted a memorandum regarding the prevention of unsafe conditions in transportation surrounding school campuses. Our policy aims to achieve this objective through collaborative efforts with schools and community organizations.

Specifically, we strive to establish clearly marked bike and pedestrian lanes and identify additional measures to bolster student safety across San José.

Furthermore, the District 1 Youth Advisory Council is gearing up to host a College Admissions Workshop. With this event, we aim to invite current college students, who will offer invaluable guidance on essay writing, application strategies, and overall advice tailored for juniors and seniors in high school. ■





# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 2

BY NEYHA PRADEEPKUMAR

In San José's District 2, our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) tirelessly empowers youth voices. Since its establishment in October, led by Chair Rehaan Aziz and Vice-Chair Ruby Yu, our team of 10 members has been on an exhilarating journey of empowerment.

Our inaugural year has been nothing short of extraordinary. It was marked by the launch of our publicity team, which has extensively collaborated through their promotional efforts and orchestrating a donation drive with

the Family Giving Tree, raising over \$200 through gift donations and in-person contributions.

In January, our YAC members attended the Youth Commission's Budget Summit, participating in vital discussions around youth mental health. As we continue to expand our network, we've welcomed members from multiple high schools in District 2 and formed a partnership with the District 2 Neighborhood Association, enriching our community engagement efforts.

With the District 2 elections on the horizon, our YAC is gearing up to collaborate with the D2 Neighborhood Association to civically empower the district's youth in the democratic process.

Thanks to the commitment of our YAC members: Rehaan Aziz, Ruby Yu, Fernanda Avila, Khyati Indla, Marian Kucharewski, Arunima Garg, Divya Vattikonda, Andrea Chen, and Kai Wang, totaling over 50 hours of volunteer service in dedication to their community. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 3

BY DEITRA V. HOANG

The District 3 Youth Advisory Council (D3 YAC) is a grassroots organization of passionate youth advocates committed to positively impacting their community. Due to a history of underrepresentation in local government, our YAC specifically focuses on social justice policy and equity initiatives.

### Activities and Impact

*Annual Citywide Youth Priorities Survey:* In collaboration with the San José Public Library, the survey was created to reach out to a diverse range of young people

across the city. With nearly 900 responses in the most recent iteration, the survey serves as a vital tool for gauging youth priorities and sentiments towards various city departments and issues. Now in its fourth year, this ongoing initiative highlights D3 YAC's commitment to inclusivity and community engagement, ensuring that the voices of youth are heard and accounted for in the decision-making processes of local government. The survey was recently made into a Commission-wide measure.





## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 3

*Annual District 3 Youth Policy Summit:* The D3 YAC hosts a yearly policy-writing event open to public youth to learn about the Youth Commission's work and how to write policy memorandums. Also running for the fourth year, we empower youth to engage with policy-making processes and address present issues within their community. Typically, memorandum ideas are taken from themes observed in our citywide survey, ensuring we address matters that general youth care about. At our most recent summit, we wrote a memorandum establishing a Black, Indigenous, People of Color Visual Artist Grant Program.

*Career & Major Exploration Workshop (In Collaboration with District 4 YAC):* The D3 and D4 Commissioners organized this workshop in partnership with Study Smart Tutors. This event allowed students to explore their interests and majors to identify career opportunities and educational criteria.



### Policy Initiatives

*Establishing a San José BIPOC Visual Artist Grant Program*—As a result of the 2024 Youth Policy Summit, this memorandum's purpose is to uplift and financially support BIPOC visual artists in San José for the artistic contributions they have made.

*Implementing Green Canopies in Downtown San José*—To address environmental advocacy efforts, this policy recommends implementing green canopies in Downtown San José's commercial streets, terraces, and squares to generate shade, reduce air pollution, and beautify the downtown area. ■

# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 4

BY THY LUONG

This year, District 4's Youth Advisory Council (D4YAC), a group of nineteen youth living or attending school mostly in District 4 San José, tackled a variety of issues through policy writing, volunteering, and event planning. Split into four key teams: Homelessness & Poverty, Climate Change & Environment, Safety & Transportation, and Social & Racial Equity, D4YAC ideated, planned, and executed various initiatives in D4 and across San José.

Across the school year, D4YAC met biweekly both in person and on Zoom as a full team, with individual teams meeting outside of general meeting times for team-specific work. Spearheaded by D4 Commissioner Thy Luong and D4YAC Vice Chair Kasey Cheung, D4YAC worked to plan "A.I.M. (Advise, Inspire, Motivate): Pathways to Our Future," a conference aimed at inspiring San José Youth to attend college and pursue diverse careers. A long-standing District 4 tradition, 2024 is the first year since the pandemic that A.I.M. will be held fully in-person.

D4YAC members also participated in YAC socials and local leadership conferences, attended SJYC's annual Budget Summit, and volunteered at D4 events like the Berryessa Mid-Autumn Festival and city Dumpster Days.





## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 4

### *D4YAC Homelessness & Poverty Team*

Led by Team Lead Ojas Gandhi and staffed by Harry Le, Vienna Thai, Genesis Arroyo, and Kristina Huffman, the D4YAC Homelessness & Poverty Team worked to run their annual clothing drive with CityTeam San José at three different high school locations: Independence High School, Evergreen High School, and Piedmont Hills High School. From December 2023 to February 2024, the team collected gently used clothing to provide low-income and homeless San José residents winter clothes for the upcoming winter months through donations directly to the CityTeam San José shelter and boxes placed at the aforementioned high schools.



The team also authored the “Menstrual Products in Libraries” memo, an initiative to implement free menstrual products in at least one bathroom per San José Public Library, and is working with the D4 Office and city to implement the memo in the near future.

### *D4YAC Climate Change & Environment Team*

Led by Team Lead Katie Hion and staffed by Evelyn Wang, Katelyn Tran, Medha Mahanta, and Diya Arun Kumar, the D4YAC Climate Change & Environment Team worked to develop a tree-planting proposal that would encourage planting low-maintenance and drought-resistant trees in heat islands to minimize the heat risk in San José. The team also hosted various events aimed towards cultivating environmental literacy and stewardship throughout the year. In February, the team partnered with the D4 Office and Beautify SJ to host a Litter Pickup at Flickinger Park, cleaning up trash around the park to better families’ lives. Finally, in partnership with four high school environmental clubs in San José—NDSJ Clean & Green Club, PHHS Students Uniting Farm Workers,

## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 4

PHHS Science for the Youth, and PHHS Greenfingers— D4YAC successfully hosted the inaugural Green Planet Conference, an event that connected like-minded youth over issues affecting the environment, involved interactive exhibits presented by each club, and allowed youth to plan a citywide environmental awareness campaign around composting and environmental awareness.

### *D4YAC Safety & Transportation Team*

Led by Team Lead Ethan Effendi and staffed by Amy Nguyen, Kalie Huynh, and Aldrin Udasco, the D4YAC Safety & Transport Team worked primarily on promoting access to naloxone and transportation issues. Most notably, the team planned and spearheaded D4YAC's "You(th) Can Prevent Overdose" event, in which dozens of attendees listened to a presentation on drug safety by the D4YAC Safety & Transportation team, practiced naloxone administration and CPR and had the opportunity to take home naloxone sprays. Joined by EMT instructor Angelica Lomeli,

five Foothill College EMT students, and the Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project, the team fostered youth awareness about drug use and trained youth with life-saving skills. In the near future, the team is working towards partnering with local transportation authorities and community organizations to improve public transportation incentives for youth.

### *D4YAC Social & Racial Equity Team*

Led by Team Lead Thanisha Kapur and staffed by Akshadha Meenakshi and Vincent Siquig, the D4YAC Social & Racial Equity Team planned D4 San José's first youth-led social business competition, Innovate4Good. Aimed towards bringing like-minded students with a passion for business and community service together, the 5-hour intensive competition took place in April and was focused on fostering youth entrepreneurship and business skills. The team is also currently looking towards expanding youth access to mental health services and the science behind mental health through community partnerships and policy. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 5

BY ANDREW LIEU

The District 5 Youth Advisory Council has hosted 3 YAC Meetings and 15 YAC Leadership Meetings. In addition to meetings, our YAC hosted several events, such as the “Culture Fest” at James Lick High School with Councilmember Ortiz’s Office, the Second Annual Introduction to Public Policy Conference that focused on skilled, ethical, and empathetic-based training for members, and volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank Events.

Policy-wise, our YAC authored a memo to Support Addressing

Homeless Encampments and Oversized Vehicles near Schools, to Add “Civic Engagement” to the Youth Commission Work Plan, and co-authored a Letter to Ask for More Support for the Youth Commission. We also worked on a City-School Collaborative to provide Reports and receive feedback from the Youth Commission.

Additionally, we provided public comments on council items like homeless encampments and oversized vehicles near schools. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 6

BY AMIYA BANSAL



I have been deeply involved in our community as the District 6 Youth Commissioner and Communications Director. A highlight of this year was the successful collaboration between Districts 1 and 6 in organizing a Study Smart event focused on oil spills and STEM. The event drew a decent turnout and fostered connections with other civically engaged youth, allowing us to expand our Youth Advisory Councils (YACs).

District 6 has made significant improvements in expanding our YAC and is actively welcoming new applications. We hold our meetings on Zoom and have a consistent schedule. These meetings include research, drafting, and overall event promotion and planning. For example, we researched for our Budget Summit, where I had the opportunity to speak and present. The District 6 YAC and I have attended many commission events, like the Oak Tree Planting and YAC Social. I am so grateful to be able to work with such politically active youth.

In my role as Communications Director, our efforts to engage youth have paid off. We have remarkable results, with our Instagram nearing almost 300 followers from a humble start of 0. We're continuously crafting and sharing content, even beginning video production for Instagram Reels. Currently, I am working on commission graphics and content to continue to boost our social media presence and outreach efforts. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 7

BY MEGAN LUONG

The District 7 Youth Advisory Council (D7 YAC) is a group of passionate youth advocates committed to positively impacting their community. We consistently meet during general meetings twice a month. D7 YAC has twenty-eight active members at large who attend general meetings and twelve core council members—Peter Vu, Aileen Dang, Trina Vu, Elaine Tran, Andrea Gopar, Yash Omprakash, Brandon Tran, Victoria Ponce, Olive Luong, Anshul Dhaas, Albert Vo, Kimberly Perez—who commit extra time to writing policies, volunteering, and event-planning. Their collective work allows the execution of successful initiatives in District 7 and across San José.

### Events

*Creative Futures Fair:* The event served as a platform to showcase the talents and entrepreneurial endeavors of over 50 youth entrepreneurs representing 42 businesses. Held at Yerba Buena High School, the fair also featured performances by more than 20 student musicians.

This event was made possible through a collaboration with the Key Clubs at Yerba Buena HS and Silver Creek HS, engaging nearly 60 high school volunteers. The fair attracted a diverse audience of over 250 individuals, providing them with an opportunity to learn about the San José Youth Commission while showing their support for youth-led small businesses.



## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 7



*Financial Literacy Study Smart Workshop (in collaboration with District 9 YAC):* The D7 and D9 Commissioners organized this workshop in partnership with Study Smart Tutors. This event helps students successfully interpret basic budgeting concepts, including analyzing bank statements, the different parts of checks and deposit slips, and tracking and managing their spending. We performed meaningful outreach to engage high school lifeskill clubs and youth through Breakthrough Silicon Valley and the Bill Wilson Youth Center.

*Housing Policy Q&A and Forum for Youth:* D7 hosts speakers from the City of San José's Housing Department and invites young people to come and learn about the importance of affordable housing and how housing policy can address community needs.

*Policy Basics: An Interactive & Virtual Workshop:* Commissioner Megan Luong leads interactive policy workshops that are open to all San José youth, regardless of YAC membership or policy experience, to join and contribute to memo writing! During this workshop, participants are guided through the collaborative



## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 7

policy-writing process for an actual policy memorandum and have time to conduct research and write portions themselves.

### Community Partnerships

We worked closely with the Bill Wilson Center, providing consultancy during the planning stage of their Direct Cash Program aimed at supporting homeless and transitional-aged youth with monthly financial stipends of \$1,000 and supportive programming.

Furthermore, in partnership with the Vietnamese American Roundtable, YAC members volunteered at cultural events and fostered stronger connections with the District 7 community. This included speaking about youth mental health challenges during a Health Justice Dialogue event at Tully Library with Assemblyman Ash Kalra and volunteering at the Lunar New Year event in History Park of District 7.

We also distributed harm reduction educational materials, food, and vaccinations to the unhoused community, engaging with their lived experiences around Tully Library and the Coyote Creek Trail.

Additionally, we collaborated with Breakthrough Silicon Valley, which has an office in District 7, to actively recruit local youth leaders from low-income or first-generation communities and integrate their perspectives into the D7 YAC. Eight members of the D7 YAC are Breakthrough SV students.

Through our collaboration with YWCA, we gained valuable insights into preventative initiatives and support groups such as TEA Club and safety workshops, which addressed the root causes and ongoing effects of gender violence among youth in our community, even inviting them to share their expertise at a general Youth Commission meeting.

## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 7



### Policy Initiatives

*Implementing Gender-based Violence Helpline Placards in City Bathrooms*—In line with the work plan goals aimed at addressing rampant gender violence and responding to the Bay Area

human trafficking crisis, we have drafted and passed a policy to install signage displaying helplines for sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic violence in public city bathrooms. Aims to promote public safety and awareness.

*Establishing a San José Green Businesses Recognition Program*—To promote sustainable practices, this policy recommends implementing a tiered awards program as part of the California Green Business Network, acknowledging environmentally responsible businesses, nonprofits, and institutions in San José that meet high environmental standards.

*Establishing a Youth Restorative Arts Diversion Initiative as an Incarceration Alternative*—Policy proposes the establishment of a citywide Restorative Arts Diversion Initiative for youth offenders in San José. The initiative aims to promote fair and restorative justice practices, diverting youth from lifelong criminal records and preventing their entry into the carceral system. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 8

BY ALDOJOELL GONZALEZ-MUNIZ

The District 8 Youth Advisory Council made a work plan about what YAC members wanted to do as a community event and to collaborate with other districts or organizations. We partnered with the Welch Park Neighborhood Association and participated in monthly litter pick-ups, dumpster days, and monthly food distributions with Second Harvest to help our community and make it a much cleaner, safer place. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 9

BY AGAM SINGH

This year, we formed a brand-new Youth Advisory Council (YAC) specifically for District 9, primarily comprising students from Leigh High School. Over the past year, I have been working on bridging the divide between the YAC and the schools involved in our district. I reached out to the ASB program in my school and began the paperwork and process for establishing a YAC club within my school to increase youth engagement within my district.

We had extensive brainstorming sessions throughout our year, crafting policy recommendations and innovative project proposals. In support of the Environmental ad hoc committee, District 9 has been working on an environmental policy, and we plan on wrapping up this year soon and starting strong next year. To do this, we have begun drafting flyers for next year's recruitment and plan to create a social media profile to further increase civic engagement in our district. ■





# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT 10

BY NOLAN MASCARENHAS

During my tenure as Vice Chair and Outreach for the YC, I undertook various endeavors to bolster community engagement and foster civic involvement. A significant aspect of my role involved devising more effective outreach strategies and cultivating productive relationships with stakeholders within the Commission. Notably, I collaborated on implementing a youth-oriented budget priority survey, which garnered close to 900 responses through coordinated efforts with local council offices, community-based

organizations, and schools in San José.

In addition, I researched the availability and quality of educational resources in preparation for the budget summit, enhancing my understanding of pertinent issues and that of other youth. My outreach efforts helped attract over 70 attendees to the summit, including Councilmember David Cohen. Additionally, I played a crucial role in tagging the gathered data to filter out youth priorities.



## DISTRICT REPORTS: DISTRICT 10

Furthermore, I orchestrated several noteworthy events, including a Tree Planting initiative that drew over 30 participants (including the Mayor), planting a dozen Oak Trees in Marijane Hamann Park. I co-sponsored City Council and County Supervisor candidate forums in partnership with neighborhood associations, collectively attracting approximately 130 attendees. Also, I collaborated with the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) department to adopt Almaden Lake Park for cleanup activities and tree planting initiatives, contributing to environmental conservation efforts.

In tandem with these endeavors, I prioritized expanding our digital outreach by establishing an official District 10 Youth Leadership Coalition website and launching an Instagram account to broaden our reach and engagement. I also facilitated a well-received financial goals and career planning workshop in collaboration with Study Smart Tutors, which benefitted 15 participants.



The District 10 Youth Leadership Coalition has also engaged in policy efforts. We have developed policies regarding universal basic income and traffic safety. Along these lines, I also advocated for the passage of the Bill of Rights for Children and Young Adults and the passage of the expanded powers of the Youth Commission, changing the municipal code.

Beyond my formal responsibilities, I actively interned with the Council Office throughout the academic year, ensuring the representation of youth perspectives in local governance discussions. Councilmember Batra graciously attended one of the District 10 Youth Leadership Coalition's meetings, offering insight and information about the District. ■



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## CITYWIDE

BY VEDANT JANAPATY

This year, the San José Youth Commission established the Citywide YAC with the intention of integrating youth voices and actualizing interdistrict initiatives.

Composed of four members, the Citywide YAC promoted the Commission's oak planting project in Marijane Hamann Park. This project was conceptualized and led by Citywide Commissioner and Environmental Ad Hoc Chair Vedant Janapaty. Ahead of the event, YAC members assisted in advertising the event to schools, communities, and youth-led organizations.



Additionally, organizations like Grassroots Ecology, Keep Coyote Creek Clean and Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action endorsed the event and promoted it to youth environmental stewards.

Following the successful completion of the oak planting project, YAC members brainstormed youth-led project ideas and presented them during the YAC's February meeting. Nidhi Yellamraju proposed a youth mentorship program to empower youth by pairing them with adult mentors. Saket Pathak and Arjun Chawla conceptualized educational awareness programs to boost reading proficiency and academic support initiatives respectively. Finally, Shaurya Sharma is looking to host a citywide brain disease prevention and awareness campaign.

All four of these projects will commence this summer. In the meantime, the Citywide YAC is working on identifying schools and communities to pilot the programs. ■



# VOLUNTEER **STATISTICS**

# 2273

Total number of volunteer service hours from Youth Commission and Youth Advisory Council members from July 2023 to April 2024.

# 16

The average number of hours spent by 54 Youth Advisory Council members in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 10 were spent on activities such as attending YAC meetings, supporting district events, and doing policy research.

# 128

The average number of hours spent by the 11 Youth Commissioners on activities such as attending general meetings, coordinating YAC meetings, conducting community outreach, and crafting policy recommendations.



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS IN ACTION

**OCTOBER 15, 2023**

## **DISTRICT 5 CULTURE FEST**

District 5 YAC, in partnership with the District 5 Councilmember's Office, hosted a celebration of cultural diversity in San José at James Lick High School.



**DECEMBER 3, 2023**

## **DISTRICT 2 GIVING TREE DRIVE**

District 2 YAC, in collaboration with Family Giving Tree, hosted a donation drive of necessities on wish lists provided by underprivileged youth and families.



**NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

## **BAY AREA YAC SOCIAL**

An opportunity for YACs across the peninsula to come together and network, collaborate, share ideas, and inspire each other through fun activities.



**JANUARY 13, 2024**

## **DISTRICTS 1 & 6 STUDY SMART WORKSHOP**

A workshop hosted in coordination with Study Smart focused on working together and utilizing problem-solving to resolve a STEAM issue like an Oil Spill.

# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS IN ACTION

**JANUARY 20, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 3 POLICY SUMMIT**

District 3 YAC hosted an annual policy-writing event open to public youth to learn about the Youth Commission's work and how to write policy memorandums.



**JANUARY 21, 2024**

## **YOUTH BUDGET SUMMIT**

The annual summit is where youth gather to voice their thoughts on the organization of the city budget and policy priorities through discussion and presentation of ideas to elected officials.

**JANUARY 27, 2024**

## **DISTRICTS 2 & 10 STUDY SMART WORKSHOP**

A workshop hosted in coordination with Study Smart where students explored possible college and career paths and developed new money-management strategies, setting long and short-term goals.



**FEBRUARY 17, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 5 SECOND HARVEST SERVICE**

District 5 YAC, in collaboration with Second Harvest, distributed food to underprivileged families and those in need.



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS IN ACTION

**MARCH 9, 2024**

## **BAY AREA YAC ATTACK**

A bi-annual youth conference where YACs sit in on educational sessions and gain new insight into their roles as YAC members.



**MARCH 16, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 4 DRUG SAFETY + NARCAN TRAINING**

District 4 YAC hosted a workshop for youth about the opioid crisis and free training on how to administer Narcan.



**MARCH 16, 2024**

## **CITYWIDE OAK TREE PLANTING**

San José youth volunteered to plant 12 trees at Marijane Hamann Park alongside Mayor Mahan to promote ecological awareness and encourage all youth to participate in making San José Greener!



**MARCH 17, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 7 CREATIVE FUTURES FAIR**

D7 YAC and Yerba Buena High School Key Club hosted a fair showcasing youth artists and entrepreneurs to promote their small businesses featuring handmade goods

# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS IN ACTION

**MARCH 22, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 1 CAREER EXPLORATIONS FAIR**

D1 YAC hosted a fair showcasing student-led clubs and organizations where young people could learn about various career paths in a comfortable, pressure-free atmosphere.



**APRIL 7, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 4 GREEN PLANET CONFERENCE**

District 4 YAC hosts a conference featuring interactive exhibits and impactful activities about environmental awareness in San José.



**APRIL 6, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 5 POLICY CONFERENCE**

D5 YAC hosts an annual conference with guest speakers and workshops on empowering young people to become more actively involved in their local government and developing policy ideas around youth issues.



**APRIL 13, 2024**

## **DISTRICTS 7 & 9 STUDY SMART WORKSHOP**

A workshop hosted in coordination with Study Smart, in which students interpret basic budgeting concepts and track and manage their own spending.



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS IN ACTION

**APRIL 13, 2024**

## **DISTRICTS 3 & 4 STUDY SMART WORKSHOP**

A workshop hosted in coordination with Study Smart will allow students to identify different career opportunities and explore various colleges and majors based on career choice.



**MAY 18, 2024**

## **DISTRICTS 5 & 8 STUDY SMART WORKSHOP**

A workshop hosted in coordination with Study Smart will allow students to identify different career opportunities and explore various colleges and majors based on career choice.



**APRIL 20, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 4 INNOVATE4GOOD**

Innovate4Good is a youth-focused business competition hosted by D4 YAC. The competition aims to inspire more youth to pursue a business career.



**JUNE 8, 2024**

## **DISTRICT 4 AIM CONFERENCE**

District 4 YAC hosts a conference featuring speakers, a resource fair, and workshops that serve to develop real-world applicable skills for attendees.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



## CITY DEPARTMENTS

San José Public Library  
Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood  
Services  
Volunteer Management Unit  
Environmental Services  
City Manager's Office

## CITY STAFF

Laura Buzo  
Alexander Dersh  
Lauren Hawkins  
Mumtaz Mohammad  
Kallie Schloemann

## ORGANIZATIONS

Grassroots Ecology  
Keep Coyote Creek Clean  
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action  
YWCA  
BreakthroughSV  
Bill Wilson Center  
Vietnamese American Roundtable

## PARTNERS

Santa Clara County Youth Task Force  
Library and Education Commission  
Santa Clara County Library District:  
Cupertino Library





# THANK YOU

The San José Youth Commission extends heartfelt appreciation to all who have contributed to our endeavors. We thank city officials, staff, and department heads for their support. We warmly thank our community partners for enriching our programs and events benefiting San José's youth. We're grateful for the energy and ideas of our young participants and for the generosity and enthusiasm of our Youth Advisory Council volunteers. Thanks to the families of our Commissioners and Youth Advisory Council members for their support. We also acknowledge the contributions of educational institutions, sponsors, donors, and residents of San José. Finally, we sincerely appreciate our dedicated staff and advisors driving our mission forward.



[YouthCommission@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:YouthCommission@sanjoseca.gov)



[sjpl.org/youth-commission](http://sjpl.org/youth-commission)



[@SJYouthCommission](https://www.instagram.com/SJYouthCommission)





**Youth  
Commission**  
CITY OF SAN JOSE

# 2023-2024 Annual Report

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MAY 9, 2024

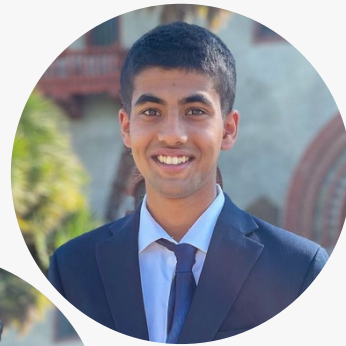
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES & EDUCATION COMMITTEE





COMMISSIONER JANAPATY

Citywide



COMMISSIONER MISHRA

District 1



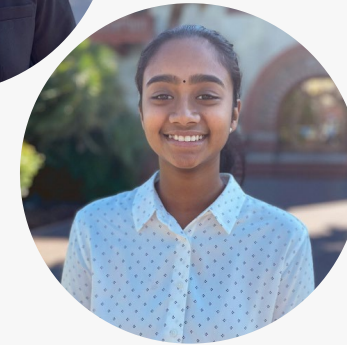
COMMISSIONER  
MASCARENHAS

District 10, Vice Chair & Outreach



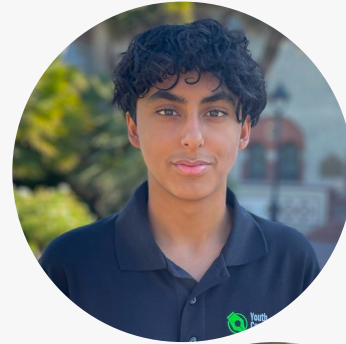
COMMISSIONER  
PRADEEPKUMAR

District 2



COMMISSIONER SINGH

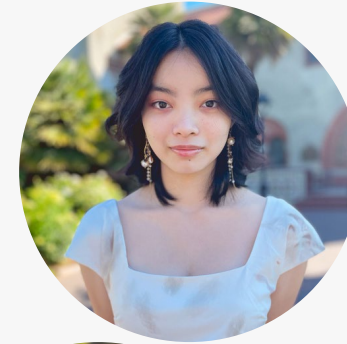
District 9



**Youth  
Commission**  
CITY OF SAN JOSE

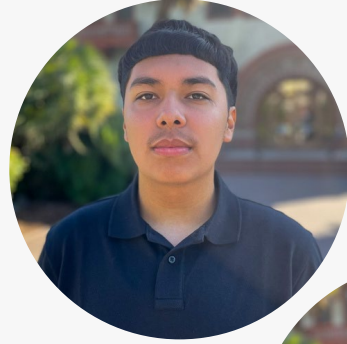
COMMISSIONER HOANG

District 3, Chair



COMMISSIONER  
GONZALES-MUÑIZ

District 8



COMMISSIONER T. LUONG

District 4



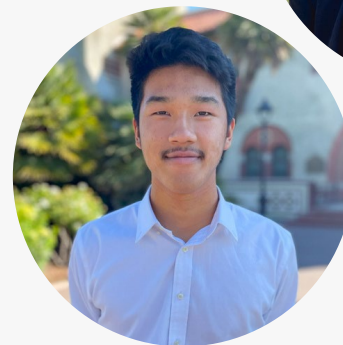
COMMISSIONER M. LUONG

District 7



COMMISSIONER LIEU

District 5



COMMISSIONER BANSAL

District 6, Communications







"Not about us,  
without us."





# ENHANCING THE YOUTH COMMISSION AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY

On September 12, 2023, the City Council unanimously approved an ordinance strengthening the Youth Commission's functions, powers, and duties.



## BILL OF RIGHTS

**for Children & Young Adults for Santa Clara County**



Every young person must get what they need when they need it, no matter their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, mental or physical ability, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, first language, skin color, education status, or wealth. We value the diversity of our children and young adults in Santa Clara County and believe we must treat each of them with respect and dignity.

---



# OUTREACH PLAN

Promote Youth Commission and Youth Advisory Council events, connect with community-based organizations, and develop partnerships to support the Youth Commission work plan.



## Obejctives

Increase the number of youths who know about the Youth Commission and participate in YACs.

## Strategies

Post on social media, create flyers and share information at schools and through youth organizations.

## Channels

Youth Commission social media, school distribution lists, local libraries, community centers, Councilmember newsletters, attending community events, and hosting town halls and summits.

## M etrics for Success

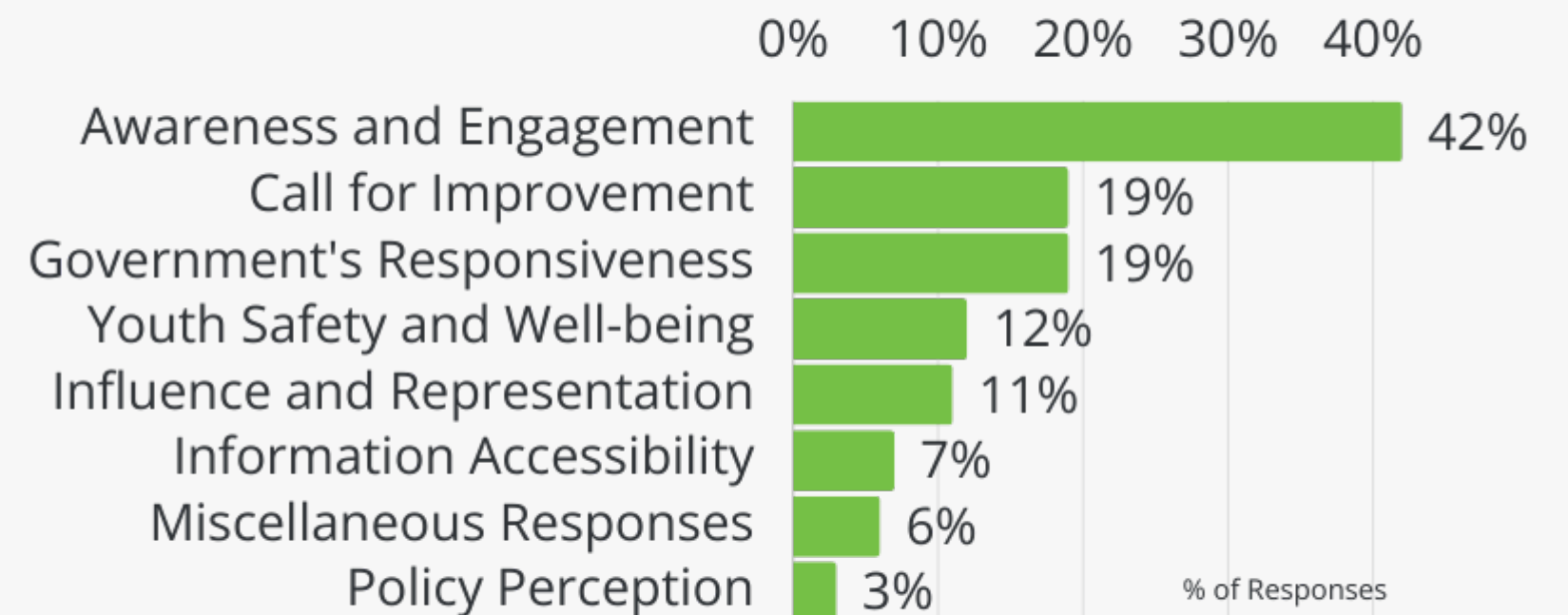
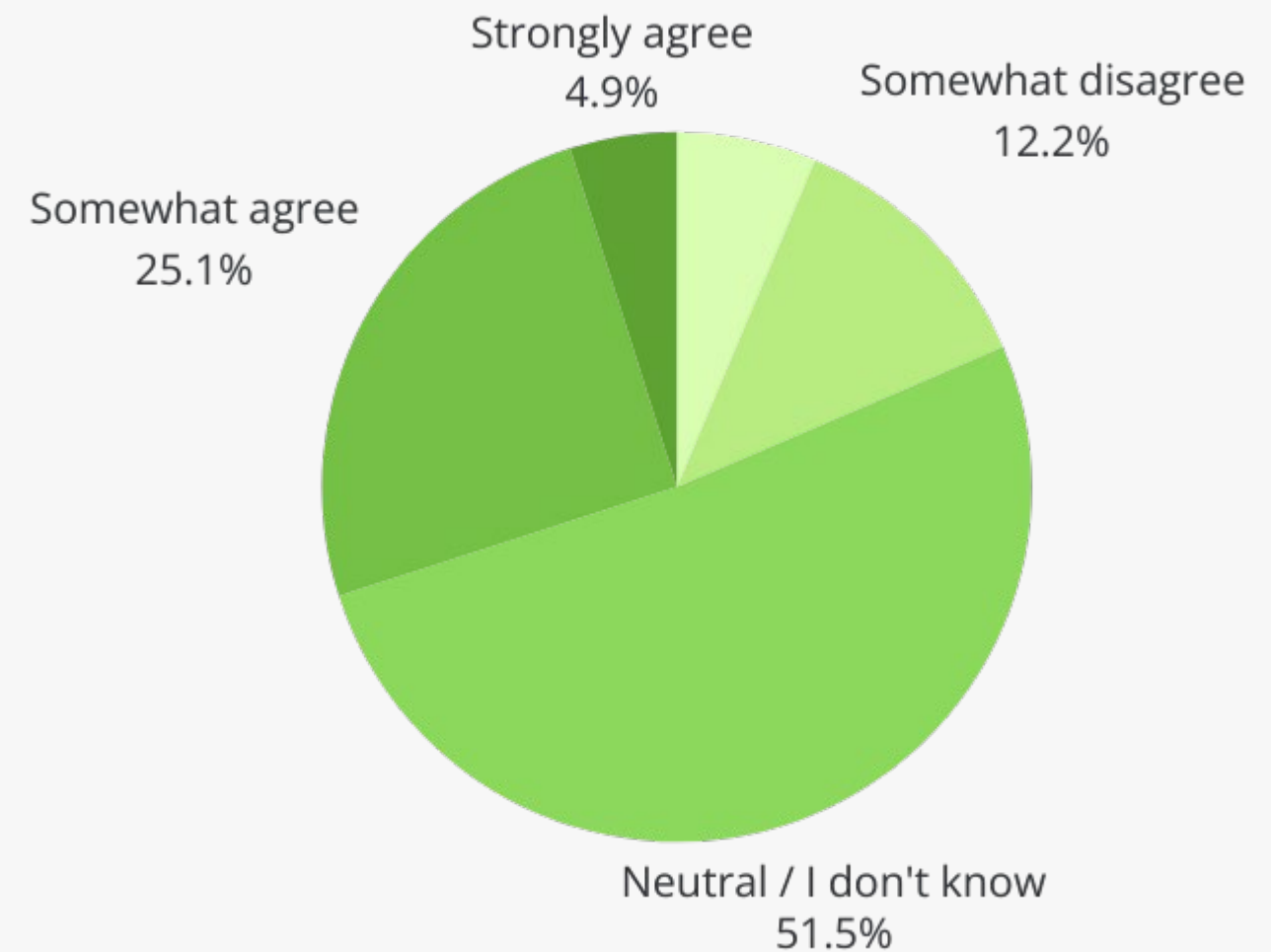
Engagement across social media, the number of youths who know about the Youth Commission and participate in YACs and at Youth Commission events, and the number of Youth Commission applications.



# YOUTH PRIORITIES SURVEY

It's evident from these results that there is room to grow regarding outreach around program and resource awareness. This lack of engagement and the role that youth play in the design and implementation of community programs and their local government is the gap the San José Youth Commission is trying to bridge.

The local City of San José government reflects youth priorities.

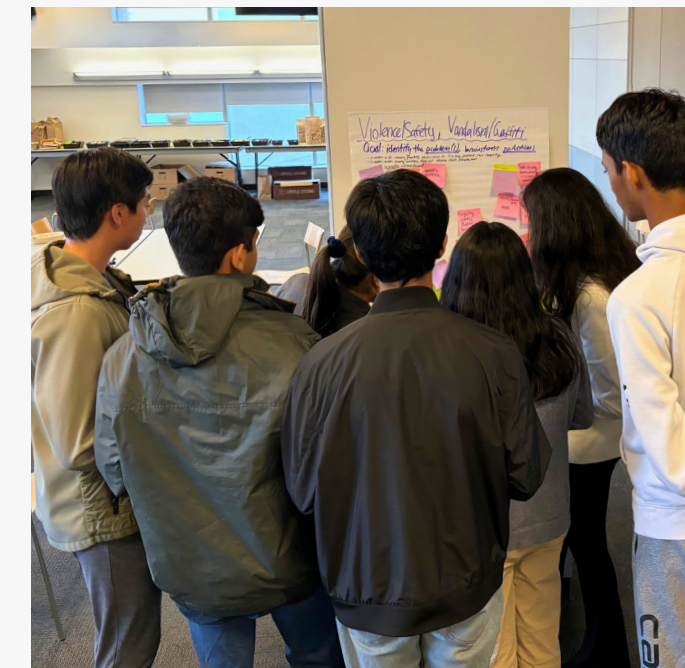




# DRAFT A RECOMMENDATION TO DEVELOP A YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAM PILOT

- Gather youth input through various events and initiatives to determine their priorities.
- Convey youth priorities to City Council and other relevant municipal authorities.
- Implement a City Budget Priority Session to gather insight and input from the youth on City Budget priorities.

## Budget Summit





# INFORM AND CULTIVATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AMONG YOUTH

- Collaborate with local organizations and city departments to launch an awareness campaign by youth in order to show the impact of environmental issues.
- Participate in litter pick-ups, dumpster days, and other clean-up events in collaboration with city departments and organizations.
- Collaborate with school clubs and encourage the creation and preservation of school/community gardens.



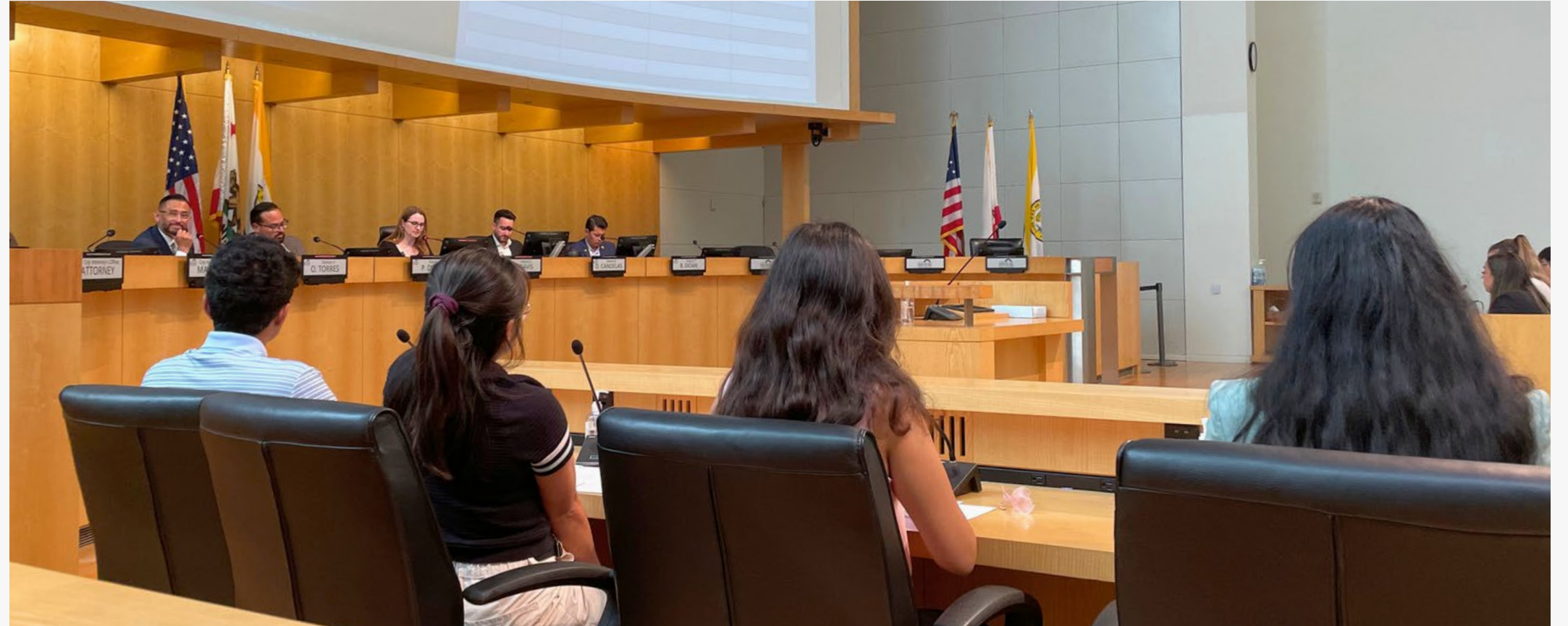
Oak Tree Planting



# EXPLORE AND UNDERSTAND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Collaborate with local organizations and city departments to conduct research and support an awareness campaign by youth around issues including but not limited to:

- Sexual harassment
- Assault / domestic violence
- Healthy relationships







## Looking Forward

### **INCREASING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMONG YOUTH**

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Increase youth participation through hosting various events and initiatives to foster a greater sense of civic engagement, including but not limited to:

- Civic events and forums
- Citywide youth survey



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS

These councils provide valuable input and insights on policies and programs directly impacting young people.

From July 2023 to April 2024, Youth Commission and Youth Advisory Council members volunteered a combined **2,273** service hours in dedication to Youth Commission activities and events.



128

The average number of hours spent by the 11 Youth Commissioners on activities such as attending general meetings, coordinating YAC meetings, conducting community outreach, and crafting policy recommendations.

16

The average number of hours spent by 54 Youth Advisory Council members in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 10 were spent on activities such as attending YAC meetings, supporting district events, and doing policy research.





# Thank you!

## WEBSITE

[www.sjpl.org/youth-commission](http://www.sjpl.org/youth-commission)

## EMAIL ADDRESS

[youthcommission@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:youthcommission@sanjoseca.gov)



**Youth  
Commission**

CITY OF SAN JOSE