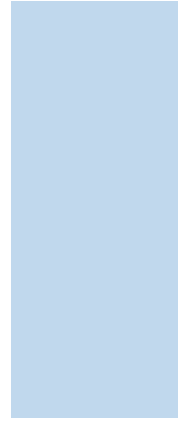




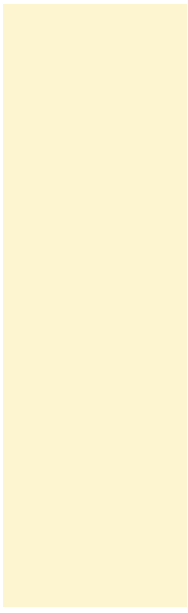
2019 - 2020



Philadelphia Youth Commission



Year-In-Review





Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement

Who we are

The Office of Youth Engagement (OYE) was created in 2017 to be a megaphone for the voice of young people in Philadelphia. We do this by creating original programming, providing policy recommendations, forging relevant partnerships, and elevating the amazing work our youth. OYE houses the Philadelphia Youth Commission & the Millennial Advisory Committee.

Developing leaders. Advising City government. Bridging the gap.

Philadelphia Youth Commission (PYC)

The Philadelphia Youth Commission (PYC) is made up of 21 Commissioners ages 12-23. PYC works with the City, community organizations, nonprofits, and private entities to improve the lives of Philadelphia's youth.

- Advise the Mayor, City Council, Philadelphia Schools, and other decision-makers on issues relating to young people.
- Comment on legislation and policies that impact youth.
- Create public service programs that improve the lives of youth.
- Monitor and measure the effectiveness of youth programs and policies.
- Partner with neighborhood youth organizations on shared issues.

Millennial Advisory Committee (MAC)

The Millennial Advisory Committee (MAC) exists to advise the City on policies, programs, and actions affecting millennials.

- Help develop initiatives focused on attracting and keeping millennial residents.
- Connect this generation to engagement opportunities with the larger community.
- Create a mentorship model to engage those who are new or returning to citizenship.

Chair's Letter

Dear Members of Philadelphia City Council,

Over ten years ago voters entrusted a group of 21 young people the legal responsibility of representing and advocating for all Philadelphians under the age of 24. Collectively known as the Philadelphia Youth Commission, our mission has remained the same as the city has changed and evolved.

I joined the Youth Commission as a high school sophomore. Appointed by former City Councilmember Bill Greenlee, I learned quickly with my fellow commissioners that there is no one Philadelphia. Our neighborhoods and backgrounds shape who we are and what we see. But, despite our individual differences, we have shared optimism that not only would Philadelphia's future be bright, but that we would have a hand in shaping it.

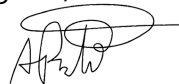
The Youth Commission has adapted to meet the needs and desires of our peers, forming committees focused on all different topics, from public safety to public education. It is not an understatement to say members of the Commission are among the brightest and most passionate Philadelphians. As Chair, it is my priority to ensure our Commission works passionately and intentionally to drive needed change in our city.

As we enter a new fiscal year, it is clear that the collective drive of the Commission is needed more than ever. Young people are flooding the streets pushing for overdue changes to the nation's criminal justice system and the ongoing pandemic (and resulting financial crisis) means a generation of Philadelphians, already handicapped by shortfalls in public education funding years earlier, will enter a frail job market.

It can be easy to discount the voices of the youth as naive or ill-informed. But as a Commission, we hold strong to our responsibility to be informed yet passionate, realistic yet responsible. It is City government's duty to represent all Philadelphians, and we pledge to remain the strongest advocates for our 300,000+ peers.

The Youth Commission submits this yearly report to keep you informed of our past work and updated on future activities. We look forward to future collaborations and welcome any questions, comments, or feedback.

Signed,



Alfredo Praticó
Chair, Philadelphia Youth Commission

Year-In-Summary

This report covers July 2019 to June 2020.

Starting in July, the Youth Commission began a series of transitions which have shaped our initiatives and ways of doing business. The Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement, which oversees our work, hired a new Executive Director and we bid farewell to a number of long-serving members who had either left Philadelphia or aged out of the Commission.

Entering a new school year, the Commission operated with an incredibly dedicated, small team. While this was certainly a challenge that required all of us to take on responsibilities we had never had before, it also gave us space to grow and recalibrate. And as City Council welcomed new members, we took the months of low membership to rethink how our commission would best serve the hundreds of thousands of young people we represent.

Starting calendar year 2020, our commission grew quickly, jumping from five members in December to 15 in January. The extra manpower brought with it many new ideas and helped us have a membership more representative of the city which we all serve.

With these new members, we embarked on a large set of reforms designed to reaffirm our commitments to the youth of Philadelphia while also making us better equipped to advocate for the changes we need. We undertook a comprehensive rehabilitation of our constitution, the first large-scale review since the Commission was founded over a decade ago. We introduced new executive board positions and radically reshaped our committee process, allowing the breadth of our collective knowledge to be focused on important issues facing our city's young people.

Of course, 2020 is also a year of great upheaval to our everyday lives. Starting with the Coronavirus pandemic, the Youth Commission worked with partner organizations to host virtual Youth Town Halls, designed to give public school students a venue to voice their concerns and get answers to their questions. As the district's financial future became vulnerable, a team of commissioners worked with the city and school district to present the student's side of budget cuts to city, state, and national lawmakers.

Now, with the murders of George Floyd still fresh, the Commission has again stepped up and organized listening sessions for young people across the city to have a space to share their views and work together to create succinct, necessary policy recommendations, a job which the Commission was tailor-made to address.

We enter the new fiscal year optimistic of our ongoing projects and confident in our commitment to representing our peers before city decisionmakers.

Committee Reports

Each of the Commission's three committees provides a brief summary of their work and plans below. Please reach out to the Commission if you have any committee-related questions

Note: Prior to February, 2020 the Commission operated with four standing committees: Jobs & Economics, Public Safety, Health & Wellness, and Education. Following constitutional amendments, these four committees were disbanded in favor of narrower, ad hoc committees designed to address specific advocacy and policy goals.

Sanitary Products Dispenser Committee

This committee was created to increase the number of female sanitary product dispensers available to students in Philadelphia public schools. These products are greatly needed, however, access can be limited for low-income Philadelphians. The committee is working with the School District of Philadelphia to create policy that mandates at least one dispenser in every middle and high school in the city. In addition, the committee is reaching out to organizations such as Philabundance, Kotex's "With U, She Can" program, and the Alliance for Period Supplies to build partnerships to assist in providing products to the district. Also, communicating with schools to see how a dispenser would fit into their existing nurse's office supplies. By June of 2021, the committee hopes to report an approved policy or strong non-governmental partnerships to ensure all female students have easy access to sanitary products.

Guns & Police Committee

Due to limitations on events during the pandemic, the Guns & Police Committee is engaged in extensive event planning. The committee is working on a PHL Youth Talk event which will focus on youth-police relations and trauma. The objective is to bridge the gap between youth and police. We are looking to have this event in the Fall, which will consist of panelists composed of law enforcement and youth leaders. The Committee is also investigating using different social media platforms to engage and inform our peers on relevant information surrounding public safety and community building.

Jobs & Economics Curriculum Committee

The Jobs and Economics Committee has organized 2 events that had over 15 young people attend. Within these events, it was an open, safe space for young people to gather and discuss topics such as professionalism, building connections, and resume building. Throughout both events, The Commission ensured to record young people's thoughts to have data about where the need or what a young person is feeling about a certain topic in the City of Philadelphia.

Events

#PHLYouthTalks: How Youth Move the Nation

"The Philadelphia Youth Commission (PYC), in partnership with Temple University's Office of Community Relations, hosted its first #PHLYouthTalks on February 22, 2020. In honor of BlackHistory Month, PYC created a space for young people to cometogether, relive history, share ideas, and create a plan of actionfor how they will engage their peers in 2020

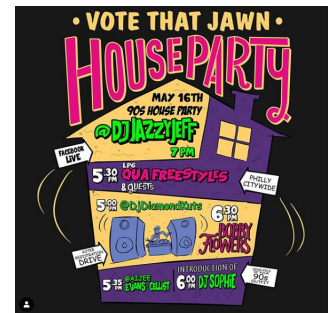


COVID-19 Youth Town Halls

Hosted in collaboration with the School District and Board of Education, members of the Youth Commission live-streamed on Instagram to give students an opportunity to ask important questions and have discussions related to the closure of schools due to the pandemic. Between the two live streams, over 1,000 people joined or watched.

Vote that Jawn Voter Registration House Party

Hosted in collaboration with Vote that Jawn, members of the Youth Commission text-banked to get their peers to register to vote while student DJs, entertainers, and musicians streamed music for virtual attendees.

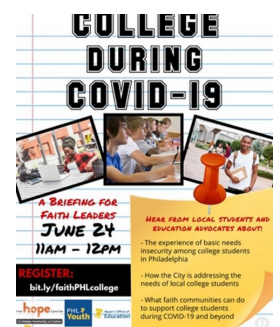


#PHLYouthTalks: Driving Action Through Discussion

Hosted by the Jobs & Economics Curriculum Committee, the Youth Commission hosted an open forum designed to give young Philadelphians a space to discuss the Black Lives Matter protests and assess where additional support was needed in their communities with regards to mental health, support, and community space. The Commission was joined by City Council Majority Leader Cherelle Parker and Ward Leader Anton Moore. Over 150 joined or watched the event live.

College During COVID-19

Hosted in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Faith & Interfaith Affairs, the Hope Center, and the Mayor's Office of Education - members of the Youth Commission served as panelists to share personal stories and help advise communities of faith on how best they can continue to serve & support the matriculation of hard-to-reach youth during the pandemic.



Meet the Youth Commission



Appointee:

Mayor Jim Kenney

Alfredo Praticò is Chair of the Philadelphia Youth Commission. A passionate advocate for young people across Philadelphia, Alfredo has worked to improve access to career preparedness and counseling services and create a system of equitable student voice across the city. Appointed to the commission in 2016 by Bill Greenlee (and now by Mayor Kenney), he was previously vice chair of the commission and chair of the public safety committee. Alfredo also served as the first student member of the Philadelphia Board of Education. A Spring Garden native, Alfredo is a graduate of Philadelphia public schools and is currently a student at the University of Pennsylvania.



Appointee:

Councilperson
Cherelle Parker

Nydirah Pollitt is the 9th District representative for the Philadelphia Youth Commission and Vice Chair of the Commission. During her time with the Philadelphia Youth Commission, Nydirah has been dedicated to education reform, youth mentoring, as well as homeless and violence prevention. In 2016, due to an increase of LGBTQ members of Philadelphia choosing not to enter the city's homeless shelters due to fear of being victimized for their sexual orientation, she testified to Philadelphia City Council about the need to acquire funding to acquire a LGBTQ homeless facilities in Philadelphia. In addition, she has organized youth talks throughout the city focused on health, education, and violence. In her Northwest Philadelphia community, she has interned with Councilwoman Cherelle Parker and currently serves as a committee person for the 50th Ward. In her role as a committee person, she is the Director of Youth Engagement, where she is focused on providing recreational activities and mentorship to youth in her community. Nydirah has a passion for healthcare and has pursued a degree in nursing. Committed to service, in her church community, she created a program to help senior citizens learn how to text on their phones. Nydirah is a certified EMG specialist as well as a Registered Nurse. Nydirah is a proud lifelong resident of the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia where she was raised by her mother, grandmother and grandfather.

Meet the Youth Commission



Appointee:

Mayor Jim Kenney

Jude Husein is the Chair of Jobs and Economics Committee on the Philadelphia Youth Commission. Jude is a Palestinian American, lifelong Kensington native and a passionate youth advocate. Jude has advocated for a variety of different issues such as immigration reform, access to education and job opportunities on a local stage within her community and an international stage where she served as a Youth Delegate at the United Nations representing the United States of America. Jude has been a public servant for over 5 years and continues to be a voice for youth on a local, national and international stage. Jude is a Philadelphia Public School graduate and currently attends La Salle University.



Appointee:

Councilperson
Jamie Gauthier

Abigail Brown is the Chair of the Health & Wellness Committee for the Philadelphia Youth Commission. She attends George Washington Carver High School for Engineering & Science. Abigail cares deeply about self-care, emotional & physical well-being, and quality of life for her peers.



Appointee:

Councilperson
Maria Quiñones-Sanchez

Mia Velez is a rising senior at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society and will serve as the Senior Class Representative to Student Government. Mia is an Ambassador and President of the Latinx Student Organization. Mia was appointed to the Youth Commission by Councilperson Maria Quiñones-Sanchez. She is very passionate about helping others and making a difference within and beyond her community.

Meet the **New** Commissioners 2020

Hannah Lac



Appointee:
Councilperson Helen Gym

Mica Moultrie-Bullock



Appointee:
Councilperson Curtis Jones

Ramier Jones



Appointee:
Councilperson Isaiah Thomas

Azeemah Solomon



Appointee:
Councilperson Allan Domb

Qawyyah Powers



Appointee:
Councilperson Kendra Brooks

Richard Ling



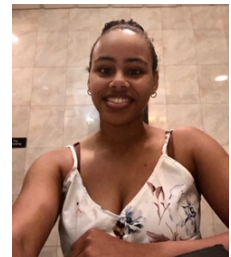
Appointee:
Mayor Jim Kenney

Sophie Gala



Appointee:
Mayor Jim Kenney

Alisia Flemings



Appointee:
Councilperson David Oh

Andrew Walker



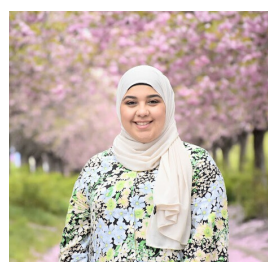
Appointee:
Mayor Jim Kenney

Brianna Morales



Appointee:
Mayor Jim Kenney

Doha Ibrahim



Appointee:
Councilperson Bobby Henon

Jessica Bernal-Caméjo



Appointee: Councilperson
Katherine Gilmore-Richardson