



## Application for 2019–2020 Term

Do you have an opinion about how your City makes decisions that affect you and your friends?

Do you want to be involved with youth representation at City Hall?

Join the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission!

**Early Applications\* – Due Friday, June 28 by 5 PM (if submitting in person)**

**Or Sunday, June 30 by 11:59 PM (if submitting by email or Google Form)**

*\*Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all vacancies are filled.*

**To complete this application electronically, use the following URL:**

<https://tinyurl.com/OAKYACapp2019>

***Oakland Youth Advisory Commission***

*Youth and Leadership Development*

*150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4211*

*Oakland, CA 94612*

*Phone: (510) 238-3245 | Email: [youthcommission@oaklandca.gov](mailto:youthcommission@oaklandca.gov)*

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/youth-leadership-and-development>

*Please direct questions to:  
Youth Leadership and Development Staff*

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# BACKGROUND ON THE OYAC

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## Who We Are:

The Youth Commission is a group of 25 ethnically and geographically diverse Oaklanders between the ages of 13 and 21. One member represents each of the Council Districts. The remaining youth are appointed at-large. Youth may apply to be recommended by Councilmembers and are appointed by the Mayor.



## What We Do

Our job, which was created by City Council in 1985 and makes us accountable to youth of the whole City, is to stand up for the voices of all youth in the policy and legislative debates at City Hall.

Whether it comes to homelessness, violence, financial literacy, health and wellness, or sex trafficking, we serve as authentic advisors on youth issues to the City Council and the Mayor.

We read laws, talk to the Councilmembers and the Mayor's Office, hold discussions with other young people in our schools and communities, organize events and hearings, and do research on policy and write resolutions.



## How We Do It:

Youth Commissioners can influence government in a few ways:

The Youth Commission may consider any proposed law that would affect youth and decide whether the law would be good for youth. Youth Commissioners can convince lawmakers to pass or reject the proposed law.

Youth Commissions can develop their own policies and laws relating to young people and try to convince the Mayor and City Council to pass them.



## When:

The Youth Commission is a serious time commitment and has a minimum time requirement of 12 hours per month.

There are full commission meetings that you are required to attend twice a month. Each commissioner also serves on an issue-based committee, which meets twice a month, and commissioners attend meetings and events in their communities as well.

## Do I Need Previous Experience?

No! Anybody can be a Youth Commissioner! The only requirements are that you live in Oakland and be between the ages of 13 and 21 when you are appointed. Youth Commissioners should also be passionate about youth and community issues—about the decisions the City makes that affect you and your friends!

## Do I Get Paid?

No—the City doesn't allow Youth Commissioners to be paid. However, you will receive a transportation stipend at the end of the year and dinners at every full commission meeting.

## What Will I Learn?

All Youth Commissioners get the chance to develop their leadership and advocacy skills! Youth Commissioners receive training on: legislative advocacy, community organizing, public speaking, power & oppression, social justice history, understanding City government and the City's budget. Being a Youth Commissioner is a great way to serve your community, learn about politics, network, and grow your leadership as a principled and effective community advocate.



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# RECENT EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

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## Youth to Youth Philanthropy through #OYACgivesback Mini-Grant

A project of Oakland Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST), funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), focuses on resiliency and equity for communities that have been impacted by high levels of violence, trauma and civil unrest. The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission selected creative and dynamic projects for mini-grants awards of up to \$5,000, developed by youth between the ages of 13 and 21 to support and increase community resiliency and healing with specific focus on law enforcement and community relations.

## Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY)

OYAC partnered with OFCY to facilitate conversations about the needs of young people at a series of community cafe forums to develop a Strategic Plan. Through these forums, youth, parents, service providers and concerned residents provided input on how to best serve Oakland's young people through OFCY funding. Findings helped inform OFCY's Planning and Oversight Committee about needs and priorities in Oakland on how to best allocate up to \$19 million in grant funding.

## March for Our Lives

Catalyzed by the tragedy in Parkland, FL, several youth leaders stood up in solidarity with the community of Parkland and our own communities that are affected by gun violence. One of the Youth Commissioners wrote an article for *Cosmopolitan* magazine about her journey to D.C. for the national March for Our Lives rally. Another Commissioner was a core organizer for the local March for Our Lives rally and gave a powerful speech. And another Commissioner was a core student organizer at Oakland Tech HS for the National School Walk Out day and gave a powerful speech. Lastly, an OYAC Co-Chair was honored as an Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame inductee.

## Improving Youth-Police Relations

In 2015, following a number of publicized events regarding police and community violence across the nation, OYAC convened a town hall with 15 diverse youth agencies to produce solutions and recommendations for effective and accountable policing to improve relations between law enforcement and young people in Oakland. From this convening, the OYAC published a report on "Youth Perspectives: Reforms, Solutions, and Recommendations for Accountable and Effective Policing in Oakland to Improve Relations between Law Enforcement, the Community and Youth."

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# HOW TO APPLY

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The application process and timeline for the 2019-2020 term are as follows:

- Fill out the application with your personal information, applicant agreement, resume and essay questions. **For hard copies, turn it in to the Youth Commission for by Friday, June 28 by 5 PM or by June 30 by 11:59 PM (for electronically submitted copies).** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all vacancies are filled.
- Come in for an interview with Youth Commission staff and Youth Commissioners in late July. **Exact dates and times will be announced after you turn in your application.**
- The City Council and Mayor's Office might ask you to come in and do their own interviews. **You are welcome to contact the Mayor and the City Council yourself!** Just ask us how.
- The Youth Commission makes recommendations to the Mayor's Office of who to appoint to the Commission. **Ultimately, the Mayor will choose who to appoint to the Youth Commission.**
- **In some cases, appointing officials may appoint a currently-sitting youth commissioner for a second term.** We understand the process can be a bit confusing, and so we encourage you to contact our office if you have questions. We hope the Mayor makes their appointments by early August (or soon thereafter).
- The 2019-2020 Youth Commission term begins at the Beginning-of-the-Year-Retreat in September 2019.

## \*\*\*IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*

The Youth Commission is a **serious time commitment.**

If appointed, in addition to the required 12 hours per month described on the "Basic Information" page above, Youth Commissioners are required:

***(1) To attend a 2.5 day orientation training retreat Friday evening, and all day Saturday and Sunday on a to be announced date in September 2019.***

***(2) To attend all of a full, two-day "mid year" training retreat Saturday and Sunday, February 2020***

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# PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Council District\* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\*to find your Council District, visit: <http://gisapps1.mapoakland.com/councildistricts/>

If under 18, please provide Parent/Guardian contact:

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional option information:

Ethnicity and/or Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Sexual orientation: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender identity: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are or will be in school, what school will you attend in the fall of 2019?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list all other schools you have gone to:

\_\_\_\_\_

What communities do you feel connected to?

*(Examples: foster care, juvenile justice, incarcerated parents, undocumented, low income, refugee, gay, lesbian, transgender, disabled, homeless, teen parent) Remember: these examples are just that. Please list all the communities YOU feel connected to.*

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the Youth Commission?

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# APPLICANT AGREEMENT

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*Please initial next to the statement(s) you agree with.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name)

**Certify that:**

\_\_\_\_\_ The information provided in this application is accurate and I have made every attempt to answer all questions truthfully and to the fullest extent possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have reviewed the application and the required dates for the 2019-2020 Youth Commission term and understand that the 12 hour a month requirement is mandatory.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this year's Orientation Retreat will be held on a weekend, Friday to Sunday in September 2019. The date is to be announced after applications have been reviewed. I also understand that there will be additional days of training on a Saturday and Sunday, in mid-February 2020. My attendance is required on all days.

\_\_\_\_\_ I certify that understand that the Youth Commission office gathers applicant information, interviews applicants, and makes recommendations to the Mayor's Office for appointment consideration, but does not make appointment decisions. Ultimately, the Mayor will choose who they will appoint to the Youth Commission. (If you have any questions about the application and appointment process, please contact Youth Commission staff at (510) 238-3245)

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# ESSAY QUESTIONS

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***There are no length requirements; however, your response should fully address each question.***  
*Please neatly handwrite or type your responses using 12 point Times New Roman font.*

1. Tell us about yourself. What is your personal history and background? What are some past accomplishments that you are proud of? What are your dreams and plans for your educational and professional future?
  2. What are some issues that affect youth in your school or community? How would you address some of these issues? If you had a meeting with the Mayor or a member of the City Council tomorrow, what would you talk about with them and advise them on?
  3. Why do you want to join the Youth Commission? What skills/talents would you bring to the Commission? What do you hope to learn while being on the Youth Commission?
  4. The Youth Commission requires a commitment of at least 12 hours a month. In order to truly make an impact, it is often necessary to go beyond that minimum commitment. What other commitments do you have during the school year? In what ways are you prepared to dedicate time to meet the Commission's goals? Are you willing to make this a top priority?
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## ATTACHMENTS

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Please attach a current resume (**required**) to your submission.

Provide an **optional** letter of recommendation—a few paragraphs are sufficient—from someone not in your family (for example, a teacher, counselor, probation officer, etc.) regarding your work.

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***Early application deadline is Friday, June 28 by 5 PM if mailing/dropping off in person,***  
***or Sunday, June 30 by 11:59 PM if sending via email or Google Form.***

*If submitting via email, PDF format is preferred.*  
*Submit application in person, by regular mail, or email to:*

**Oakland Youth Advisory Commission**  
Youth and Leadership Development  
150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4211  
Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: (510) 238-3245 | Email: [youthcommission@oaklandca.gov](mailto:youthcommission@oaklandca.gov)