



Who Are We?



The San Antonio Youth Commission is a group of 22 high school students appointed by the San Antonio City Council and the Mayor to represent all 10 City Council districts.



We seek to be a voice for youth concerns by highlighting them to key decision makers, starting with city governments and school district leaders.





A New Start in 2017-18

SAYC Begins
Strategic
Planning



Adopts Mission,
Values, and
Objectives



2017-2018 Plan

Concern #1

- Overly focused on service events

Concern #2

- Lack of focus on encouraging youth voice and engagement

Concern #3

- Connection to City Council and Government



Values

Service/ Servant Leadership

- Giving voice to the voiceless, acting as champion and advocate.

Connection

- Bridging the gap between youth and local government; all issues are youth issues

Unity

- Unify all San Antonio youth; listening and respecting everyone's unique story.



2017-2018 Objectives

1. Raise the visibility of the San Antonio Youth Commissioners as the advocate for youth voice in city government
2. Develop and advocate for a policy agenda that is youth-driven and youth-informed





Raising the Commission's Visibility

Connecting With City Council

1x1 Meetings
Monthly District Highlights

Updating Website and Social Media

Video Bios
Emails
Commissioner Blogs



Gathering Youth Perspective

Surveying youth at events and schools

Connecting With SA Youth

MLK JR Youth Summit
Café College Teen Summit
Women's Global Teen Summit



Highlights

1. Deepening our understanding of our city:

- Meetings held in Council districts 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10
- Commissioners also heard from City Equity office, Mayor's Office, SA2020 CEO Molly Cox, Asst. City Manager Maria Villagomez, and Police Chief McManus, Municipal Courts Administrator Victor Vinton
- Commissioners visited Ella Austin Community Center, UTSA, St. Mary's University, University of Incarnate Word, Toyota Field, City Hall and attended events at St. Philip's College, café college and UIW
- Commissioners provided input on city curfew





Highlights

2. Deepening our relationship with city government:

- Commission meetings were hosted by Council member Cruz Shaw (Oct), Councilwoman Ana Sandoval (Jan), Councilman Clayton Perry (March), Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran (April)
- Commissioners have met one-on-one with Councilwoman Viagran, Councilman Treviño, Councilman Courage, and Mayor Niremborg, shadowed Mayor Niremborg and Councilwoman Sandoval
- Commissioners have sent regular updates to their Councilmembers by email





May 12 Youth Summit

Top Issues facing youth, according to an online and in-person survey of more than 100 area high school students:

- Youth voice in government
- Gun violence
- Teen health
- Teen sexual health
- Consent
- Inequity in education



Youth Summit



Youth policy recommendations

Gun violence:

- Youth shouldn't be afraid in schools, their communities or movie theaters
- Guns should be harder to access (than say, driver's licenses)
- More services & resources needed for root causes such as mental health
- Youth should be allowed to vote on this issue - which affects their safety





Youth voice

- Youth should have a say in decisions in schools and local government – through forums, focus groups, surveys and more
 - City should have a formal process of including youth input and voice
- Youth should be represented on boards and commissions (school & local govt.)
- Local government issues should be explicitly taught in schools and tied to voting
 - Candidate forums at schools
- Schools should register young voters





Teen Health



- Discussions about teen health should be broader to include mental health, addiction and substance abuse, life skills, respect and consent
 - Schools should be as committed to useful skills such as eating healthy, understanding debt as they are to mitochondria or the Industrial Revolution
- Young people should have access to workshops about these topics so the burden doesn't fall on the schools



Teen Sexual Health



- Teen sexual health should not be a taboo subject
- Awareness of sexual health is a life skill
 - Education should touch on healthy relationships, gender identity and consent
- Sexual health education should be based on the best science
- Teens should be given more open access to community resources



Inequity in Education

- Schools reflect the wealth or poverty of the communities/housing around them – this isn't fair
 - What if per pupil spending was the same at every school?
- Teachers vary broadly across schools and districts
 - Use students to help choose
- Access to robotics, technology is not equal and all should have a right to a 21st Century education





WHAT'S NEXT?

Strategic Youth Engagement

- Events such as forums, town halls, and media platforms to elevate youth voice

Coordinating Across Stakeholders

- Youth Agencies, Youth Civic Groups and Higher Ed Board

Additional Time with Youth Commission

- Increased time for commissioners to meet and work on strategic goals of SAYC.