



City of Arlington Mayor's Youth Commission Strategic Plan 2007 - 2015

History: On May 16, 2006, Mayor Robert Cluck formed the Mayor's Youth Commission to act as an advisory body in formulating programs and strategies for Council consideration.

**Mission/
Purpose:** The mission of the Mayor's Youth Commission is to enhance communication and a better understanding of youth in the City of Arlington and implement programs that promote entrepreneurship and global thinkers while maintaining a safe and orderly city conducive for youth and all stakeholders.

Vision: The Mayor's Youth Commission will be recognized as a voice for all youth in the City of Arlington and as a resource for decision-makers. The Arlington community will value youth and respect them for their knowledge and contributions to the city. Adult commission members will help youth connect to services and leadership opportunities that provide them with the skills needed to become ambassadors for youth in the City of Arlington.

Goals 2006-2009:

1. Create a voice for youth.
2. Promote thinkers who want to make a difference for everyone.
3. Help youth become good leaders and citizens.
4. Help teens make better choices by providing positive options within the city.
5. Make Arlington awesome.

Objectives & Activities:

- **Create a voice for youth**
 - Summarize minutes into a shorter document and email to the Mayor and City Council and key City Staff.
 - Present to Council key issues and accomplishments yearly or as needed.
 - Have a mutual discussion between the Mayor, City Council, key City Staff and the MYC to brief each other on issues affecting youth. (Two council members and the Mayor per year attend meetings)
 - The Youth Commission will have one representative in attendance at City Council meetings one time per quarter in order to stay updated on current events.
 - The Youth Commissioners will meet with the principal of their school on an every other month basis to keep connected with issues in the school. This will also provide the principal with time to hear what is happening in the Youth Commission. (possible have school announcements highlight MYC activities)
 - Create a means to communicate to all other youth in the City of Arlington about issues the Mayor's Youth Commission is made aware of.
 - Possibly participate in Success in Schools summit – use as means to communicate issues & MYC activities.
 - Attend promotional city wide events throughout the year to educate the public.
 - Have members communicate to Youth Leaders of other organizations they are involved in for updates and information.
 - MYC business cards for all members to hand out.

- **Promote thinkers who want to make a difference for everyone.**
 - The Mayor's Youth Commission will recruit diverse members that represent the City of Arlington to serve on the Commission.
 - Speakers educating commission members on career options, community issues as meeting time is available.
 - The Mayor's Youth Commission will invite the various Arlington Chambers of Commerce, LULAC and NAACP to have representation on the Advisory Committee.
 - These organizations will also be invited as needed to brief the Youth Commission on any issues affecting youth.
 - The Mayor's Youth Commission will invite persons from the faith based community and non profit organizations to serve on the Advisory Committee.

- **Help youth become good leaders & citizens.**
 - Create a means to communicate to all other youth in the City of Arlington about programs and resources available to youth in the City of Arlington.

- The Youth Commission will work to have information on the sign boards at the Parks Mall or informational pieces to be distributed throughout Arlington.
 - The Youth Commission will work with The City of Arlington to promote the MYC webpage within the City's Website that is available to all entities to be able to post information about programs and resources available to youth.
 - Service projects = good citizens
- **Help teens make better choices by providing positive options within the city.**
 - The Youth Commission will host a social activity for students from various Junior and Senior High Schools to network together quarterly.
 - The Youth Commission will organize an annual volunteer or service learning project for Global Youth Service Day.
 - The Youth Commission will organize quarterly (January, April, August and November) service projects.
 - The Youth Commission will work with the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department in planning activities for the Recreation Centers.
 - The Youth Commission will work to develop an annual overnight retreat in conjunction with other youth organizations. The event will combat youth issues and provide a safe environment for youth to interact.
- **Make Arlington awesome.**
 - The Youth Commission will encourage educational opportunities for parents and youth.
 - The Youth Commission will organize and promote an annual college and career fair.
 - The Youth Commission will promote mentoring of Arlington youth.

2008-2009 Goals

The Youth Commission opted to implement each of the above activities in stages. For the upcoming 2008-2009 year, the Youth Commissioners chose six activities to focus on.

1. Career and College Fair

- a. A job and College Prep Fair will be held in February or March to encourage students to obtain summer jobs and learn about college entrance essentials.

2. Overnight Lock In event

- a. The Youth Commissioners would like to continue planning this as a serious but fun fundraiser with a positive message focusing on issues that today's youth face.

3. Mayor's Youth Commission become Youth led

- a. Develop meeting agendas

- b. Set up EOM principal meetings
- c. Appoint members to attend Council Meetings Quarterly
- d. Create a fact sheet for council and principal

4. Youth Service Projects

- a. The Youth Commissioners will identify and participate in various community projects, including the National and Global Youth Service Day throughout the year.

5. Commission meeting host guest speakers

- a. The commission would like to host speakers in September, October, November, January, February, April and May.
- b. Speakers should be educational to the students regarding career options, community benefit or political issues.

6. Take a strong stance on becoming a voice to City Council and being involved in youth issues

- a. Determine ways to assist in the impact or reduction of youth issues through the City of Arlington and Arlington Independent School District.
 - i. Drop Out prevention
 - ii. Gang intervention and education

Other activities will be implemented in later years as decided upon by the Youth Commission.

YOUTH COMMISSION TIME LINE

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
				<u>Youth Presentation to Council</u>					<u>Youth Presentation to Council</u>		
	Students Networking Together		Students Networking Together		Students Networking Together		Students Networking Together		Students Networking Together		Students Networking Together
Youth Service Project			National Youth Service Day			Youth Service Project				Youth Service Project	
		<u>Lock It In</u>									
			<u>Job and College Prep Fair</u>								

Survey of Youth Services in Arlington

On February 16, 2007 a survey on youth services was distributed to 164 agency representatives and community volunteers. The survey covered topics such as:

- Types of services provided in Arlington
- Other issues/services related to Youth that we should consider
- Services that are adequately provided in Arlington
- Gaps or inadequacies in services in Arlington
- Opportunities for partnering and/or leveraging resources in this arena
- Coalitions that currently exist in this arena

Results helped shape a conversation in the March Youth Commission meeting around the strengths and weaknesses of the City of Arlington related to Youth.

There were twenty-eight respondents to the survey, twenty-two represented agencies, these included:

- AISD Families in Transition
- All Church Home for Children
- Arlington Police Department
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington
- Child Study Center
- Clayton Youth Enrichment Services
- CLC, Inc.- Community Youth Collaborative
- Community Health Outreach Department of Cook Children's Health Care System
- Cook Children's Medical Center (Dept. of Psychiatry)
- Creative Visions Social Services, Inc.
- MHMR - Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
- LIFT- Literacy Instruction for Texas
- MHMR of Tarrant County FAIR Clinic
- Public School District
- Recovery Resource Council
- SafeHaven of Tarrant County
- Santa Fe Adolescent Services
- Tarrant County Juvenile Services
- The Parenting Center
- Volunteers of America Texas
- YMCA of Arlington

Where are there gaps or inadequacies in services in Arlington?

- lack of public transportation services (10)
- after hours safe places (3)
- bilingual services for MHMR clients (2)
- need for free after-school academic enrichment programs; programs for teens are hard to find; affordability of programs (2)
- mentoring and advocacy programs - especially for African-American community (2)
- hands on learning
- after-school tutoring
- health clinics/support
- year-round opportunities
- communication of available services to youth and families
- gang prevention/intervention
- alternative educational services: GED classes, technical/vocational schools, school for pregnant teens
- residential substance abuse programs/day treatment programs
- little or no resources for runaway teens
- drug awareness education for teens
- parent education and counseling – majority of problems with Arlington youth stems from inadequate parental involvement
- job searching
- affordable all-day summer camp opportunities
- services for families with special needs children or severely learning disabled
- faith based youth services
- emergency shelter for youth
- additional ESL programs for immigrant families