

Attention Oakland youth leaders:

Do you think that you and your friends should have a voice in the decisions that affect you?

If you answered yes, be a part of changing your community for the better and join the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)...

What is the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)?

The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC), is a diverse group of young leaders, aged 13-21, who are appointed by the Mayor and City Council to advise City officials about youth issues and priorities in Oakland. OYAC empowers youth with leadership training, civic engagement opportunities and provides a platform for young people to enter the public arena and contribute to the City of Oakland.

What is OYAC's philosophy?

OYAC strives to represent youth voice in Oakland by advocating for the needs of our peers across the city. We believe that young people know what's best for young people and as a unified voice, with the support of Adult Allies, we can and will be heard! We believe that local civic participation is one of the surest pathways to influence positive lasting change in our community and we are committed to identifying and providing opportunities for youth to better understand and engage in local government.

How does OYAC do business?

OYAC works with schools and youth serving community-based organizations to learn about the diverse needs of Oakland youth and to understand the opportunities and services that are available and/or needed. We conduct academic research and review laws and policies. Applying a youth and social justice lens, we discuss our findings as a group, take positions on certain issues, and develop solutions to our findings. We then advocate for our recommendations through public testimony and meetings with the Mayor, City Council members and other City officials and community groups. **Recent Priority Issues:** Improving Youth-Police Relations; Homeless Youth; College and Career Readiness. **Special Projects:** Youth-to-youth philanthropy; series of youth-community forums; design and conduct survey.

What's in it for me besides giving back to my community?

- Amazing opportunity to receive training and develop your leadership skills as a public servant leader!
- Insight and access to opportunities throughout the City and a great way to build you network!
- Youth Commissioners are not paid, but dinners and transportation reimbursements are provided.

If you wish to join the youth commission, you must:

- Be between the ages of 13 to 21
- Follow the 5 Steps to Apply
- Participate a minimum of 10 hours, on average, per month in the following ways;
 - ✓ Attend general commission meetings twice per month
 - ✓ Join an issue based workgroup and attend two meetings per month
 - ✓ Attend community events, and support other commission activities/events as needed
 - ✓ Attend mandatory trainings, including an annual weekend retreat and quarterly one-day weekend trainings throughout the school year
- Be appointed by the Mayor

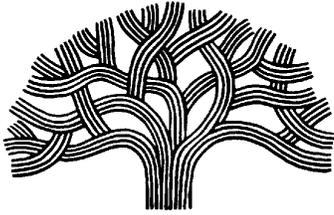
Timeline: Interviews will take place in July/August. Please note that while OYAC collects all applications, it is the Mayor who officially appoints commissioners to serve two-year terms. Term years mirror the academic year; term years typically begin in late-August/early-September and end in early-June. First official meeting of the OYAC will be held on a weekday in late-August. The weekend orientation and training will take place in early/mid-September.

Interested in participating and supporting the OYAC but you are **over 21 y/o? No problem!** We have many opportunities to engage with us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Youth Leadership and Development Team at (510) 238-3245 or youthcommission@oaklandnet.com



To stay updated, follow @OAKyac on [IG](#) and [FB](#)!



Steps to Apply

City of Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)

STEP 1. Fill out the Commission Application.



STEP 2.

Write a 1-2-page letter to the Mayor and City Council.

Here are a few questions to help guide you:

1. What is your personal history and background?
2. What are the issues and problems you feel youth face in your school and community?
3. How would you address some of these issues as an OYAC member?
4. Why are you a great addition to the Youth Commission? What skills/talents do you bring?
5. Why join OYAC instead of other youth leadership programs? What do you hope to learn?
6. To make meaningful impact, OYAC requires dedication, at times, above and beyond the minimum time commitment; explain how you will juggle OYAC with your other commitments?
7. What are your dreams and plans for your educational and professional future?

You don't have to answer the questions in full, but your letter should touch on each. Most importantly, your letter should convince the Mayor and City Council why they should appoint you to the Commission.



STEP 3.

Create or update your resume.

On another sheet of paper, put together a 1 page resume. Resumes usually include: Name, Address, Email, Phone Number, Schools Attended from Middle School and up, Job/Volunteer Experience, Organization Affiliations, Interests, Talents and Hobbies, Honors and Awards.



STEP 4.

Fill out a Commitment form.

If you are under 18, your parents will also have to sign the form.



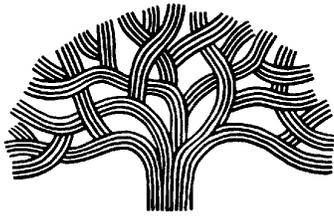
STEP 5.

Submit your application, letter, resume and commitment form to the OYAC office.

Mail, fax or email the application, statement of purpose, resume and commitment form to:

Youth Leadership & Development, 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4211, Oakland, CA 94612

Email: youthcommission@oaklandnet.com * Fax: (510) 238-7207 * Phone: (510) 238-3245



City of Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)

General Application

General Information

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ District*: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____

How did you learn about OYAC? _____

* Look up your City Council district here: <http://gisapps.mapoakland.com/councildistricts/>

Additional Information (optional)

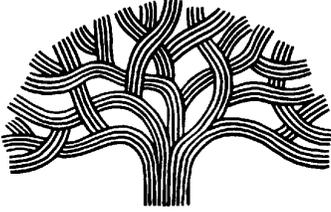
I identify as; _____

Ethnicity/Race: _____

Gender Identity: _____

Sexual Orientation: _____

What issues have you been impacted by and/or what marginalized communities do you feel personally connected to? Some examples are foster care, juvenile justice, incarcerated parents, homelessness, mental health, undocumented, low income, LGBTQ+, etc.:



General Application

City of Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)

References

References can be your teachers, an employer, a school staff member, a community member, a religious leader, etc. The references cannot be a member of your family. You may also submit a letter of recommendation with your application.

	Reference	Relationship	Phone #
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____

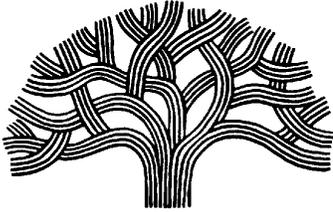
Adult Ally (encouraged but optional)

List any adult in your life that you have a connection with and that you have spoken to about supporting your participation on the OYAC. This person may be called upon by OYAC staff to support in your engagement and development while serving on the Youth Commission.

	Name	Relationship	Phone #
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____

Emergency Contact Information

Contact name /relationship to you:	_____
Phone number(s) & Email:	_____
Alternative contact name/ relationship:	_____
Phone number(s) & Email:	_____



Commitment Statement

City of Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Joining OYAC is a serious time commitment, therefore your full extracurricular calendar should be considered before you apply!

Time Commitment (may be subject to revision)

General Meetings (4-6 hours per month)

Meetings start at 4:30pm and dinner is provided

Workgroup Meetings (2-4 hours per month)

Scheduled per group availability

Miscellaneous Commission Work (2 hours per month minimum)

Attend community meetings, complete research, various workgroup tasks, etc.

Attend a 2-day mandatory orientation retreat in September

Attend quarterly 1-day mandatory weekend trainings

I, _____ (print name), understand the purpose and function of the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission. If accepted, I am prepared to fulfill the commitment that is asked of all members. I have discussed the time commitment with my parents or legal guardian, teachers and school administration, sport coaches and other activity directors, employer, and all others who may be affected by my involvement in the Commission. I can make a serious time commitment given my responsibilities.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date: _____

I, the parent/legal guardian/significant adult for _____, understand the purpose and function of the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission. I support her/him in this commitment, and give permission for full participation in all activities and responsibilities pertaining to the duties of a commissioner.

Signature of Adult, if under 18 _____ Date: _____

