

Note: This combined PDF document contains 35 letters of support for the Youth Commission, which were all sent jointly to the Commission Streamlining Task Force.



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of Seamless Bay Area, I am writing to support the San Francisco Youth Commission remaining a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor.

Seamless Bay Area is a not-for-profit organization seeking to transform Bay Area public transit into a world-class, well-connected, equitable, and widely-used system. The Youth Commission has played a steadfast role in supporting Muni service that is affordable, reliable, and accessible for young people and all San Francisco residents. They are a vital partner in the fight for better public transit services.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in San Francisco, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AL" with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Adina Levin, Executive Director
Seamless Bay Area



**MAGIC Programs
of the San Francisco
Public Defender's Office**

www.magic-sf.org

info@magic-sf.org

BMAGIC

1275 Fairfax Ave., Ste. 201

San Francisco, CA 94124

(415) 642-8017

community@bayviewmagic.org

Mo'MAGIC

1050 McAllister Street

San Francisco, CA 94115

(415) 567-0400

info@momagic.org

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Letter of Support

Letter of Support for the San Francisco Youth Commission

July 21, 2025

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of the MAGIC Programs, I am writing to endorse our strong support for the San Francisco Youth Commission.

MAGIC is a network of nonprofit organizations that facilitates, coordinates and develops community resources and opportunities that support service providers and community members in Bayview-Hunters Point. The mission of the MAGIC Programs is to bring together trusted community-based service providers, such as the Youth Commission.

Over the years, MAGIC's collaborative of service providers, children, youth and their families have greatly benefited from the Youth Commission's active participation within our communities.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BFA' with a small 'od' or similar mark at the bottom right.

Brittany Ford
MAGIC Executive Director
San Francisco Office of the Public Defender
brittany@magic-sf.org



August 5, 2025

San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Room 408

RE: Youth Commission in City-wide Commission Reform - SUPPORT

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, I am writing to urge you to maintain the Youth Commission as a city-chartered commission.

Since 1891, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco (BGCSF) has provided high-quality, community-based youth development services to youth in San Francisco. Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. BGCSF operates 13 Clubs in the City of San Francisco, as well as Camp Mendocino, an overnight summer camp located in Mendocino County. We impact the lives of Club members, primarily ages six to 18, by focusing on academic success, healthy lifestyles, good character and community engagement, and job readiness with earning potential. In 2025, we will serve over 15,000 youth.

Young people are the largest disenfranchised population in San Francisco. In 1995, San Franciscans overwhelmingly voted in favor of Proposition F (1995) to give youth the space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in the City to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth, especially through San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission has advocated for critical programs like Free Muni for All Youth, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, reforming juvenile justice, and increasing voter engagement.

BGCSF is deeply committed to providing supportive and safe spaces for youth voices and leadership throughout our Clubs. We operate multiple youth leadership programs, starting in elementary school, so that youth have different avenues to pursue their interests and grow in their leadership skills. We value providing young



people with opportunities to lead, make decisions, and have agency about issues that matter to them. Our Club members have served and continue to serve as San Francisco Youth Commissioners and have advocated for critical issues affecting youth in the City.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city-chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor. The Youth Commission provides the opportunity for young people to get involved with and understand their City government and budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. Eliminating compensation for Youth Commissioners would remove critical and equitable access for youth who might not otherwise serve on the Commission. **For these reasons, we strongly urge you to maintain the Youth Commission as a city-chartered commission that provides compensation for youth.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Vivian Liang at vliang@kidsclub.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Connolly".

Rob Connolly
President
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

The attempt to decharter the Youth Commission is an attack on our city's future. We, at Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth, are firm in our understanding that youth voices are crucial in the development and enrichment of our city and its future. We led the inception of the Youth Commission in 1995, and our members continue to be at the forefront of ensuring that youth are at the decision-making spaces on all levels of government that impact their lives. This established commission is essential in ensuring youth voices are taken seriously and in amplifying all youth voices throughout the city.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement, and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people still residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners the ability to receive compensation for their contributions** to the City and to ensure equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,

Geoffrey Winder
Interim Executive Director
Coleman Advocates



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

Freedom Forward's mission is to collaborate with Bay Area youth, ages 14–24, to transform systems and prevent their exploitation. Our initiatives enable young people to have agency over their bodies, relationships, choices, and lives—ultimately helping them live free from exploitation and thrive. We have had the privilege of working with the San Francisco Youth Commission since our inception, and we deeply value the Commission as a space where youth voice and leadership are genuinely centered in shaping the policies that impact their lives.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,
Freedom Forward



Jamestown Community Center

August 8, 2025

Dear San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of the Jamestown Community Center, I am writing to express the need for youth voice to continue by way of our San Francisco Youth Commission. Jamestown is a youth development agency rooted in San Francisco's Mission District empowering youth and strengthening our community. At Jamestown we believe young people are changemakers, and we have seen our result with many of our prior participants now leaders in our community.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely & In Community,

Nelly Sapinski, Executive Director
Jamestown Community Center

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER



WWW.JAMESTOWNSF.ORG



INFO@JAMESTOWNSF.ORG



(415) 647-4709



2929 19th ST. SF, CA. 94110



July 30, 2025

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

As the Director of Youth Development Programs at the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC), a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of services to the children, youth and families in San Francisco, our Japantown Youth Leaders (JYL) program has had the San Francisco Youth Commission present at their meetings. JYL is a youth leadership program that builds positive self-identity and a sense of belonging by engaging young people in meaningful service and educational activities that focus on the legacy and cultural assets of the community. Members of the Youth Commission have taken the time to educate our participants about Vote 16 and the importance for youth to become civically engaged and also to encourage them to apply for a Youth Commissioner seat. As the JYL program promotes young people to engage in ways to have their voices heard within the Japantown and other communities we believe in the work of the Youth Commission which does the same on a citywide scale.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Thank you for your time.

In Community,

Erika Tamura
Director, Youth Development Programs
Japanese Community Youth Council



YOUTH SERVICES

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July 28, 2025

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of Larkin Street Youth Services, I am writing to provide our unequivocal support for the San Francisco Youth Commission to remain a city chartered commission. The Youth Commission has supported our Youth Leadership Department during our Ballot Measure and Voter Registration Resource Fairs, directly providing support to unhoused youth ages 18-24 to learn about their voter rights, registering to vote, and understanding the ballot measures that impact them. Additionally, the Youth Commission has invited our Youth Leadership team to provide presentations on budget priorities that our young people have advocated for, so that the Youth Commission can remain aligned and uplift the needs of unhoused TAY in San Francisco. As an agency that is deeply committed to young people and creating space for youth voice, we believe in the mission and values of the San Francisco Youth Commission which provides a platform for youth leaders.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budget process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Pimentel
Associate Director of Youth Leadership



» *Community Led* » *Community Driven* » *Community Implemented*

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

The Latino Task Force (LTF) is a San Francisco–based, community-led coalition rooted in the Mission District that unites over 40 partner organizations to advance equity, resilience, and dignity for Latino and immigrant families. Guided by the principle of “*Community-Led, Community-Driven, Community-Implemented*,” LTF provides culturally relevant services through resource hubs, workforce development, immigrant rights advocacy, and youth opportunities. For the past three years, Youth Commission staff have been active participants in LTF’s Weekly All Hands Call. They have been consistent supporters of community events, while also carrying community insights and recommendations back to their commission to address emerging needs, ensuring young people’s perspectives help shape both policy and practice.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco’s budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City’s budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,

Katia Padilla
COO Policy, Strategic and Equitable Partnership
katia@mlvs.org

California Legislature

August 21, 2025

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I want to urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to **protect and preserve the Youth Commission**. For decades, it has provided young people with a direct voice in shaping the policies that affect their lives, from education to public safety to climate change. In my role as a State Assemblymember, I've seen firsthand how young leaders bring fresh ideas, urgency, and accountability to government. Eliminating the Youth Commission would mean silencing those voices at a time when we need them most. I strongly encourage this task force to ensure that the Youth Commission continues to exist and thrive as a vital pathway for leadership and civic engagement.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement, and much more.

As a supporter of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **I strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. In addition, **Youth Commissioners should have the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Matt Haney

Assemblymember, 17th District



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

With a legacy of over 125 years, MNC has deep roots in the San Francisco community, beginning with the establishment of the first settlement house for girls in Northern California by activists and sisters Rachel (Rae) and Eva Wolfsohn in 1897. Their vision focused on alleviating poverty in urban areas through cultural programs and education, and the settlement house quickly became an anchor for generations of immigrants, youth and working-class families. Over the years, the Girls Club of San Francisco evolved into a safe and inspiring gathering place, offering practical skills classes, cultural activities, and opportunities for girls to form friendships and support networks. In 1942, this vital program was integrated into the larger Mission Community Center, which expanded its reach to serve boys and families. In 1959, Mission Community Center merged with the Precita Valley Community Center and Mission Family Center, forming MNC.

Our Youth Department empowers young people in their personal and academic growth by providing safe spaces, homework assistance and programs that inspire career paths and personal development. Our programs cater to various age groups and focus on holistic development, including educational support, career exploration, and cultural enrichment, ensuring youth have the tools they need to succeed. None could be possible without the added support of the Youth Commission and their advocacy to keep funding in our programs.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,

MNC Inspiring Success



July 31, 2025

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

For 25 years, Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco has been a steadfast voice in promoting the fundamental value of public education by **sharing knowledge, bridging communities, demystify educational policy and amplifying voices.**

We've helped 830,000 thousand parents and community members navigate complex school systems, stop school closures, reduce impact to school site cuts, understand parent/caregiver rights, and advocate for family-centered educational policies such as the TK. We are proud that we have created a ripple effect of positive change—transforming lives and inspiring other parents and caregivers.

We don't wait for the perfect moment; We act now leveraging proven trusted leaders who use evidence-based practice in service to promote public schools. We implement a system of interconnected strategies, practices, and approaches designed to bridge responsive, equitable, and an effective school system. Our objective is to ensure all students, regardless of background or circumstance, have equitable access to policies, plans and high-quality educational opportunities to close opportunity gaps and ensure academic progress. It is for this reason that the Youth Commission work must be sustained.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our city, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our city, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people

Power of Public Schools

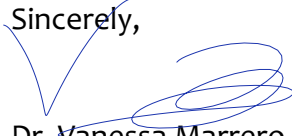
© 2025 Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco, 3543 18th Street, Suite 1, San Francisco CA 94110. (415) 861-7077.

info@ppssf.org · ppssf.org · [@ppssf](https://www.instagram.com/ppssf)

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID 94-3339278

to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation for their contribution to our city and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely,



Dr. Vanessa Marrero
Executive Director
Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco

Power of Public Schools

© 2025 Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco, 3543 18th Street, Suite 1, San Francisco CA 94110. (415) 861-7077.

info@ppssf.org · ppssf.org · [@ppssf](https://www.instagram.com/ppssf)

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID 94-3339278



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence is a community-based organization dedicated to empowering and supporting survivors of domestic violence and their families throughout San Francisco. We offer case management, a crisis line, legal referrals, youth prevention programs, culturally responsive educational workshops, and community outreach. In our experience, the San Francisco Youth Commission has played a pivotal role in strengthening the city's domestic violence prevention efforts for youth. Most recently, they partnered with us and the Asian Women's Shelter to help pass a [resolution recognizing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month](#).

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

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Signed & In Community,
Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence



San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
1720 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

T 415.431.BIKE
F 415.431.2468

sfbike.org

PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION

2025-08-08

Commission Streamlining Task Force
Chair Harrington and Vice Chair Fraser
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Place, Room 408
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Harrington and Vice Chair Fraser,

For over 50 years, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition has advocated to transform City streets to safe, just, and livable places by promoting the bicycle for everyday transportation for future generations. Our organization has collaborated closely with the SF Youth Commission in the past on shaping transportation policies like identifying community alternatives to policing for traffic enforcement and Free Muni for Youth. The SF Youth Commission offers a learning environment for young leaders to hone in on their skills and learn about City governance which benefits our City in the long run. For the future of San Francisco, the SF Bicycle Coalition strongly encourages this task force to reconsider the decision of de-chartering the SF Youth Commission.

In 1995, San Francisco voters approved Proposition F by 59% agreeing that young people in our City deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For almost 30 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the SF Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Amable".

Claire Amable

Director of Advocacy



Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of the **YOUTH Empowerment Board (Youth Organizers United to Hone)** at San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates (**SFCASA**), we are writing to express our **full and unwavering support** for the **San Francisco Youth Commission (SFYC)** to remain a **chartered commission** within the San Francisco City Charter.

As a fellow youth-led board that uplifts the voices of transition-aged, system-impacted youth, we understand the deep and ongoing harm caused when young people are excluded from decisions that impact their lives. The SFYC has been a powerful and consistent platform for youth leadership, representation, and advocacy in San Francisco, serving over 113,000 youth by ensuring their needs, concerns, and lived experiences are not only heard but centered in civic decision-making.

Being in the City Charter is more than a technicality, it is a form of **protection and validation** that guards against performative or symbolic youth engagement. In many places without charter protections, youth advisory bodies are limited in scope, silenced, or treated as checkboxes rather than changemakers. The SFYC, through its chartered status, models what **real youth power and accountability** can look like in city government.

The **Youth Commission's unique ability to advise the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor** ensures that policies affecting young people are informed by those with firsthand experience. Commissioners are not only present, but they are also impactful. Their work on transformative justice, public safety, transportation, housing, and equity is felt across our communities.

Our Youth Board has had the privilege of connecting with Youth Commissioners, including participating in community forums and joint planning meetings. We have witnessed their brilliance, strategy, and commitment to equity. Without the SFYC's presence in the City Charter, San Francisco stands to lose one of its few remaining structures for genuine **youth engagement in civic leadership**.

We urge you to protect this vital body. The SFYC must remain a **chartered commission**, not just to preserve its current power, but to affirm that **youth voices are essential, not optional**, in the future of San Francisco.

With deep commitment to youth voice and leadership,

Elisabeth Gutierrez

Elisabeth Gutierrez Youth Empowerment Coach, SFCASA

*Writing in collaboration with the **YOUTH Empowerment Board** at SFCASA:*

Marta Rivas Crespin

De'Marcus Jackson

Mariela Ramirez

Jasmine Roverso

Dylan Daryanani

LaDajah Mark



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to you today as a representative of The SF LGBT Center with the intent to advocate on behalf of the SF Youth Commission. At The Center, we work to strengthen our community by fostering greater opportunities for people to thrive, offering aid in organizing our future, celebrating our history and culture, and ultimately building resources to create a legacy for future generations. The Center is sought out as a collaborative leader and partner, leveraging the work of community-based organizations through active engagement with over 70 local organizations.

The Center's critical safety net programs serve the most vulnerable members of the community – people of color, transgender, lesbian, and bisexual women, differently-abled people, youth, elders, immigrants, and low-income individuals – who often experience additional, intersecting forms of discrimination. The Center is truly the heart, home, and hands of the San Francisco LGBT community.

In my time with The Center as Director of Youth Services we have intentionally engaged in work with the SF Youth Commission to ensure youth voices, needs, and interests are heard and protected at a city level. We are 1 of 4 city access points for transitional aged youth (16-24 years old) to access the city's homelessness response system. Last year, our *Youth Drop In Space* supported over 500 young people seeking crucial support like food, clothing, and toiletries. We have been able to attend SF Youth Commission meetings in the past to share what we, as providers, see youth experience and what obstacles and hardships youth are continuing to face as they navigate different systems, services, support, or institutions. The SF Youth Commission relies on community partnerships like ours to properly advocate for the needs of marginalized youth in our city.

With young people continuing to be the largest disenfranchised population in our city, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our city, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We

believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners to have the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the city and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,

Alyssa Avalos
Director of Youth Services

Alyssaa@sfcenter.org
415-864-5566

San Francisco LGBT Center



July 31, 2025

Commission Streamlining Task Force
City Hall, Room 362
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

We write to urge you to maintain the San Francisco Youth Commission as a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor.

We are a nonprofit organization that advocates for better public transportation here in the City. Part of our goal is to make Muni safer, more affordable, and more accessible for everybody, including youth.

The San Francisco Youth Commission offers a unique opportunity for San Francisco's youth to get engaged with local politics and stand up for the needs of their peers. Over the years, the Youth Commission has been instrumental in elevating students' transit safety and affordability needs, and has helped organizations such as ours better understand what youth need out of their public transit system. The Commission has led the charge on implementing crucial city policies like Free Muni for All Youth, which is now a lifeline for thousands of San Francisco students and parents. Like Free Muni for All Youth, the Youth Commission fosters independence, connections, and self-sufficiency among our city's youngest residents. The Youth Commission is a shining example of what young people can accomplish when given the trust and opportunity to speak up for themselves.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in allowing Youth Commissioners to receive compensation for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dylan Fabris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Dylan Fabris
Community & Policy Manager
San Francisco Transit Riders



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Adrianna Zhang (2020-2022)

Appointed by Supervisor Norman Yee (D7) & Supervisor Myrna Melgar (D7)

The Youth Commission is the reason why I am so involved in my community today. I helped lead the Vote16 2020 campaign, where I connected with local leaders and orgs, received media training, learned to write convincing policy letters, practiced public speaking at press conferences, and more. Not only did I engage with political campaigns, I wrote several resolutions regarding anti-AAPI hate, affordable housing, climate change, transit, and other issues relevant to young people during the pandemic. These resolutions helped young people feel empowered and engaged, in a field where young people are often ignored and disregarded. While on the Youth Commission, I also spearheaded policies like Free Muni for Youth which is now a reality for tens of thousands of young San Franciscans. The YC is an opportunity for young leaders to make a real difference, and uplift underrepresented voices in city hall (their own, and the many youth they represent). The youth commission is also an incredible opportunity for young people to take a step in city hall, and be treated as real decision makers. One of my favorite memories is working with organizations throughout the city serving young people, and streamlining these services (operationally and through outreach) to more youth in the city.

While on the youth commission, I served on the Executive Committee for 2 years and chaired the commission my 2nd year. Through the election process and while presenting resolutions on controversial topics (from school reopening during the pandemic to housing advocacy), I learned to engage with people with many different beliefs. I learned to work with different perspectives, find consensus, and navigate disagreement. The youth commission brings together people from unique walks of life, which was essential to creating dialogue and fruitful conversation. I believe that the YC creates leaders who are tolerant of different views and passionate about their community.

I believe young people should be paid for their time.

Signed,
Adrianna Zhang



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Alexander Hirji (2018-2020)

Appointed by Mayor London Breed

YC contributed a ton towards my professional development; it jumpstarted a lot of development into being a fairly decent communicator, it forced me to elevate my presentational skills to interact with stakeholders, and it pushed me to grow and subsequently sharpen my political instincts. In today's day and age where politics is central to all of our lives, the Youth Commission is a great institution that gives young people in SF a voice and platform to hone their political message and learn talents that will be extremely valuable to them going forward in expressing their voice, protecting their communities and more. I learned a lot about myself, this city, and the people I served. For example, I was on Housing and Land Use/Transportation, I learned a lot about how our homelessness support systems worked (how they don't work) and I guarantee that without the Youth Commission, I and so many more of my colleagues and all our friends by word of mouth wouldn't have known anything about these systems in our city. I really really benefitted from the Youth Commission, as did so many more of my colleagues. Please please please keep this essential body, while lacking in tangible power, it does not lack in results like Free Muni for All Youth, a program I was proud to bring back the campaign for and see launched after my term.

I believe that more consistent staffing would be beneficial as this was an issue for me, and better compensation, which is known to be a turn off for prospective youth. The possibility of receiving pay/compensation is a long battle, but it 100% deserves to be fought.

Signed,
Alexander Hirji



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Amara Santos (2019-2022)

Appointed by Supervisor Ahsha Safai (D11) & Mayor London Breed

The San Francisco Youth Commission helped me grow into becoming a better activist, organizer, and person in ways I can never fully appreciate. I can honestly say I don't know where I would be if not for having served on the Commission

Given the current federal and mayoral administration, we need more independent regulation and community engagement from marginalized residents. If the Youth Commission couldn't exist, I'd be extremely worried and concerned about the idea that the City and County would actively silence their constituents

Compensation was never discussed or mobilized around when I served on the Youth Commission and this was absolutely to the detriment of the diversity on the Commission. Personally and financially investing in youth development and empowerment had a tremendously positive impact on me and the coming generations of Black and Brown San Francisco residents deserve the same and better opportunities that I got.

Signed,
Amara Santos



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Ariana Arana (2019-2021)

Appointed by Supervisor Hillary Ronen (D9) & Supervisor Ahsha Safai (D11)

Serving on the Youth Commission was one of the most transformative experiences of my life. It shaped the leader, advocate, and young professional I am today. As a member of the Civic Engagement Committee, I spent two years helping lead the Vote16 campaign. Even though the measure didn't pass, I walked away with a deep understanding of the power of youth advocacy, the importance of building strong civic habits early, and the critical role young people play in strengthening our democracy.

My time on the Commission also opened the door to other advocacy work. For the past four years, I've had the privilege of supporting young people in San Francisco as they design and lead their own financial justice campaigns. Today, I lead MyPath's POWER Leaders program, where I get to pass on the very skills and lessons I first developed on the Commission. Watching young people grow in their leadership and use their voices to shape change has been incredibly rewarding.

The Youth Commission truly builds the leaders of tomorrow. It gave me the tools, confidence, and vision to keep advocating for my community and I see every day how it does the same for others. The work young people on the youth commission do is necessary and laborious, they deserve to be compensated for all the time and effort they give. From my personal experience, being on the YC was equivalent to working a part time job.

Signed,
Ariana Arana



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Ava Oram (2024-Present)

Appointed by Mayor London Breed & Mayor Daniel Lurie

The Youth Commission has been consequential in my trajectory as a person, a leader, and as a San Franciscan. In today's world, youth are often confronted with harsh and unfair realities; the earth is dying and it's our job to save it, hatred is at an all time high (and following is hate-fueled violence), and a significant part of the population is living without crucial resources. These truths are often terrifying and can feel paralyzing, but when youth are offered a seat at the table, a voice in the chaos, and support systems that allow us to create real and tangible change, the hurdles that must be crossed feel less impossible. The Youth Commission has taught me how to not only work with other youth in local politics, but with systems and groups that are also creating the change we hope to carry forward as the next generation. Having a platform that lifts up the next generation of leaders, voters, and people who fight for San Francisco allows for the future leaders of San Francisco and the world to learn and grow, but also allows youth in the city to feel heard, give them hope, and give them goals to aspire to in the future that we will all help create.

Protect the YC further within the City Charter so that the voices of Youth cannot be silenced. The largest issue we've faced has been being shut down or "streamlined", which would not only impact our work, but the voices of young people across the city. These are the people who grow up to contribute to SF's economy, work force, and population.

I think with the amount of time that Youth Commissioners spend on commission business on top of school, extracurriculars, and other commitments, it is more than reasonable for compensation to be considered. The time commitment in and outside of City Hall can often be as much (if not more) than a part-time job, especially during BPP season when meetings span 4+ hours. I'm not familiar with child labor laws in California, but I am aware minimum wage in San Francisco is now \$19.18, and considering the amount of work commissioners do and the areas they work in, this compensation seems more than reasonable. Commissioners currently serving the city without this clearly exemplify the care youth put into the well being of others in San Francisco as it is.

Signed,
Ava Oram



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Camryn Marlow (2024-Present)

Appointed by Supervisor Catherine Stefani (D2) & Supervisor Stephen Sherrill (D2)

My experiences on the Youth Commission was that I passed a resolution regarding eliminating plastic packaging for food throughout San Francisco, I earned a certificate of honor from Supervisor Sherrill for Women's History Month because of my work on the Youth Commission, and lastly being able to chair the Civic Engagement and Education Committee was one of my favorite experiences as it allowed growth for me to become a better leader and listen to my peers as to what they were passionate about advocating for. A takeaway that I have as a commissioner is that the work that we do is especially important because we are paving the way to make the future lives of San Francisco better. A memory I have from the Youth Commission is meeting one of my best friends and getting to hang out with her every week.

A change that I would recommend to the Commission Streamlining Task Force is that even though all advisory committees are being under review, it is important to take into account that the Youth Commission is an extremely important one as it paves the way to allow youth in the city to tell the city their wants and needs to make San Francisco a better place.

I believe that the possibility of receiving pay / compensation for time on the Youth Commission is a great idea, but I wouldn't be too upset if we didn't get it. I believe that the Youth Commission's work is just as valuable as any other committee within City Hall and that compensation seems very nice to have; reiterating that if we stick to not having compensation, I would not be angry.

Signed,
Camryn Marlow



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Eloise Krehlik (2024-2025)

Appointed by Mayor London Breed

The Youth Commission gave me a great experience to work in the San Francisco government and truly make a difference. The commission serves not only as a means to support youth throughout the city, but also to educate and inspire youth leadership and advocacy. Please allow the Youth Commission and other advisory boards to continue doing their work.

Currently, the form of compensation for youth serving on the Youth Commission is health insurance/benefits. I believe this is a very important and unique service appreciation from the City and County of San Francisco given to commissioners for serving the youth. I believe that all commissioners and advisory board members should be acknowledged for their service through whichever compensation is most suitable for their needs.

Signed,
Eloise Krehlik



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Emily Yang (2024-Present)

Appointed by Mayor London Breed & Mayor Daniel Lurie

Serving on the Youth Commission has been the single-most, life changing experience. The Youth Commission has taught me to be an effective advocate, dedicated public servant, and build my confidence. I'm incredibly grateful to learn about city governance, especially the intricacies of our city's budget; write and evaluate policy recommendations; and ask meaningful, tough questions -- skills and knowledge beyond any class I've taken. I'm extremely grateful to be on the Youth Commission and take this responsibility very seriously, with great care. This summer, amidst June and the heart of budget advocacy, I left a trip midway through to come back to San Francisco and make it to a meeting with the Mayor's Budget Office. This is because I'm fully committed to the Youth Commission and San Francisco Youth.

Being on the Youth Commission has instilled a deep sense of hope in my life. Having grown up facing housing instability, food insecurity, income disparities, and educational barriers, I often felt powerless and unheard. Beyond myself, I knew that thousands of other youth in San Francisco face similar struggles and many other challenges. Their voices deserved to be represented. So, serving as a youth commissioner—listening, amplifying, and turning ideas into policy—was profoundly empowering. My lived experiences allowed me to understand the struggles and needs of youth in a way only youth themselves can. I recognized the power of my experiences, using them to connect with other youth so they feel seen and heard and as a point of motivation for my policy writing. I am proud of the advocacy and tangible change the Youth Commission achieved, and grateful for the trust and recognition my community has shown me.

The Youth Commission helped me discover my passion for public service, gave me the opportunity to create real solutions to community issues, and strengthened my resolve to address the challenges facing young people. It also inspired me to pursue a career in legal studies so I can continue uplifting marginalized voices and advancing equity. I believe that compensation would help bridge the gap between low-income BIPOC communities and the Youth Commission. Youth from lower-income neighborhoods apply less often because the lack of payment creates a barrier. Many rely on jobs to support their families, and understandably prioritize their own and their families' well-being and survival over activities that cannot compensate them—even if their voices go unheard and unrepresented.

Signed,
Emily Yang



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Ewan Barker Plummer (2021-2024)

Appointed by Mayor London Breed

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ewan Barker Plummer, I am a proud San Francisco Youth Commission alum and served as the Commission's Chair from 2023 to 2024. I am writing to you today to express the importance of the Youth Commission to our City government and the wellbeing of our communities.

San Francisco is a deeply special city because of our many unique communities, diversity of thought and expression, and our spirit of compassion and love. With this positive diversity comes a diversity of needs. While I agree that our Commission system (and greater governance of our city) is in need of reform, it is key to ensure these different communities have a voice in our institutions of government. I urge you all to keep this in mind as you all work on reforming this system.

There is no community like our youth community. It is deeply intersectional—every single person, no matter their race, sex assigned at birth, religion, sexuality, gender identity, or any other characteristic experiences the joys and challenges of youthhood in their lives. Young people are also a group which have systemically lacked a voice in policy discussions and decision-making at all levels of government.

San Francisco made nationwide history when it passed a Charter Amendment and formed the first Youth Commission in 1997. It is one of many examples of our city leading the way in expanding democracy and representation. This Commission was designed to represent the needs and policy opinions of the youth in San Francisco.

On the Commission, every geographic area of the city is represented, ensuring local communities are represented in and centered in every conversation. Additionally, there are multiple Commission seats which represent young people citywide, particularly designed to represent underrepresented communities.

The Commission works. Conversations and points of views were expressed in our discussions, ranging from improving public transit for teens to ending gun violence in our city—the #1

killer of youth in our country. It made our recommendations better, stronger, and more effective.

Serving on the Youth Commission, including being elected by my fellow Commissioners to serve as its Chair, has been one of the greatest honors, privileges, and responsibilities I have had in my life. I am proud of the work we did, because I know it gave a voice to so many and allowed for better policy and decision-making across our government. I urge you all to maintain the current status of the Youth Commission, and in the case you explore any changes, include the Commissioners, alumni, staff, and community partners of the Youth Commission in those conversations.

I believe it is essential to the independence and oversight powers of the Youth Commission that its existence and powers (to review legislation, hold hearings, etc) be included in the City Charter itself.

I support Youth Commissioners receiving pay/a stipend. Youth Commissioners work hard, I believe I easily spent ten hours a week working on Youth Commission work while I was a Commissioner. Compensation would both recognize this work and commitment, and would allow better access to service on the Youth Commission from under-resourced and low-income communities.

Please feel welcome to contact me at any time to discuss the important work of the Youth Commission and why its place in our City government is essential.

Thank you all for your service.

My best,

Ewan Barker Plummer

Former Chair of the San Francisco Youth Commission, 2023-2024

Former Commissioner on the San Francisco Youth Commission, 2021-2024



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Gabrielle Listana (2020-Present)

Appointed by Supervisor Matt Haney (D6) & Supervisor Matt Dorsey (D6)

The Youth Commission has been an integral part of my development not only as an activist, but as a person.

I joined the Youth Commission in the seventh grade and have since been a commissioner for the past six terms. I originally applied to the Commission because I was really interested in and passionate about youth advocacy and ensuring that young voices, especially those from marginalized communities were represented and heard in governance. During my time on the Youth Commission, we have since worked on various successful initiatives that have greatly improved the lives of young people in the city include Free Muni for Youth, increased funding for immigration and DV legal aid, foreign language education and interpretation, increased youth civic engagement and education (such as through schools, pre-registration efforts, and district youth councils), and efforts to attack sexual assault amongst youth.

The primary efforts that I have worked on alongside other Commissioners are juvenile justice/reforming the Juvenile Justice Center, youth drug use, food insecurity/funding for food stamps, immigrant protections (education, legal aid, ICE), linguistic access, and environmental justice. The main methods of advocacy I utilized include hosting town halls to ensure our budget and policy recommendations accurately reflect the thoughts of young people in the city, tabling at over 50 events, speaking with community members and government officials, and social media outreach. Through these experiences on the Commission, the main skills I've grown in are leadership, communication/public speaking, policy implementation, collaboration, and engaging with community members.

I am most proud of my work on immigrant advocacy. As someone from an immigrant family, this issue was particularly important to me, and only grew in importance during the current presidential administration where threats to immigrant safety made immigrants across San Francisco be fearful of their own city. Beginning in my third time with foreign language education, it has since evolved into two Budget and Policy Priorities (one on foreign language education and interpretation services in city government and another on immigrant protections/support for DACA filing, education, school safety, and legal aid) and various resolutions. These initiatives have since led to 4.2 million dollars of funding towards immigrant legal aid, Vietnamese becoming a required language for city interpretation

services, Tagalog and Cantonese remaining foreign languages taught at SFUSD/CCSF, and more.

Overall, my experience as a Youth Commissioner has taught me to become a better listener and advocate for my community and beyond. Since becoming a Youth Commissioner, I now want to pursue a degree in political science and a career in governance/public service in the future, because I want to use the system to uplift marginalized people. My six terms on the Youth Commission have fundamentally shaped who I am today, clarified my path for the future, and supported me in my activism journey. The experience taught me that meaningful change requires both grassroots engagement and systemic understanding - you need to listen deeply to community voices while also navigating the complexities of policy implementation. Most importantly, I learned that young people don't just deserve a seat at the table; we bring unique perspectives and urgency that are essential for effective governance. The skills I've developed in coalition-building, policy analysis, and community engagement, combined with the relationships I've built across San Francisco's diverse communities, have given me both the tools and the passion to continue this work at a larger scale. I am excited to continue fighting the rights of young people in the city.

I believe that the current changes proposed by the Commission Streamlining Taskforce are not to San Francisco's youth because it takes away power from the only youth advising body in the city to do its job by hampering our ability to bridge youth voices into City Hall.

I strongly believe that Youth Commissioners should be compensated for their service to the Youth Commission. As someone who comes from a low-income background and represents many low-income youth as the District 6 Commissioner, I have seen firsthand how the lack of compensation creates a significant barrier for young people who would otherwise be eager and qualified to serve.

The reality is that participation in the Youth Commission requires a substantial time commitment. Oftentimes, Commissioners are spending 10+ hours a week on Commission business, whether in Youth Commission meetings, tabling at events, writing resolutions, or speaking to the community. For many youth in San Francisco, especially those from working-class or low-income families, this level of unpaid labor simply isn't feasible. Therefore, they are often forced to choose between public service and meeting their personal or family financial obligations.

Providing compensation for Commissioners would not only honor the work and sacrifices they have made for the youth of San Francisco, but also create a more diverse and equitable body of Commissioner's that is more representative of all youth in the city. Without pay, we risk limiting participation to those who can afford to work for free, thereby excluding a large portion of the very communities the Commission is meant to uplift and represent. Moreover, compensating Youth Commissioners echoes a broader message that the city values youth voices and our ability to contribute to our city's civic processes.

In order to build a more equitable future for the youth of San Francisco, I urge the Task Force to preserve the option for Commissioners to receive compensation for their service. Youth voices are important, and eliminating the possibility of Commissioners to be compensated in the future would silence the very voices we need represented in city governance.

Signed,
Gabrielle Listana



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Harper Fortgang (2024-Present)

Appointed by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman (D8)

My thoughts and biggest takeaways are:

- Listening to a full room of youth at our Main Library Budget Forum and hearing their stories about the challenges they face everyday. We then reflected their concerns and needs in our Youth Commission budget priorities. I've come to see the importance of engaging directly with community members to understand their priorities.
- Learning how to talk across differing perspectives and respectfully disagree with other Commissioners to produce deeper, more representative resolutions and policy recommendations.
- Bringing a youth group to City Hall, introducing them to the political process and inviting them to observe our meeting, and hopefully leading them to further engage in policy advocacy. The Youth Commission is an important bridge between youth organizations and City Hall, activating youth to engage in the political process.

I'm incredibly grateful to serve on the SF Youth Commission – it's been an amazing chance to grow my leadership skills and confidence in my voice and values as well as to represent the 113,000 young people in the City and take steps to improve our lives and everyday experiences.

Through the Youth Commission, I've seen how citizens can play a major role in influencing government inside and outside of City Hall, and I definitely want to continue public service and policy advocacy into college and beyond. We've had the amazing chance to hear presentations from many City departments, connect with youth advocates from organizations across the City, discuss and vote on legislation in the Board of Supervisors that affects youth, and research and write budget and policy reports about issues that impact young people. Most importantly, my experience on the Youth Commission leads me to engage more youth in the political process, whether inviting youth organizations to our meetings or training a group of youth from across the state about the legislative process.

Receiving compensation for service on the Youth Commission would enable a more diverse and representative population of SF Youth to serve. At the same time, I'm guessing this may not be realistic right now given the City's major budget cuts.

Signed,
Harper Fortgang



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Jin Valencia-Tow (2024-2025)

Appointed by Supervisor Myrna Melgar (D7)

Dear Task Force members,

My name is Jin Valencia-Tow and I served as the District 7 Youth Commissioner in the 2024/2025 term. I am currently a first year at George Washington University.

I can confidently say that serving on the San Francisco Youth Commission has truly been a life changing experience for me. Bringing youth together from all neighborhoods, districts, backgrounds, and ages is something about empowering. Being from the Inner Sunset and District 7, I was very prideful to represent the community that I've grown up around my whole life.

For me, the Youth Commission was an amazing platform to advocate the issues that I saw affecting my peers and my community. It's rare that young people have such direct access to policymakers, Departmental leaders, community organizations, and everything that City Hall has to offer. One example is Free MUNI for Youth, an incredibly important program for young people. As a Youth Commissioner, I had the opportunity to advocate for making this program permanent with my appointing officer, Supervisor Myrna Melgar. Free MUNI for Youth ended up being baselined in the budget passed this summer, and I'm grateful to see such a central issue to youth meaningfully reflected in the City's fiscal policy.

What's perhaps even more important is the credibility that the Youth Commission has consistently brought to the table, from our own hard work. Time and time again, elected officials have recognized the significance of the Youth Commission's contributions (such as helping spearhead Vote16) including former Mayor London Breed and current Mayor Daniel Lurie. During our Budget and Policy Priorities presentation to the Board Budget and Appropriations Committee, Supervisor Joel Engardio expressed interest in workshopping our ideas around workforce development programs in SFUSD. This all goes to show that our work does matter and has the ability to make a tangible impact on city policy.

Zooming out of City Hall, the Youth Commission has been increasingly connected to community-based organizations across the City. The Commission should not be thought of as detached from the people it represents, but rather a body that actively collaborates with schools, community-based organizations, and youth from all neighborhoods to carry out its

representative duties. As a Legislative Affairs Officer, I was responsible for helping conduct outreach to different communities across San Francisco about issues that mattered to them. It was incredibly rewarding for me to be able to provide a space for young people to voice their concerns, which were eventually incorporated into our Budget and Policy Priorities report and presented to the Board Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Equally valuable was the opportunity to gain firsthand experience with local government and policymaking. I enjoyed my work advocating for affordable housing and tenant issues when I wrote several resolutions on local ordinances and state bills. Gaining hands-on experience of how legislation works has been incredibly impactful for me as I plan to pursue a career in civic engagement and public service. Simply put, there is no other opportunity in San Francisco for young people to draft and send legislation into the Board for them to take into consideration in their policymaking process.

Lastly, Youth Commissioners absolutely deserve to be paid or receive some form of financial compensation for the work that they do. For many youth, serving on the Youth Commission is not financially sustainable. The time commitment coupled with the lack of financial compensation has unfortunately turned away many qualified candidates in the past who would make excellent Commissioners. Going forward, financial pay or compensation should be recognized and included as an essential part of ensuring the Commission be accessible to all. The Commission should reflect the full range of the communities that it represents, not just of those who can “afford” it.

Thank you for your time and I strongly urge you to protect youth voices in San Francisco.

Signed,
Jin Valencia-Tow



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Leah LaCroix (2009-2012)

Appointed by Mayor Gavin Newsom & Mayor Ed Lee

Looking back, I can honestly say being appointed to the Youth Commission by Mayor Newsom in 2009 set the trajectory for my life and career. I learned how our unique local government works, how to use Robert's Rules of Order, became a leader in my own right, and truly found my voice. Growing up in our dear city, I witnessed its evolution first hand but didn't have the words to accurately describe my experience. The space the youth commission created plus our amazingly supportive staff, help me put the puzzle pieces together. Free Muni for Youth was conceived from a conversation I had in City Hall rm 345 with my commission colleague Happy Yang - I will never forget that evening! Nor will I forget the years of advocacy we did alongside hundreds of young people and youth servicing organizations to turn that idea into a reality. Policy change takes time but is entirely worth the effort for the righteous cause. I graduated from university in 2015 and joined the Youth Commission staff team. I knew I wanted to provide other young people the same support I received while a commissioner, and to help continue the impactful work the commission was responsible for. A few years later I became the Director of the Youth Commission.

Since then I have gone on to become the youngest person elected to the SF Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) and served from 2016-2024. I utilize the same parliamentary procedures I learned at the commission in this role - let me just say the Youth Commission prepared me for my future. I was an elected delegate for California to the 2012 Democratic National Convention. I've served on the Democratic State Central Committee (CA Democratic Party) since 2012, being appointed and elected over the years - and have not missed a meeting. I credit that especially to understanding the importance of quorum, which was impressed upon us during our time as a commissioner. I've served on a task force for the County Transportation Authority, co-founded Black Young Democrats of San Francisco, served on the California Young Dems Black Caucus, volunteered and worked on a number of local campaigns, and joined a strong community of courageous leaders that I also consider friends. Currently, I am the president of my neighborhood Democratic Club.

Career-wise, I've worked for the City and County of San Francisco at the Youth Commission, the Clerk of the Board's office, the Port of San Francisco, and as a legislative aide.

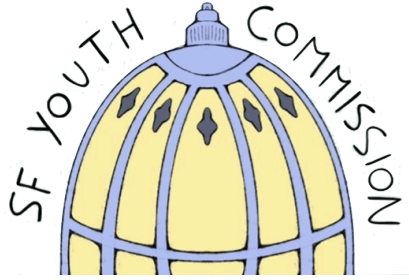
I'm sure I missed a few things, but when I say the youth commission changed the trajectory of my life this is what I mean. The commission and its charter directed duties will always hold a very special place in my heart. Please protect and retain the commission so it can continue bettering the lives of San Francisco young people like it did mine. While we all engaged with the commission differently, there were so many more powerful stories from commissioners and youth advocates alike. Please take all these experiences to heart when considering the future of the Youth Commission.

Directing departments and city funded programs to directly engage and communicate with the youth commission, and its staff, on all projects and programs that impact San Francisco's youth. Too often other corners of the 'city family' claim unawareness of the Youth Commission or lack complete comprehension of their chartered duties. This is a disservice all around.

I fully support granting compensation to individuals appointed to the Youth Commission. Over the 20+ year history of the commission, one cannot deny the significant and positive impact the commission has made to both San Francisco policy and in the lives of our young people - all while uncompensated. Their efforts should be, and should always have been rewarded. It would only be fair to grant those on the Youth Commission the same privileges as their counterparts appointed to other city commissions.

One can say many things, positive and negative, about the state of San Francisco's political and legislative efforts over the years. However, one thing is for certain - Supervisor Alioto and her colleagues on the Board of Supervisors got it right when advocating for the creation of the Youth Commission. This commission creates a space for policy advising in its purest form - the work is solely about bettering the lives of young people in our city. To eliminate the Youth Commission would be detrimental to the future of San Francisco, and to our youth here today. I strongly urge this task force to allow the Youth Commission to remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, and extend compensation to Youth Commission appointees akin to their counterparts.

Signed,
Leah LaCroix



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Natalie Gee (2007-2009)

Appointed by Supervisor Aaron Peskin (D3)

Serving on the Youth Commission from 2007-09 gave me first-hand understanding of how local government works and how policy decisions affect young people. Some of my most vivid memories include working alongside other Commissioners to put together youth events to elevate young people's voices. The experience taught me the value of building consensus across different perspectives while still pushing forward bold ideas.

Commissioners are students and often balance school, work, and family obligations. Additional policy training, staff capacity, or peer mentorship would help Commissioners maximize their limited volunteer time. I would love to see more young people reflective of San Francisco's diverse needs.

A stipend would be good for youth engagement or providing youth with food at the meetings. YC is one of the only charter commissions that doesn't receive a stipend.

Signed,
Natalie Gee



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Téa Lonné Amir (2023-Present)

Appointed by Mayor London Breed & Mayor Daniel Lurie

When I first joined the youth commission in my sophomore year of high school, frankly I didn't know really anything about how the government ran internally. Throughout my two terms and the current one I am in, I've been able to learn and truly understand what makes a government, especially San Francisco's run. Through resolutions, BPPs, speeches, and more I was able to discover my passion for government and obtain useful leadership skills that I could use later in life. Before coming to the commission I was a leader but I still lacked some of the confidence the role needed. But over the past two years, I have seen myself grow and become more comfortable with speaking my mind in a large group of people and taking charge when needed. Lastly, the Youth Commission has allowed me to experience some truly incredible things. One of them was the Gun Violence Awareness Rally that I had the privilege of speaking at back in June. Even now it is hard to believe I actually did this. I owe all my gratitude for this opportunity to the Youth Commission and its staff.

I think this would be extremely beneficial and would be welcomed by Commissioners. These 17 youth give up so much of their time and put in so much effort into this cause and making San Francisco a better place and do not receive any sort of compensation for it. Additionally, many youth in San Francisco can only make time commitments such as these if they are paid, hence why many youth get a job. This limits the commission to people who can't afford to put this much effort into something with no pay or compensation.

Signed,

Téa Lonné Amir



Youth Commission Testimony in Support of the YC in the City Charter

Youth Commissioner Yoselin Colin (2022-2023)

Appointed by Supervisor Hillary Ronen (D9)

The Youth Commission was my first introduction to city politics and public policy, providing me the opportunity to learn through extensive, hands-on experience. Being able to have a voice and join the table where decisions were introduced, discussed, and adopted was powerful, inspiring my future career path. I not only gave back to the communities and city that raised me through research, writing resolutions and letters of support, meeting community members, and attending events, but I also grew tremendously through learning. I learned how to read and analyze policy documents, ask detailed questions, research and write budget recommendations, strengthen my public speaking, and advocate for issues affecting youth in San Francisco.

I took this role seriously, attentively listening and contributing during hours-long committee meetings and fully engaging with opportunities presented to the Commission. While we came to understand that systemic change takes time and that the Commission has its limitations, I, along with my fellow commissioners, did everything in our power to make meaningful improvements to our city — knowing that future commissioners would continue to build on this work.

My best memories were connecting with the community through events and learning from the many departments and organizations that presented to us. Serving as Chair of the Transformative Justice Committee was especially formative. I tackled issues such as youth incarceration at the Juvenile Justice Center and supported initiatives like a Narcan program to address substance abuse. Engaging with impacted communities and working on these issues deepened my passion for criminal justice reform. The relationships I was able to form with the YC staff was also very special -- they became mentors and friends.

Ultimately, my time on the Youth Commission shaped the trajectory of my advocacy and inspired my pursuit of a career in law and policy.

During my tenure, one of the biggest challenges I observed was the communication between the Board of Supervisors and Youth Commissioners, particularly the lack of a clear system to track the status of our recommendations and resolutions. We often dedicated significant time to researching and drafting resolutions, but it was not always clear what happened to them after submitting. Additionally, there was an imbalance in outreach and relationship-building

between the BOS and their appointed commissioners. Establishing more consistent engagement would have strengthened collaboration and made our work more meaningful. Compensation for serving on the Youth Commission would make participation more equitable and sustainable. Some commissioners, like myself, come from low-income families, and while the work we do is meaningful, it often requires us to sacrifice paid jobs or other income opportunities to fully commit. Commissioners dedicate significant time to attending commission and sub-committee meetings, researching and drafting resolutions, engaging with the community, and attending events (all on top of school and personal responsibilities). Providing compensation would acknowledge the value of the commissioners' work and help ensure that youth from all economic backgrounds can serve without financial hardship being a barrier. It wouldn't change why we serve but it would make this opportunity more accessible.

Signed,
Yoselin Colin



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

Walk San Francisco is our city's only pedestrian advocacy organization. After 25 years of fighting for safer streets, 2024 served as a harsh reminder of the significant work that remains. It was one of the deadliest years for pedestrians on record.

We've been fortunate to partner with the Youth Commission on this critical issue. Traffic violence is the second leading cause of death for young people in the United States, behind only gun violence. The Youth Commission brings fresh perspectives, lived experiences, and an unwavering commitment to making San Francisco a place where all young people can thrive. Their voice is essential, and their partnership invaluable.

With young people being the largest disenfranchised population in our City, community leaders and youth advocates stood together in 1995 to approve Proposition F, with 59% of San Francisco voters agreeing that youth deserve a space to advocate for their own needs and priorities. For 29 years, the San Francisco Youth Commission has given young San Franciscans a seat at the table with the most powerful leaders in our City, to advocate for the needs and priorities of youth in San Francisco's budgeting process. Year after year, the Youth Commission advocates for Free Muni for All Youth, Vote16, citywide youth programs and services, building affordable housing, addressing climate change, juvenile justice, voter engagement and much more.

As a community partner of the San Francisco Youth Commission, **we strongly believe that the Youth Commission should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor**, to ensure it remains to be an opportunity for young people to get involved, understand their City government, the City's budget process, work with powerful City leaders, and advocate on behalf of the 113,000 young people residing in San Francisco. We believe in **allowing Youth Commissioners having the ability to receive compensation** for their contribution to the City and to allow for equitable access for all youth to serve.

Signed & In Community,

Malena M. Canada, Community Engagement Manager
Walk San Francisco



Young Community Developers, Inc.
1715 Yosemite Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94124
(415) 822-3491 main (415) 822-1196 fax.

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

We at Young Community Developers believe that inclusion and social connection are critical to address the crises facing low-income individuals and people of color. Research and public policy have proven that equity actionably empowers marginalized communities, increases engagement, restores dignity and mobilizes individuals and their families to reshape their futures.

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Signed & In Community,

Dion-Jay Brookter
Chief Executive Officer