



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

Youth Commissioner Leah Mordehai (2025-Present)

Appointed by Supervisor Connie Chan (D1)

Serving on the Youth Commission has been an incredibly formative experience. It provides a space to turn my passion for civic engagement into tangible impact — from shaping youth policy recommendations to collaborating with city departments and community organizations. I am learning to balance idealism with practicality: listening deeply to others' perspectives while advocating strongly for what I believe in. Some of my most meaningful moments so far include doing community outreach at the Autumn Moon Festival, working with fellow Commissioners to start a youth council for my district, and bringing important legislation that affects youth, such as the Family Zoning Plan, to the Commission. These experiences remind me that young people's voices are not only valid but essential for shaping our community.

I strongly support compensation for Youth Commissioners. Serving on the YC requires a significant time commitment, and not all young people can afford to dedicate hours each week to unpaid civic service. Providing compensation would make participation more equitable and accessible, ensuring that youth from all backgrounds can contribute. It would also acknowledge the professional-level responsibilities Commissioners take on and reinforce the city's commitment to valuing youth contributions as meaningful civic work.

Signed,
Leah Mordehai