

*Saint Paul
Second Shift
Youth Commission*



Year in Review 2009–2010



Second Shift

Youth Commission



Welcome to the Youth Commission

by Taty



Hello fellow Saint Paul citizens! This is the Second Shift Youth Commission's Year in Review, the official summary of our work in 2009-2010.

The Second Shift Youth Commission was founded in August 2006, by Mayor Christopher Coleman, and is a part of the Second Shift Initiative. There are 22 total seats on the Youth Commission, one for each of the 17 different neighborhoods in Saint Paul and 5 at-large seats.



Each year the Youth Commission organizes action projects around issues that Saint Paul youth identify as important. Youth Commissioners develop leadership skills and gain city-wide connections with many different people. The Youth Commission plays an important role in the city because we model the importance of including the voice and ideas of youth in the city of Saint Paul.



Over the past year, the members of the Youth Commission worked hard to build a stronger foundation for civic engagement in Saint Paul. We successfully became a subcommittee of the Saint Paul Park and Recreation Commission and will be able to continue doing work around discrimination, college access and afterschool opportunities for years to come.

Meet the Youth Commissioners



Tati R.
West Side
Neighborhood



ERIC B.
St. Anthony Park
Neighborhood



Lauren P.
Payne – Phalen
Neighborhood



GRACE M.
Payne – Phalen
Neighborhood



James G.
Greater East Side
Neighborhood



Taty B.
Greater East Side
Neighborhood



Jalani T.
Summit University
Neighborhood



Dustina G.
North End
Neighborhood



TYLER H.
Dayton's Bluff
Neighborhood



Brady L.
Hamline – Midway
Neighborhood



Yee L.
Frogtown/Thomas – Dale
Neighborhood



Nicole L.
At-large/North End
Neighborhood



Jenni P.
At-large/West Side
Neighborhood

Saint Paul Youth Policy Platform

The Youth Policy Platform was created by youth at the Saint Paul Youth Summit on February 28th, 2009. This platform states the issues that young people want to address in partnership with adults and elected officials.

Discrimination

Policy goals:

- Saint Paul puts a priority on programs that address racism among youth and adults.
- Neighbors, police and youth in Saint Paul get to know each other and break down barriers.

Success in School, College Access, & Tuition

Policy goals:

- There are college resource centers in the community that help youth plan for and get into college and other education programs after high school
- College tuition is affordable and more financial aid and scholarships are available.

Youth Physical & Emotional Health

Policy goals:

- Reduce teen pregnancy rates and ensure services exist to support young mothers.
- Proactive steps need to be taken to reduce emotional and physical violence within families.
- Sexual harassment and abuse must end. Everyone is responsible for safe environments.

Violence in our Neighborhoods & Schools

Policy goals:

- All young people have access to rehabilitation centers and programs that help them get out of gangs, off the streets, and off drugs.
- Saint Paul has top notch programs to stop youth from joining gangs so they never end up in the juvenile justice system.
- Neighborhoods have strong community policing programs where police, youth, and adults know each other.
- Youth have influence to create youth-friendly spaces and organizations like teen and career centers. Youth must have youth-run spaces that support positive behavior.

Youth-Friendly Transportation

Policy goals:

- There is a circulator bus in every Saint Paul neighborhood.
- Youth are involved in Saint Paul's light rail planning.
- Youth can afford public transportation and it is safe and welcoming.
- Our transportation system must pollute the environment less. Greener alternatives must be developed and implemented system wide.

Subcommittee Work

Mapping

Dustina & Nicole

by *Dustina*



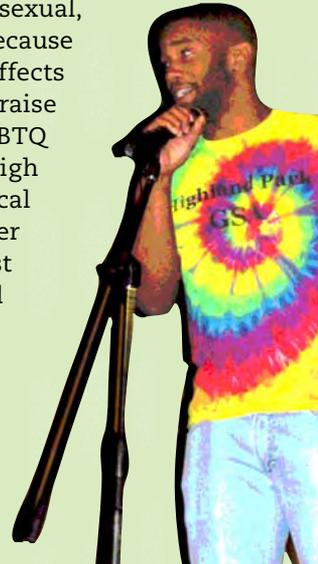
Many youth do not know where to go to find spaces to learn about music, art, physical education or where to seek homework help. Originally we wanted to create a map of Saint Paul that contained the locations, as well as directions to, places offering out-of-school youth programs. Since that was an extremely large task we looked for others with a similar focus. We worked with adult allies from the Mayor's office and Saint Paul Libraries working on LinkUp Saint Paul as part of the Second Shift Initiative and make it so youth and parents can find the youth program they want. They were creating a website that will map youth programs. Our job was to double check the accuracy of organizational information and we gave input on the web design. Website launches August 2010. Check it out! www.linkupsaintpaul.org

Discrimination

Brady, Jenni, Jalani, Taty & Tyler

by *Jalani*

Discrimination is a large issue effecting Saint Paul youth in many ways. Our group chose to work on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Questioning (LGBTQ) discrimination because it is a form of discrimination rarely discussed, but affects everyone in some way. Our overarching goal was to raise awareness and educate the greater public about LGBTQ issues. We partnered with Highland Park Senior High School's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), connected with local slam poets and performers at Highland and put together an assembly open to all Highland students on the first day of PRIDE week. There were several performers and speakers talking about sexuality and gender identities, social expectations and personal frustrations. The assembly was a space to bring awareness and understanding about the LGBTQ community.



College Access

ERIC, GRACE, JAMES, LAUREN, TATI & YEE

by Eric

This subcommittee valued education and college access. In an attempt to address several issues simultaneously they decided to write letters to the legislature explaining several faults in the current education system and why they need to be resolved.

The MN Dream Act

Many Latino youth are currently denied the opportunity to go to college because of their parents' citizenship status; the Minnesota Dream Act is proposing immigrant youth, no matter their citizenship status, be granted in-state tuition if they have attended a MN high school for three years.



21st Century Grants

Currently, the federally funded 21st Century Grants provide funding for after-school activities throughout the country by a state allotment process. There are attempts to make 21st Century grant money competitive state to state, which will likely leave small towns and new programs ignored and unfunded. We support continuing the allotment-style funding.

College Access Programs

In addition to guidance counselors college access programs like Admission Possible, AVID and Upward Bound make the college process much more achievable for many youth. Minnesota needs to place greater emphasis on these highly successful programs as we tackle educational issues head on.

Student to Counselor Ratios

Minnesota ranks 49th out of 50 in terms of student to counselor ratios. A good guidance counselor is one the most important and beneficial tools youth have in their college process. By increasing the number of school counselors, Minnesota can help countless youth achieve their dreams of attending college.



The Youth Commission Around Town

Permanency

by Grace

At the beginning of the year the Youth Commission existed but was not a permanent part of Saint Paul. If funding were to stop or new city leadership did not value youth voice and engagement, the Youth Commission would quickly disappear. The Youth Commission took many steps to ensure we would stick around for future Saint Paul youth. We met with District Attorney, Ginger Palmer, to learn the best route towards permanency. The most reasonable option was to be a part of Parks and Recreation. We met with Parks Leadership twice; once to give a presentation about the Youth Commission and once to answer questions at a Parks Commission meeting. The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission voted on our permanency. Thankfully they voted yes and we are officially a subcommittee of the Park and Recreation Commission. The Youth Commission will be here even when this group of Commissioners is gone!





Saint Bernard's

by Nicole

On May 12th a Public Achievement group from Saint Bernard's High School visited the Youth Commission to propose their youth-led effort to renovate the sports fields at Rice Street and Lawson Avenue on the North-End. The fields are worn out and unsafe for youth to practice and play on. Their groups' solution is to build two baseball fields with a combined soccer, lacrosse and football field on turf instead of real grass. This is safer and cheaper for the city to maintain. Because St. Bernard's will be closing at the end of the school year, they are hoping the renovation project will be one of the Youth Commission's project priorities come fall.



MN Out Conference

by Jenni

Members of the Discrimination Subcommittee attended the Minnesota Out Conference at McNally Smith College of Music in Saint Paul in fall. Throughout the day-long conference Commissioners contributed to conversations around how to start and maintain a successful GSA, definitions and struggles of the LGBTQ community, the importance of respecting self-identified pronouns and how discrimination plays out in their lives.

Acknowledgements

by YEE & Brady

A Special Thanks Goes to

Youth Commission Staff:

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Megan Mueller

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**SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



**THE
CANVAS**

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

graphic design by Sara Nurmela © River Print





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Saint paul Parks and Recreation