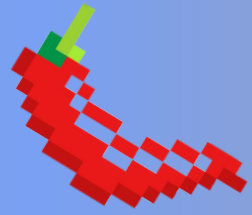


## Fall 2022 SPYC Newsletter



# Saint Paul Youth Commission



### In this newsletter...

- Strive To Drive Update
- SPYC Themes
- IMPACT Projects
- Executive Team
- Social Media Subcommittee
- New Staff

Interested in partnering  
with the Saint Paul  
Youth Commission?

Contact

**Moua Xiong!**

[moua.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:moua.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Learn more at [www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission](http://www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission)



## Strive To Drive Blood Drive was a success!

The Strive To Drive team was an IMPACT project from last year that was striving to host their own blood drive to address the blood crisis that has started due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



**After a long year of planning, reaching out, and navigating what it takes to host a blood drive, it officially became a success on November 2nd!**

This is the first Youth Commission project to span two years. We are excited that the hard work of this team resulted in **23 full units of blood being donated and 13 first time donors!** We want to extend a humongous thank you to our community because without your support, this blood drive would not have been possible!

We hope that this project reminds you that that your blood can save lives, so if you can, consider donating blood today!

Learn more at [www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission](http://www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission)



## SPYC Themes

Every year Youth Commissioners decide on four themes that the commission will focus on for the year in order to be intentional with the work that we do.



**We had many great ideas for themes this year, but the final themes that were voted on are...**

Youth Health and Wellness

Youth Education & Enrichment

Public Safety

Youth Homelessness

# IMPACT Projects

## **With the themes in mind, soon commissioners proposed IMPACT project ideas for the year!**

This year the commissioners proposed nine incredible impact projects. Unfortunately, we can't do them all. After presentations from their peers the commissioners voted on four projects for this year:

### **No Arms No Harm**

- With gun violence being a constant in people's lives, this group aims to change legislation to decrease accessibility to firearms to ultimately lower the amount of gun violence in their communities.

### **Youth United Against Hunger**

- After noticing the harmful effects on students once universal free lunch was removed, this team wants to find ways to support those that are struggling with hunger.

### **Menstruation Justice**

- This group will be advocating for free for free menstrual products in schools and public facilities like libraries and recreation centers to address menstruation inequity.

### **Do-Nation**

- To support the unsheltered population in Saint Paul, this group will host a donation drive and provide the resources directly to people who are unsheltered.

Learn more at [www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission](http://www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission)







### No Arms No Harm Team

In order from left to right:

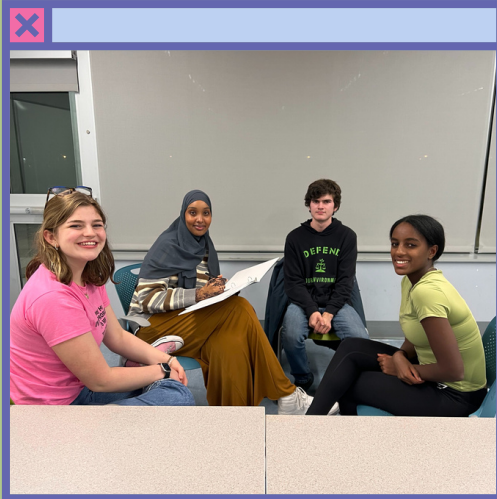
- Freya Botz
- Liv Miller
- Tage Johnson - Project Chair
- Tarin Johnson
- Marzae Huffman
- Henry Evenson (Not pictured)

### Youth United Against Hunger

In order from left to right:

- Everlyn Granda
- Abshir Ali
- Haley Vien (Program Specialist cameo)
- Gaonou Yang - Project Chair
- Calla Massari (Not pictured)





### Menstruation Justice

In order from left to right:

- Megan Haas
- Suwayda Hussein - Project Chair
- Antonio Rosell
- Pria Stauning

### Do-Nation

In order from left to right:

- D'Nico Barber - Project Co-Chair
- La'Zaya Lindsey
- Kaya Solheid - Project Co-Chair
- Hallie Kes
- Zeynab Adam - Project Co-chair  
(not pictured)



# Youth Lead Teams

## **Introducing this year's Executive Team and our first ever Social Media Subcommittee!**

### **Executive Team**

- Last year was the first year we implemented the Executive Team, which was an idea that was proposed by a previous commissioner who had been with the program for multiple years.
- The purpose of the Executive Team was to provide more leadership opportunities and youth co-creation within the Saint Paul Youth Commission.
- The Executive Team places youth in charge of programming decisions and facilitation alongside program staff. The team is made of returning commissioners that were voted into their roles last year by their peers.

### **Social Media Subcommittee**

- We wanted to continue expanding the amount of leadership positions in the Saint Paul Youth Commission and realized that we were also lacking creative opportunities which led to the creation of the Social Media Subcommittee!
- The Social Media Subcommittee consists of three commissioners that volunteered to support in everything involving social media. This subcommittee primarily helps plan and create digital content to share the commission's work and topics that are important to the commissioners.

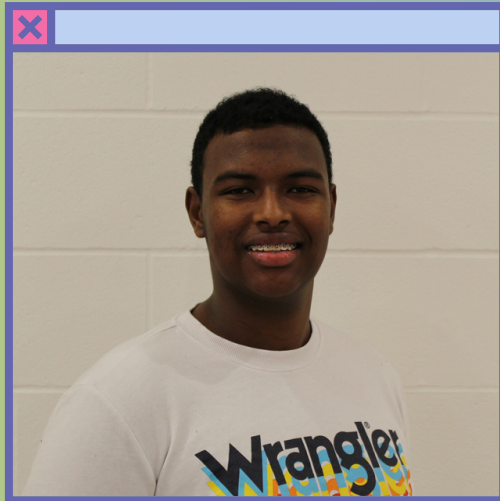
Learn more at [www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission](http://www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission)



## Fall 2022 SPYC Newsletter

Below we asked our leaders the following questions:

- Why did you join your respective teams?
- What do you hope to accomplish with your role?



**Abshir Ali**

### Executive Team - Chair

As a member of the executive team, I will help to set the direction for the commission and work to ensure that our programs and initiatives are having a positive impact on the lives of Saint Paul youth. I am committed to making a difference in our city, and I believe that the Saint Paul Youth Commission can be a powerful force for good. I am excited to work with the other members of the team to make a positive difference in the lives of our city's young people.

### Executive Team - Vice Chair

I signed up to join the Executive Board in order to have experience applying Robert's Rules of Order in the agenda meetings. I also want to be able to be a leader in the commission that shares the values of what our commission wants to apply for the City of Saint Paul. What I hope to accomplish in my role being the Vice Chair is to actively assist engaging commissioners to continue making changes each month and to have a successful year in the Saint Paul Youth Commission.



**Everlyn Granda**



## Fall 2022 SPYC Newsletter



**Liv Miller**

### **Executive Team - Treasurer**

I wanted to join the Executive Team in order to help promote community and inclusion. This year, I am excited for IMPACT projects and to advocate to city leaders about issues SPYC cares about. I hope that everyone on SPYC will be able to have a good understanding on the SPCY budget and that they will feel comfortable coming to me to ask questions.

### **Executive Team - Secretary & Social Media Subcommittee**

I signed up to join the executive board because I wanted to be a mentor of sorts for all the underclassmen and new SPYC commissioners, and I wanted to have a more significant say in important proceedings and decisions regarding the commission. I became a part of the social media committee because I love design and outreach efforts, and I want to work to represent SPYC well and positively to the public.



**Calla Massari**

## Fall 2022 SPYC Newsletter



**Megan Haas**

### **Social Media Subcommittee**

I joined the social media committee because I am interested in graphic design and organizational advertising and felt my contributions to this committee could better my graphic design capabilities and also give me an introduction to social media marketing. With that, I hope to contribute to SPYC's socials with consistent, organized, and informative content that is both engaging and aesthetically pleasing.

### **Social Media Subcommittee**

I signed up for this subcommittee because I love to create, and I felt this subcommittee was a way for me to express my creativity and support the St. Paul Youth Commission. I hope that with my role, I can help increase SPYC's reach and impact on youth in St. Paul. Youth voice matters!



**Kaya Solheid**

# UPDATES



**Welcome our  
"new" staff  
Haley Vien!**

## **From intern to full time staff, Haley is excited to be back for the long haul!**

- Haley first started with the Saint Paul Youth Commission in 2020 as an intern from Macalester College and stayed as an intern until she graduated in May 2022.
- During the summer, Haley became a Right Track job coach but continued to assist with the behind the scenes work for SPYC.
- At the end of August, Haley accepted and began her new role as the Youth Leadership Program Specialist where she assists Moua with the Saint Paul Youth Commission and Youth On Boards!
- She feels lucky to have found a home with SPYC in the last few years and can't wait to see how much both programs grow!

Learn more at [www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission](http://www.stpaul.gov/youthcommission)

