

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#7-2024**

DATE: Feb. 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
Jason Loveland, Deputy City Manager *AL2*

FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture *ajp*
Kassy Riggie, Recreation Coordinator of Youth and Teen Programs

SUBJECT: Youth Commission Annual Report

PURPOSE

To present City Council the 2023 Northglenn Youth Commission Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

Throughout the year, members of the Northglenn Youth Commission provide City Council with a brief narrative report. At the end of the year, both a written report and a narrative report are provided to summarize the entire year.

This report is for the year 2023. Youth Commission members LeAnn Shi, Suyash Shrestha and Nazly Soufiani will attend the City Council meeting to present the report. They will provide an update regarding the following topics:

- Board membership and recruiting
- 2023 Priority Project: Public Health
- 2023 Priority Project: Community Engagement
- 2023 Priority Project: Bylaws Update
- National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference
- 2024 goal setting
- Recent graduates

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or time impacts to the City.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes only.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council Members have any questions, please contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

ATTACHMENT

1. Youth Commission Annual Report



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NORTHGLENN
YOUTH COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETINGS

The Youth Commission Board of Directors holds a meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The first meeting of the month is a formal business meeting; the second is a working meeting. Agendas and minutes, along with other board documents, can be found at www.northglenn.org/nyc. All Youth Commission meetings are open to the public. Youth interested in joining the Youth Commission, or those that have an idea to share, are encouraged to attend.

JOIN THE BOARD

To be eligible, interested youth must be between the ages of 13 and 18, and live in Northglenn or attend school in the Adams 12 Five Star School District. Commissioners serve one-year terms. Any member in good standing may be reappointed for consecutive terms. Applications are available on the city's website at www.northglenn.org/nyc.

BOARD OPENINGS

As of December 2023, there were nine vacancies on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors and two pending applications to be finalized in 2024. During 2023, several applications were submitted, and two new members joined the board. The openings are posted on the Youth Commission's web page, social media, Northglenn Parks, Recreation and Culture Activity Guide, and have been promoted in the Northglenn Connection. Additional outreach was done to fill vacancies by having an increased presence at Northglenn events, hosting an interest meeting, handing out brochures at local schools, and updating language on existing outreach efforts to be more inclusive.



Meera Bipin
President
Legacy High School



Suyash Shrestha
Vice President
Stargate Charter School



Akaam Alex Sandhu
Treasurer
Horizon High School



Nazly Soufiani
Secretary
Legacy High School



Kate Feil
Board Member
Stargate Charter School

The above individuals actively served on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors during 2023. Not pictured:

- Griffin Wood, Alternate Secretary

PRIORITY PROJECT PUBLIC HEALTH

GAMING CHARITY LIVE STREAM

By Alex Sandhu

The Northglenn Youth Commission (NYC) wanted to have a steady start to a year by focusing on public health. Interested in trying out a new form of fundraising, the Commission reached out to the South Suburban Parks & Recreation District to learn about their Esports Lounge. In doing so, an opportunity to work collaboratively on a livestream charity event was realized. Having volunteered with Ronald McDonald House Charity of Denver (RMHC) in the past outside of the Youth Commission, members chose to raise funds for them. RMHC helps youth in need by providing their families a place to stay while they're in the hospital, something that is perfectly aligned with NYC. After months of planning and playing a variety of games on several different consoles, a small amount was raised on June 3, 2023.



CHARITY FLICK AND FLOAT

By Alex Sandhu

The NYC had a strong desire to continue charity work in the health sphere, and the Children's Hospital of Colorado (CHC) presented itself as the right organization to the Commission. The event was a two-step process. First, the swimmers made voluntary donations to access the pool where the movie, *Knives Out!* would be playing. Then, additional funds were raised by the hospitals' youth volunteers operating a snack booth. This led to over \$120 being raised on November 17, 2023.



YOUTH ADDICTION POSTER CONTEST

By Suyash Shrestha

As the year progressed, the Youth Commission became increasingly aware of the ongoing crisis regarding opiates and addiction among teens in the Northglenn community. After meeting with individuals interested in speaking with them on the topic, the Commission brainstormed strategies to bolster awareness and engage youth regarding youth addiction. The Commission ultimately chose to host a poster contest for students, grades 6-12, who are residents of Northglenn or attending a school within the Adams 12 School District. The poster contest aimed to help youth start a conversation around addiction with their peers and families through visual art. A total of 18 submissions were received, and the top three contestants were selected at the end of the year.



PRIORITY PROJECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



HIGHLINE CANAL CLEANUP MARCH 4

The best way to be involved is to do community service, so the Northglenn Youth Commission volunteered to help clean up Stonehocker Park.



FLOWER BED PLANTING MAY 16

As part of the City of Northglenn's initiative to replant flowers, NYC annually replants the Youth Commission Flowerbed at E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park.



SAFE STREET HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 14

Safe Street is a great time for NYC to support youth and advertise. This year, they handed out toys and shared a booth with Recreation Department staff.



ODELL BARRY PARK MEETING NOVEMBER 14

Commissioners discussed the plans for a new park to be built in the city with other community members, including providing recommendations for youth-focused spaces.



CHARITY FLICK & FLOAT NOVEMBER 17

NYC hosted a community charity event for all to enjoy free entertainment while supporting Children's Hospital Colorado, who provided concessions.

Additional events
not identified or pictured:

- Anti-Defamation League Community Conversation
- City Hall Groundbreaking
- Volunteer Appreciation

By Alex Sandhu & Suyash Shrestha

Yellow denotes citywide events and meetings. Green denotes events and meetings hosted by the Youth Commission.



CHARITY GAMING LIVE STREAM JUNE 3

In partnership with the Ronald McDonald House, the Youth Commission created a Charity Live Stream Event, hosted by the South Suburban Park & Recreation District Esports Lounge.



NORTHGLENN PRIDE JUNE 10

To hopefully make an annual tradition, Northglenn Youth Commission participated in Pride by having attendees put up personal 'hands' on a board.



STATE OF THE CITY JULY 20

The State of the City was a great opportunity to voice the NYC's priorities and work to the public while answering questions about what they do in the City.



NOEL NORTHGLENN DECEMBER 1

Noel Northglenn is a great event where NYC helped manage the s'mores station while promoting the team and its latest initiatives to the community.



LISTENING SESSION & HOLIDAY FUN DECEMBER 19

The NYC connected with community youth to enjoy the holiday season and hear their top concerns while enjoying some fun games.

NLC CONFERENCE

By Meera Bipin

The National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference took place March 26 through March 28. The Youth Commission was able to send board members Meera, Alex, and Nazly along with Kassya, the Staff Liaison, Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Council Members Lukeman-Hiromasa, Jaramillo and Kondo, Mayor Leighty, and City Manager Geyer. Youth delegates were able to represent Northglenn youth at the conference by meeting other youth commissions around the country, attending various workshops and listening sessions, sharing ideas and projects implemented in Northglenn, and gathering new ideas. Commissioners also met with Colorado leaders, Representative Caraveo and Senator Hickenlooper, to share ideas and learn more about their role in government. During their free time, delegates were able to sightsee around Washington including a tour of the United States Capitol.



PRIORITY PROJECT BYLAWS UPDATE

By Nazly Soufiani

After discovering some outdated language in the Youth Commission Bylaws in 2022, the Commission decided to take action this year and update the document to better align with current goals and priorities. Each commissioner was responsible for researching other youth groups and their structure. Then, all members reported their favorite features as possible additions to the Northglenn Youth Commission Bylaws and other edits deemed necessary. Once assigned a section of the document, each commissioner drafted their additions. To finalize the updates, the Commission reviewed the updated document and unanimously agreed to all of the changes. A few important changes included adding a statement of inclusivity supporting the initiative to further youth support of diversity, inclusivity and social equity. Additionally, the Commission more clearly defined the roles of elected board positions.



2024 PRIORITY PROJECTS

PUBLIC HEALTH	
YOUTH ADDICTION	FOOD ACCESS
Educating the community about naloxone.	Increasing access to nutritious foods for youth.
Distributing fentanyl test strips for easier access.	Volunteering with local organizations that address food insecurity in the community.
Increasing awareness about mental health resources.	
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
PARTNERSHIPS	SOCIAL MEDIA
Partnering with organizations to further our knowledge and reach in the public health realm.	Reach more youth by increasing social media posts and event advertising on the Youth Commission social media pages.

2024 GOAL SETTING

By Nazly Soufiani

Near the end of the year, the Commission started to brainstorm priority projects and objectives for 2024. The collective agreement was to maintain a focus on improving the public health of youth in Northglenn. As an overarching goal, objectives will range from mental health initiatives to continuing youth addiction advocacy work and addressing the food insecurity teens face today. Additionally, the Commission will continue to build collaborative partnerships through community engagement. The Commission has brainstormed about partnerships, events, and social media outreach ideas that will help the Commission further these connections.

RECENT GRADUATES

By Meera Bipin

This year, the Commission is honoring one senior who graduated and received the City Council's Service Award in early 2023.

ISAIAH SALGADO-RAEL

Isaiah was a member of Youth Commission for 4 years and has served as a Treasurer and Board Member. He was inspired to join the Youth Commission to become involved in local government, learn about municipal politics, and help better the City of Northglenn for the future. Isaiah has been an avid volunteer for community events, helping out with SafeStreets Halloween and engaging with the public alongside the DISE Board at the AAPI booth at Food Truck Carnival. Isaiah graduated from Horizon High School in the spring of 2023.



Congratulations to graduating senior Isaiah! Thank you for your many years of service as a board member for the Northglenn Youth Commission.



CONTACT US!

PHONE

303.450.8844

EMAIL

teens@northglenn.org

SITE

www.northglenn.org/nyc

SOCIAL MEDIA

 [@northglennyouth](https://www.instagram.com/northglennyouth)

 [@northglennyouth](https://twitter.com/northglennyouth)

 [@northglennyouthcommission](https://www.facebook.com/northglennyouthcommission)