

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#1-2025**

DATE: Feb. 24, 2025

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 *APP*
Kassy Riggle, Recreation Coordinator of Youth and Teen Programs

SUBJECT: Youth Commission 2024 Annual Report

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with an update regarding recent activities of the Northglenn Youth Commission.

BACKGROUND

Throughout the year, members of the Northglenn Youth Commission provide City Council with a brief narrative report that includes a summary of activities and accomplishments from recent months. 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 January through December 2024. Youth Commissioners LeAnn Shi and Anusha Khanal will attend the City Council meeting to present the report. They will provide an update regarding the following topics:

- Board membership and recruiting
- 2024 Priority Project: Community Engagement
- National League of Cities Conference
- 2024 Priority Project: Public Health
- 2025 goal setting

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or time impacts to the City.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes only.

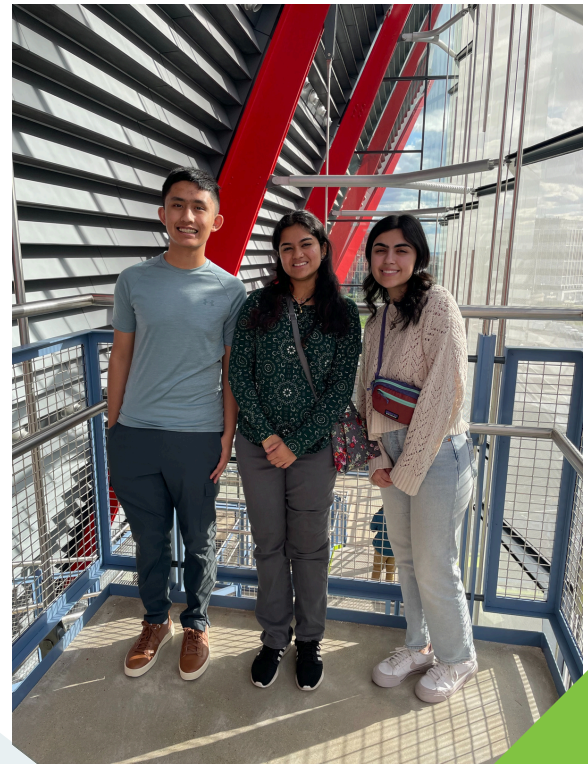
STAFF REFERENCE

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. 2024 Annual Report

NORTHGLENN YOUTH COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2024



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Meera Bipin
President
Legacy High School



Nazly Soufiani
Vice President
Legacy High School



LeAnn Shi
Secretary
Stargate Charter School



Akaam Alex Sandhu
Treasurer
Horizon High School



Kate Feil
Alternate Secretary
Stargate Charter School



Suyash Shrestha
Public Relations & Communications Manager
Stargate Charter School



Anusha Khanal
Board Member, Interim Treasurer
Stargate Charter School

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 2024, there were eight vacancies on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors. During 2024, several interested youths below age 13 attended board meetings and events to learn more about the Northglenn Youth Commission. Openings were 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. Additionally, commissioners reached out to youth in the community by having an increased presence at Northglenn events, hosting an interest meeting, distributing brochures at local schools, and updating language on existing outreach efforts to be more inclusive.

BOARD LIAISONS

Megan Burns, City Council Ex-Officio Member
Kassy Riggle, City Staff Liaison

PRIORITY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

03.23 HIGHLINE CANAL CLEAN UP

Annually, the Northglenn Youth Commission (NYC) aided in removal of trash at Stonehocker Park alongside volunteers at other local parks.



06.08 NORTHGLENN PRIDE

The NYC featured a photo booth backdrop utilizing last year's pride wall and advocated for youth civic involvement.



10.12 CITY HALL GRAND OPENING

Enjoying Brunch with the Mayor was a great opportunity for the NYC to network with other committees and cities.



10.11 NARCAN TRAINING

NYC had its first public Narcan training in partnership with Adams County Harm Reduction Team. They distributed over 25 boxes of Narcan to the community.



12.06 NOEL NORTHGLENN

Meera spread holiday cheer by handing out s'mores near the campfires while promoting the NYC.



By Akaam Alex Sandhu &
Suyash Shrestha

NLC CONFERENCE

By Meera Bipin & Nazly Soufiani

INTRODUCTION

The National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference took place March 9 - March 14. The Northglenn Youth Commission was able to send Board Members Meera, Suyash, and Nazly along with Kassy Riggle, Staff Liaison, and Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture. They joined Council Members Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Kondo, Goff, Mayor Leighty, and City Manager Geyer. As youth delegates, commissioners networked with youth around the nation, worked with their peers to find solutions to common youth-centered issues in their respective organizations, and listened to insightful keynote speakers on the crucial role of municipalities in a broader context.

As a part of the general sessions, delegates heard from Doris Kearns Goodwin, who shared key takeaways on leadership traits, Former United States Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who was able to provide an overview on transportation projects around the country, and Former President Joe Biden, among many other notable speakers.

YOUTH SESSIONS

This year, the youth delegate sessions were centered around Building a Better Community and Parks: Youth, Capitol Hill and the City. Commissioners shared insights about their community engagement priority project and discussed input on the Odell Barry Park.

During Hill Day, commissioners met with Representative Caraveo where they asked questions regarding mental health impacts, health equity, and youth homelessness.

QUESTIONS FOR SENATOR BENNETT

"Regarding career and technical education programs, how is the federal government supporting the development and promotion of these programs?" - Meera Bipin

"What are congress's plans to continue the growth of CTE in America and support student participation in non-instructional environments such as CTSO's including HOSA, FBLA, and FAA?" - Suyash Shrestha



QUESTIONS FOR CONGRESSWOMAN CARAVEO

“At yesterday’s opening session at NLC, President Biden mentioned Congress’ decision to award the U.S. Department of Housing and Development \$70B. Do you know of any initiatives, in light of this funding, that target youth experiencing houselessness specifically? Or are there any other steps of action congress is taking to limit this pressing issue?” - Nazly Soufiani

“Even though it’s been about three years since schools have made their way back to full-time, in-person school after COVID, many students are still dealing with the mental health impacts that were brought up during that time. What are some of the legislative policies in place to help?” - Meera Bipin

“Regarding federal support for School-Based Health Centers in and out of Colorado, is there an effort to increase health equity for youth along with eliminating transportation barriers?” -Suyash Shrestha



TAKEAWAYS

During their free time, delegates were able to sightsee around Washington including a tour of the United States Capitol, visiting museums, the Washington D.C. Botanical Gardens and Library of Congress.

Overall, this was a great experience for delegates, giving them an opportunity to hear from various officials from around the country. From their experiences, they learned about how other commissions split up their members into subcommittees to be more passion-focused and easier to complete a multitude of tasks in a year. The committee structure was implemented this year as a result of the post-NLC debrief in which the commission participated. Additionally, after hearing about how public health is a prevalent issue for not just teens in Northglenn, but all over the nation, the Commission felt strongly about continuing their efforts in the public health area.



PRIORITY PROJECT PUBLIC HEALTH

NARCAN TRAINING

By Suyash Shrestha

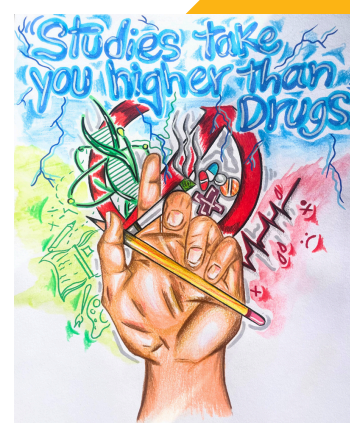
The Youth Commission made significant strides this year in an effort to combat the youth opioid crisis. One of the group's largest accomplishments includes hosting the city's first public Narcan training event. Narcan, otherwise known as Naloxone, is an opiate antagonist that has the power to bind to receptors in the brain and help reverse an overdose. In an effort to spread the word on the life-saving medication, Youth Commissioner Suyash Shrestha performed outreach to regional public health departments to understand how the Commission could host their own training. This research included meetings with the Broomfield Department of Public Health and Environment (BPHE) and the Denver Harm Reduction Team, leading to the establishment of a partnership between the Northglenn Youth Commission and Adams County Health Department (ACHD). The ACHD provided certified trainers who were able to conduct the training inside the Northglenn Recreation Center. At the end of the event, each youth attendee was able to receive a box of Narcan free of charge from the ACHD. With the average Narcan nasal kit costing around \$44.00 each, this provided a valuable resource to youth in the community.

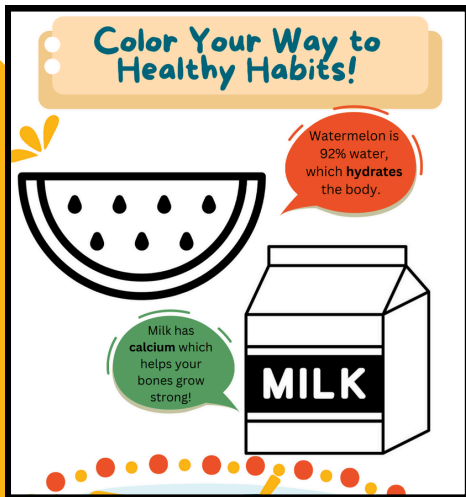


YOUTH ADDICTION AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST

By Suyash Shrestha

The Youth Addiction Awareness Poster Contest returned for its second year in a row! It was an incredible effort by both the Youth Commission and members of the broader community. Each year submissions have been accepted from youth residing within the City of Northglenn along with the Adams 12 Five Star School District. The Northglenn Youth Commission is presented with a beautiful collection of hard work that continues to amaze the commissioners with the prompt "addiction" which encourages participants to creatively express their perspective on addiction. Once again, the Adams 12 Five Star School District was an amazing partner that allowed the Commission to reach a broad network of interested individuals through several channels including newsletters and social media. This year, the Youth Addiction Poster Contest closed with 24 submissions which is approximately a 33% increase from the previous year. The Northglenn Youth Commission carefully evaluated each piece and selected the top three along with an honorable mention.





FOOD INSECURITY

By Anusha Khanal and LeAnn Shi

By addressing food insecurity and promoting healthy eating habits, the Northglenn Youth Commission continued its efforts to support youth in the community. One of the Commission's proudest accomplishments is the completion of its very first coloring book, *Color Your Way to Healthy Habits!* The coloring book uses fun illustrations and activities to help children learn about nutritious foods, balanced meals, and the importance of daily physical activity. The coloring book aims to make healthy choices engaging and accessible for our youngest community members. The end of the coloring book also contains resources to assist parents in locating local food banks. In addition to finalizing the coloring book, the Commission is working to schedule a presentation at a local preschool. During the visit, commissioners will introduce the coloring book's themes, lead an interactive discussion on food insecurity, and provide tips for making healthy food choices - even on a budget. By engaging students at an early age, the Northglenn Youth Commission hopes to spark lifelong habits that will help ensure all children in the community can thrive.



2025 GOAL SETTING

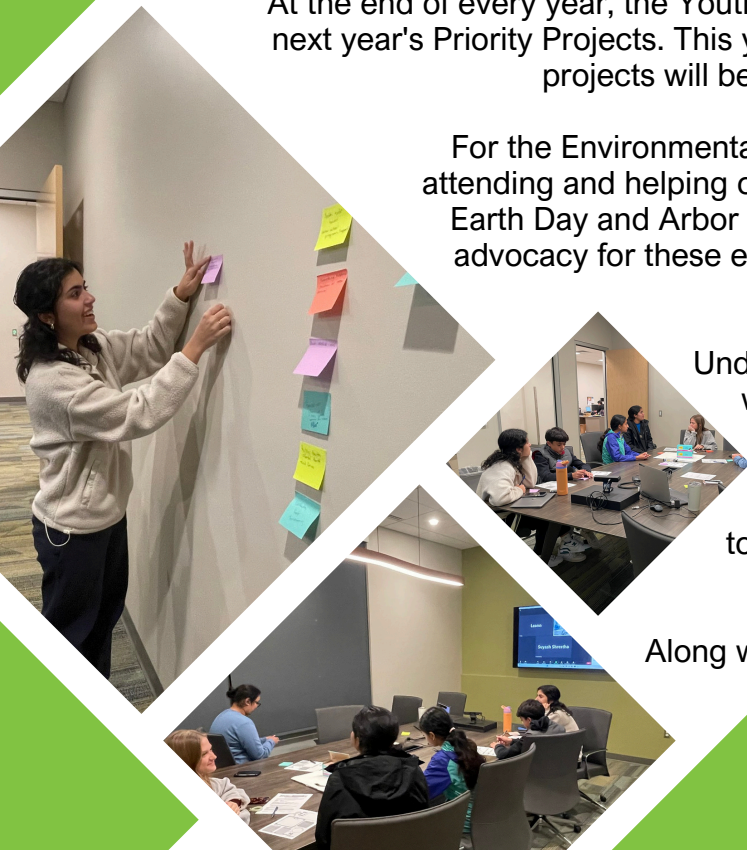
By Meera Bipin

At the end of every year, the Youth Commission spends some time brainstorming the next year's Priority Projects. This year, the Commission decided the two main priority projects will be Environmental Advocacy and Safe Haven Spaces.

For the Environmental Advocacy Priority Project, focus will be placed on attending and helping out with environmental events in the community like Earth Day and Arbor Day. In addition, the Commission wants to focus on advocacy for these events with an increased social media presence that includes environmental facts and sustainability tips.

Under the Safe Haven Priority Project, the Commission wants to focus on developing a safe and welcoming space for youth in the community while educating the community on issues such as teen homelessness, hunger and pregnancy. In addition to providing resources, the Commission aims to help raise awareness for this cause.

Along with these two events, the Commission will focus on wrapping up the 2024 priority projects for Food Insecurity and the Poster Contest.





CONTACT US!

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

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