

YOUTH COMMISSION STAFF E-NEWS

From the Collaborative Governance Initiative

A Program of the Institute for Local Government

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Greetings!

Welcome to the second issue of the **Youth Commission Staff E-News** brought to you by the Collaborative Governance Initiative at the Institute for Local Government, with the generous support of the Surdna Foundation.

We hope that this tri-annual e-newsletter will provide useful information to help strengthen your city or county youth commission or council. Each issue will feature **new resources, program ideas, strategies, success stories** and more.

You can forward this newsletter to youth commissioners, council members, or others with the "Forward email" link below.

Send Us the Ordinance, Resolution, Charter, and/or Bylaws that Established Your Commission or Council

We are collecting examples of youth commission-related ordinances, charters or resolutions and/or bylaws that are the founding documents of the commission or council. We will add them to our online resources available to cities and counties that are developing new youth commissions. **Please forward the document(s) that established your commission and/or council in a Word document attachment addressed to Carmen Pereira at cpereira@ca-ilg.org.** We will upload them to our website. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

California Communities Pursue Youth Master Planning

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the Youth, Education, and Families Institute at the National League of California Cities has published a new action kit for municipal leaders, [Creating a Youth Master Plan](#). This kit offers tips and advice for cities seeking to develop a shared framework and improve coordination of services and opportunities for children and youth. Click on the link above to learn more.

The two stories that follow describe California communities that have, or are presently creating, youth master plans.

[City of Elk Grove](#)

[City of Palo Alto](#)

New Publications and Reports on Youth Civic Engagement

Engaging Young People in Civic Life, edited by James Youniss and Peter Levine and **soon to be published** by [Vanderbilt Press](#), presents thirteen original essays based on research in schools and in settings beyond the schoolyard where civic life is experienced. One chapter reports on how two city governments, Hampton, VA and San Francisco, CA, have invited youth to participate on boards and in agencies. A cluster of chapters focuses on the civic education programs in Canada and Western Europe.



Social Citizen, a study of the Millennial Generation, has been published by the [Case Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving complex social problems. This report explores teenage volunteerism and the use of technology by Millennials to voice their opinions and to organize in new ways. Free. 70 pages. Call 202.467.5788 or [Social Citizens](#).



At the request of the Endowment for California Leadership, [Mobilize.org](#) conducted a landscape analysis of the state of California's leadership development organizations and compiled their findings in the report, *2% is Not a Solution: A Survey of California Youth Leadership Development*. Generally, the organizations surveyed included youth civic engagement, inter-generational, civic and mentorship organizations in the state. The goals were to gather and analyze available information on the topic that could be used to assess the need for the planned Endowment. The report focuses on eight key findings, including:

- No more than 2.5 percent of California high school students have been reached by youth leadership development organizations;
- Calling youth leadership development a "field" paints an inaccurate picture of the connectedness of the work done throughout California;
- The majority of youth served by youth leadership development organizations are already high achievers within their communities; and
- Youth leadership development training focuses on developing individual leaders, with a lesser focus on building lasting productive leadership networks.

To get more information on this report, contact Christina Gagnier, Chief Information Officer, at 510.717.3022 or christina@mobilize.org.

New Youth Development Resources from the CA Park and Recreation Society

The [California Park & Recreation Society](#) Youth Development Committee has released two new resources: 1.) a Fact Sheet titled "Youth Partnership Trends" and 2.) a database of youth development trainers and topic areas. Contact Leslie Fritz, Director of Education, at leslie@cprs.org or 916.665.2777.

Notes From the Field: Youth Commission News From Throughout California

Here is a sample of youth civic engagement activities that are happening at youth commissions in California.

[Sacramento Youth Commission Works to Improve High School Recycling and Increase Employment Opportunities for Youth](#)

[San Carlos Youth Vote - Youth Voice](#) - a program giving youth voting experience on election day for U.S. president.

[Santa Barbara Holds Youth Speak Outs on a Variety of Local Issues](#)

Youth Commissions Planning Youth in Government Days

Here are two examples of youth commissions participating in "Youth in Government Day" activities planned for March and April of this year.

[Huntington Beach Youth in Government Day](#)

[San Carlos Youth in Government Day](#)

Youth in Education Forum

You are invited to attend a forum on youth involvement in educational improvement movements. Sponsored by the Youth Leadership Institute, Marin County Office of Education, Marin Education Fund, the Dominican University Institute for Leadership Studies, and the Marin County Youth Commission, the forum will showcase projects that successfully engage youth in educational planning and decision-making nationwide, hearing from policy experts, program leaders, and youth themselves.

Participants will also learn about findings and best practices from the Youth Leadership Institute's study of youth involvement in educational improvement and reform efforts. The event will close with a panel of youth talking about their own experiences.

**Youth in Education Forum
March 25, 2009
2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Dominican University
Caleruega Dining Hall, Creekside Room
100 Magnola Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901**

RSVP:

If you would like to attend the forum, please send an e-mail to dcallihan@yli.org and put "Youth in Education Forum" in the subject line.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Maureen Sedonaen, Founder and CEO of the Youth Leadership Institute, at msedonaen@yli.org, or Kim Mazzuca, President of Marin Education Fund, at kmazzuca@marineducationfund.org.

Health Care Coverage for Children and Youth in Your Community: ILG Launches First Youth Commissions Briefing Paper

The Institute for Local Government's [Briefing Paper #1](#) provides youth commissions with information and ideas for action having to do with the 500,000 to 600,000 children in California who are eligible for - but do not have - no or low cost health insurance. Coverage is available for these children through Medi-Cal,

the Healthy Families Program, or the Healthy Kids Program, however many families do not know about these health insurance options or how to get their children signed up.

This short four-page briefing paper provides background on the topic and offers specific activities youth commissioners can do to: 1) learn more about the problem in their own communities; 2) help other groups that may be enrolling children/youth in the program; and 3) how to enroll youth themselves as Certified Application Assistants. *Briefing Paper #1* is provided by the Collaborative Governance Initiative and Communities for Healthy Kids, programs of the Institute for Local Government. For more information on these programs, please visit www.ca-ilg.org/cgi or www.ca-ilg.org/chk.

This is the first in a series of briefing papers for youth commissions that will provide background information and ideas for commission activities and action. The briefing papers will be disseminated without cost to youth commissions and councils throughout California. The second briefing paper will focus on how youth commissioners can assist with climate action planning and other environmentally supportive work in their cities and counties.

National League of Cities Undertakes New Project to Support Youth Engagement

With the support of the Surdna Foundation, the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth Education and Families (IYEF) has a new project underway to strengthen the capacity of municipal leaders and youth development experts to "promote authentic youth civic engagement." During the first phase, the IYEF Institute will work with experts in the youth development field, senior municipal staff and youth leaders to develop a working hypothesis that "frames the essential elements of authentic youth civic engagement." The information gathered will be shared with city and community leaders across the country to help them build the infrastructure needed to support youth civic engagement and expand opportunities for youth and young adults to positively impact their communities. For more information, please contact Leon Andrews, Program Director of Youth Development at IYEF at 202.626.3039 or Andrews@nlc.org.

Website Resources for Youth Commissioners on "Giving to the Community" and "Planning for Change"

Looking for an interesting, youth-friendly, online teaching resource on the importance on giving back to your community and planning for community change and service? The Sacramento Region Community Foundation has a website section on "Grants Advisory Board for Youth (GABY) that may be of interest. While it is set up to take readers through a process to apply for Sacramento Region



Community Foundation grants, the first two components - "The Gift of Giving" and "Learning to Serve" - can be used to acquaint youth commissioners with ways to give to the community, discover the cause they care about, how to inspire and build a team, commit to community service, and create change through a step-by-step interactive project planning process. Check it out at [Sacramento Region Community Foundation](#) and click on "Visit the GABY Web site" where you will be given prompts on how to view the materials. There's no cost to accessing the materials.

[Institute for Local Government Offers CA Youth Commissions Roster and Resources](#)



The Institute for Local Government's:

- [Youth Engagement Page](#) offers a directory of youth commissions and youth advisory councils in the state, a compendium of resources for youth commission staff and volunteers, case stories of youth engagement, and a summary from our recent online dialogue on ways that youth commissions can involve more youth and have a greater impact on public policy.
- [Directory of California Youth Commissions](#) now includes over 100 listings. Please review your city or county listing and provide us with any contact updates.

We would like your youth commission stories and your input on how else the Institute for Local Government can support you in strengthening the voice of California's youth in shaping local, planning, policy and decision making. Please e-mail Carmen Pereira with your input at cpereira@ca-ilg.org.

[Civic Participation in California - a Six-Issue Series in *Western City* Magazine](#)

Civic Participation in California is a compilation of articles originally published as a series in *Western City*, the monthly magazine of the League of California Cities. The League is an association of California city officials who work together to enhance their knowledge and skills, exchange information and combine resources so they may positively influence policy decisions that affect cities.



The staff of ILG's Collaborative Governance Initiative coordinated the Civic Participation series, contributing articles and working with local officials and experts to develop content. The series is designed to provide information, stimulate discussion and build on existing efforts to connect with residents and increase public trust in local government. Included is the article, [Youth Commissions and](#)

[Councils Promote Leadership and Participation](#).

The original Civic Participation series appeared from July through December 2008 in *Western*

City magazine. To read the series, please click here: [Civic Participation in California](#).

We want the **Youth Commission Staff E-News** to be useful to you! If you have an item for the next e-newsletter, please send it to us. If there are resources you would like us to highlight, please let us know. If there are topics you want to see covered, please tell us. **We want to help you support your youth commission or council.**

Please forward any ideas or resources to Carmen Pereira, ILG Program Assistant, at cpereira@ca-ilg.org.

If you are not the current youth commission or council staff member, we would appreciate it if you would provide the contact information for or forward this email to the current staff member.

Again, if you think this e-newsletter would be useful to youth commissioners or others, please forward it to them using the "Forward email" link below.

Best wishes,

Terry Amsler, Program Director
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