

YOUTH COMMISSION STAFF E-NEWS

From the Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance Program

A Program of the Institute for Local Government

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Spring 2010 issue of the Youth Commission Staff E-News brought to you by the Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance program at the Institute for Local Government.

This tri-annual e-newsletter provides useful information to help inform and strengthen county and city youth commissions and councils. Each issue features stories and strategies from local youth commissions in California, as well as youth engagement news, resources, grant opportunities and program ideas from throughout the country.

This e-newsletter is produced and distributed to youth commissions in California (as well as to interested others) with the generous support of the Surdna Foundation.

You can forward this newsletter to youth commissioners, council members, or others with the "Forward email" link below. Also, archived issues of the newsletter are available on our website at www.ca-ilg.org/youthengagement.

We now have a case story form that you can use to submit your own commission's or council's story for our website and newsletter (see www.ca-ilg.org/youthengagementstory). Other content ideas for the Youth Commission Staff E-News can be submitted to Carmen Pereira at cpereira@ca-ilg.org.

NEWS FLASH!

The Collaborative Governance Initiative is now called the Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance program. How's that for an even longer name!

Quick Links

- [Institute for Local Government](#)
- [Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance](#)
- [Youth Commissions & Engagement](#)
- [Youth in Public Engagement](#)
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Jeri Fujimoto, Supervisor, City of San Carlos, Youth Development Unit Recognition

"The youth are our future. If we don't teach them the importance of engaging in civic affairs the system will slowly deteriorate. Caring about their communities, how their government is run and

what a difference they can make in their city are important assets for our youth. In a few short years young people will inherit their communities, become voters and pay taxes. They need to be in the planning stages to guide the future of their cities and understand the process with which to accomplish effective change."

We would like to dedicate this issue of the Youth Commission Staff E-News to Jeri Fujimoto, Supervisor of the City of San Carlos Youth Development Unit. Ms. Fujimoto has worked for the residents of San Carlos for thirty-two years and will be retiring this year.

During her tenure at the City of San Carlos Ms. Fujimoto helped create the City's Youth Development Unit, supported the development of the San Carlos Youth Center, and played the lead role in creating the San Carlos Youth Advisory Council. She has also served as the advisor to the Youth Advisory Council for twenty years, bringing the voices of young people into community affairs.

Ms. Fujimoto is also the founder of the San Carlos Children's Theater. She has sat on the Governance Council for the creation of the State of California's first Charter School, received three professional awards of merit from the California Parks and Recreation Society, and five program awards for youth programs in San Carlos. In addition, Ms. Fujimoto has been recognized for her committee work on the San Mateo County Health Task Force in eradicating childhood obesity. She is a member of the Rotary Club of San Carlos whose mission is to help children of the world through peace-seeking methods. We interviewed Ms. Fujimoto (see below) to find out what she's learned during her career and what recommendations she has for others that work in youth development.

- 1. Given your background in youth development and youth commission work, is there some experience that you look back on as particularly rewarding or successful?** Creating a vehicle for youth to express their needs and priorities in the community has been the most successful part of our Youth Advisory Council. Youth leadership training, business partnerships, and fundraising for youth-led projects have shown our city's leaders that giving youth a voice and utilizing them as resources instead of viewing them as a liability has brought about positive recognition for our youth in San Carlos.
- 2. What do you think young people can take away with them from their experiences as youth commissioners?** Learning effective leadership skills, organizational skills in planning events, and having personal calendars is beneficial. Giving youth a voice in their community, learning about government (local and state), negotiation and mediation skills, and gaining skills in how to inspire others, and becoming a great community role model are all valuable experiences for youth.
- 3. What do cities and counties gain by having youth engaged in community affairs?** Cities and counties gain additional resources from youth volunteerism. The future leaders who 'grow up' in the system and understand how it works can gain better insight in how to make effective changes and the knowledge that the right path to civic engagement is being pursued at the local level.
- 4. Based on your experience, what do local governments have to do to successfully add young people's voices to local decision making?** Consistent mentorship is key to the success of a Youth Council/Commission. Hire a paid staff person who is well versed in Youth Development practices and who is dedicated to the mission of the Council. In addition, someone who is well versed in the politics of the community and willing to sacrifice personal time for the well-being of youth is the most desirable.
- 5. If you were asked for 1 or 2 recommendations to pass on to other youth commission staff around the state, what would that be?** Be consistent with your time and your willingness to find the answer to all questions put forth by the youth. Understand the youth's potential, but always be aware that they are youth and still need guidance and training to be most effective.

Final Comments. Care about your youth council members as people, help them grow into kind, caring, knowledgeable adults who will make decisions based on research and facts and not on

emotions or peer pressure. Take the time to play and have fun, laugh, joke, and spend 'kid' time with your youth council members. Treat them like adults, but care for them like children.

More Youth Engagement in Climate Change Stories

The Fremont City Council appointed a "green" task force to provide recommendations on how the city could be more sustainable and address climate change. About 150 diverse residents, one third of them youth, attended a community event to prioritize the green task force recommendations and signed pledges to reduce their own carbon footprints.

The city recognized that sustainability and climate change is of interest to many young people. Although it can be challenging to attract high levels of youth participation in public engagement activities, a special effort was made to reach out and invite young people to participate. For example, city staff asked students in an active high school environmental club to do a presentation on how to set up a school recycling program. These young people invited their peers, and city staff arranged to provide required community service hours to students who attended.

As a result, unlike many traditional public meetings, about a third of the 150 participants were youth. Participants learned about options for "green" action and broke into groups to discuss specific topics such as reducing vehicle miles traveled or educational outreach efforts. They did a "sticky dot" exercise to prioritize lists of recommendations and signed pledges to reduce their carbon footprint. The city plans to continue to engage residents - including youth - as it develops a climate change action plan.

For more information on the City of Fremont's Green Efforts, click [here](#).

Alameda County Youth Leadership Meeting



The Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker's office and the Institute for Local Government hosted a meeting on Wednesday, April 14th to discuss strategies for developing and enhancing youth voice and engagement. Staff from city, county, and nonprofit agencies convened with the intention of sharing effective strategies and exploring cross sector collaborations to develop opportunities for youth leadership and engagement in Alameda County.

Those in attendance shared lunch and stories of youth taking an active role in their communities, including youth-led research and advocacy for a new youth center in Ashland, youth members of a shoreline citizen's advisory committee in San Leandro, and teens providing affordable tutoring at area schools to raise money for recreation program scholarships in Dublin.

One topic of discussion was the possibility of collaborating to create a youth leadership summit for Alameda County teens. While some teens from Alameda County travel to the popular "YAC Attack" in the peninsula region south of San Francisco, this event now takes place only every other year. Attendees were enthusiastic about creating a youth leadership event in Alameda County that would not conflict with the "YAC Attack." The content of this event would be determined by youth who are interested in attending and presenting their work, with an emphasis on educational sessions developed by youth. Nine people representing youth programs in four cities, two non-profit organizations, and two county agencies volunteered to continue meeting to explore next steps; including research on existing youth leadership events, a survey of area youth to gauge interest and possible session topics, how to include youth from unincorporated areas of the county, and how to fund and where to hold the summit.

To learn more or to get involved, contact Greg Keidan of the Institute for Local Government at gkeidan@ca-ilg.org.

ILG Facilitates Youth Engagement Session at "YAC Attack"

Institute for Local Government staff facilitated a dialogue on "Getting Engaged in Your Community" at the 2010 YAC Attack on March 6th in Santa Clara. This one-day conference for

youth who serve on local advisory boards, commissions, committees, or councils convened more than 430 teens and adult advisors for 32 educational sessions. Most sessions were led by youth on topics such as Youth in Government, Health and Wellness, Special Event Planning, and Gang Task Forces.

The biennial meeting is hosted by California Parks and Recreation Society District 4 in the Peninsula region south of San Francisco. The conference attracts teens and staff advisors from the peninsula as well as from other regions. Approximately 60 youth attended the session on community engagement, which offered examples of youth participation in local decision making and featured a discussion of the factors that support youth commission and council effectiveness.

Teens also brainstormed ideas for future Institute youth commission briefing paper topics, using a quick "dot-mocracy" exercise to prioritize from the list of possible ideas. The most popular topics were, "How to Encourage Broad Participation," "Understanding Budget Cuts," and "How to Raise Money for City Programs."

Conference co-organizer and Mountain View Youth Commission advisor Kristine Pardini says that the success of the event is due to the teamwork of experienced and newer youth advisors who meet monthly throughout the year to plan the event. She says plenty of youth feedback during the planning stages helps create an event that focuses on what teens in the area want to hear about.

Evaluation data from the conference suggests that most attendees found the sessions informative and learned something new. For more information about the "YAC Attack," contact Kristine Pardini, Kristine.Pardini@mountainview.gov.

California Youth Summit

About 175 young people representing the Junior State of America, the California YMCA Youth & Government program and the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project attended the first California Youth Summit in Los Angeles on April 16 - 18, 2010. The event was also sponsored by the Endowment for California Leadership. High school and college students from throughout the state met to address what they believe are the most pressing political and social issues for California, with the goal of turning their agenda into political action during the fall election campaign.

The event follows a recent California Youth Poll that found that students are increasingly alienated from and distrustful of state government. Among the 630 respondents, 81% said California is on the wrong track; 63% said they don't trust their elected leaders; and 66% said local and state representatives don't value their opinions.

For more information go to: www.californiayouthsummit.org

Featured Youth Commissions and Councils from Around the State

City of Dublin Youth Advisory Committee

The City of Dublin, Parks and Community Services Department's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is working to raise funds for the Dublin Youth Fee Assistance Program. To this end, the YAC members established a one-on-one tutoring assistance program for children in Dublin elementary schools. YAC Members gave fliers to two schools in Dublin to get referrals for elementary and middle school students to tutor for approximately one hour a week. YAC members requested a donation of \$5 per hour for tutoring services. All donations collected helped fund the City of Dublin's Youth Fee Assistance Program. There were approximately twenty middle school and high school students who committed to volunteer as tutors. The YAC members are excited to give back to their community. To date, eight youths have benefited from the Youth Fee Assistance Program. For more information, contact Angela Gamez at Angela.Gamez@ci.dublin.ca.us.

City of Riverside Youth Council(RYC)

RYC is currently a twenty-eight member council composed of diverse student representatives from the ten high schools in the City of Riverside. The youth council is organized into three major committees: 1) *Special Projects & Events* (to increase youth involvement throughout the community); 2) *Youth Civic Engagement* (to promote opportunities for young people to work with city leaders, to network with one another, and to create positive perceptions of youth in the community; and 3) *Public Relations Committee* (to improve the visibility of the council and its many services.)

Youth Civic Engagement Committee-

Highlights of activities include:

1. Promote service and volunteerism through the Season of Service campaign featuring Service Saturdays. Season of Service was launched on MLK Day in January at the MLK Walk-A-Thon & Rock-A-Thon. It will run through Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) in April at the Earth Day Festival. Throughout this semester-long campaign, young people have the opportunity to pledge 10 hours or more of service. A key feature of Season of Service will be Service Saturdays, a schedule of service opportunities, hosted by various student partners organizations, which will be available on Saturdays throughout Season of Service. Last year, 1768.5 hours of service were logged. This year over 3000 hours of service are expected to be logged.
2. Engage in participatory governance through Youth Liaisons to City Boards & Commissions. Placed youth to represent the Riverside Youth Council on 5 City Boards & Commissions. This allows youth the opportunity to develop leadership skills while being recognized as essential community resources. RYC members and staff are promoting ways in which young people can utilize their skills and leadership to collaborate with city leaders and student organizations throughout the community.

Special Projects & Events Committee-

Highlights of activities include:

1. Organize the successful launch and culminating events for the Season of Service, as a Global Youth Service Day and Youth Service America lead agency.
2. Organized the Riverside's 25 Most Remarkable Teens event and reception recognizing the positive contributions and outstanding accomplishments of young people in the City.

Public Relations Committee-

Highlights of activities include:

1. Created the RYC "Friends Network" and stay connected through monthly newsletters. Network mailing list includes over 800 student contacts. Newsletters provide college preparation information, information about major city/school district events, service opportunities, and much more.
2. Continue to oversee the "Inspiring Youth of the Month" presentations to the Riverside City Council. This monthly recognition of student organizations has helped elevate the perception of young people as valuable assets in the community.

To learn more about RYC, contact Lizette Navarette, Youth & Education Coordinator, at lnavarette@riversideca.gov or 951.826.2436.

SALUD Youth Councils Cultivating Health in Rural Fresno County

Rural Fresno County SALUD youth councils in Kerman and Selma are cultivating community health. Using the Farm Stand model created by the Fresno Metro Ministry, Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program, and the Fresno Unified School district, the SALUD members are



couple hours after school at a school site. "Even though it's not a full-fledge Farmers Market we are hoping to just start with baby steps to get the community used to the idea of buying at a Farm Stand and change the status quo. Eventually we hope more local farmers will be interested in joining, so that it can grow into a full-fledged Farmers Market," said Lupita DeLoa, West SALUD youth council member.

On February 5, 2010 three youth from the West SALUD Youth Council in Kerman had the opportunity to visit a local farm that will provide a variety of vegetables for the farm stand. The youth sampled vegetables and inquired how the vegetables are grown and harvested. During the last few months the youth council members from both communities have been meeting with parents, school administrators, and other interested partners in hopes of starting a farm stand at a local elementary school by the end of spring.

Kids Really Do Come First in Pleasanton (City Invests in Youth Master Plan Update)

'Kids Come First' is more than the slogan for the Pleasanton Unified School District and the City of Pleasanton. In 1998, the City began a process to determine the wants and needs of residents ages 0-22 that culminated in a Youth Master Plan adopted in 2001. From that process emerged plans for a BMX bike park that has since opened, and a youth-based website (www.ptown411.com) that serves as an information conduit for local youth.

By 2009, another generation of Pleasanton youth had different needs, prompting an update to the original youth master plan. Youth involvement in the process was considered paramount to its success. A 26 member Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (YMPIC) was formed, which included nine middle and high school students.



Angelina Sangiacomo (left), a young YMPIC member, facilitates a community focus group with Pleasanton teens.

Thirty community focus groups were conducted, and each was attended by a member of the YMPIC. Youth members of this committee approved the focus group interview questions, the staff and consultants hired to manage the focus groups, and the community organizations to be included in the outreach effort.

YMPIC members participated in several facilitated discussions to outline their interests and critical components associated with a Master Plan update. Each YMPIC member received facilitation training from city staff to ensure they were prepared to lead the community engagement process. Using their new skills, youth and adult YMPIC members engaged more than 150 community members in facilitated discussions about the needs of youth and families in Pleasanton. Committee members also designed a community-wide survey that elicited over 350 responses.

Youth members took the lead in implementing youth-oriented social media (Facebook and texting) communication to conduct peer outreach and ensure youth participation. The YMPIC

youth members led the youth initiative and of the 500 total community participants, 200 were young people (125 survey respondents; 75 focus group participants).

"I really enjoyed participating in this project," said Daniel Zakaria, one of the YMPIC youth members. "It provided me with the opportunity to interface with people I normally wouldn't meet, and see a whole new world of ideas and perspectives that I hadn't considered before."

The information gathering effort concluded with a YMPIC-hosted community workshop, at which 75 community members of all ages commented on the draft Youth Master Plan. The workshop provided an overview of the plan process and content, and participants worked in small groups to better understand the strategies and to consider revisions.

Youth feedback was positive and plentiful, with many reporting a new sense of empowerment about their access to government, and an affirmation that their voices are heard in the political process. YMPIC youth members also gained new insights about the youth master plan process, about others' perspectives, values and concerns, and about the challenges facing their community.

Overall, the information that emerged from the focus groups suggested that most residents consider Pleasanton a safe, supportive and friendly community with a great location and climate, a quality educational system, and many civic-minded residents. Challenges included over-programmed youth, a lack of available places and spaces for youth to meet, and the need for better conduits to information about local youth activities and resources.

In retrospect, the YMPIC exercise revealed that preparing youth to participate with adults as leaders of the master planning process was valuable. The completed Youth Master Plan Update is expected to be reviewed by the Pleasanton City Council and the Pleasanton Unified School District Board during the summer of 2010.

Redwood City Community Youth Development Initiative

In Redwood City and the North Fair Oaks unincorporated area of San Mateo County, representatives of over twenty local agencies including city government, schools, and community and health organizations serving youth are collaborating to create a Community Youth Development Initiative Strategic Plan. This plan outlines how each organization will work to achieve six long-term outcomes related to youth development:

1. The Redwood City community will work with youth as partners in improving the health and well-being of all people.
2. Youth will have the knowledge, resources, and self-confidence to pursue their passions and reach their goals.
3. Adults and youth will develop trusting relationships and work together to improve their community.
4. Parents and caregivers will have the knowledge, resources and self-confidence to participate in the community and improve their quality of life.
5. Community youth serving organizations will continually improve their efforts to provide quality experiences for youth.
6. Mutually beneficial collaborations among organizations and institutions will benefit all members of the community - from youth to seniors.

The Community Youth Development Initiative is led by the John Gardner Center at Stanford University and Redwood City 2020.

To learn more, visit www.rwc2020.org/community-youth-development.

NLC and YEF Institute News

National League of Cities Congressional City Conference March 2010

More than 75 youth delegates from nearly 20 cities around the country attended the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, which took place March 13-17 in



Washington, D.C. Youth delegates discussed federal education policy with a panel of Washington, D.C.-based experts, participated in a series of roundtable discussions with local elected leaders about youth-adult partnerships, and learned lobbying skills through an interactive workshop with the United States Student Association. In addition to participating in the conference workshops and general sessions, youth delegates had the opportunity to network with their peers and discuss issues of concern to youth through a special set of "youth-only" sessions sponsored by NLC's Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (IYEF).

NLC regularly invites youth between the ages of 15-18 to participate as full delegates at their annual national conferences. Youth delegates and their chaperones receive a discounted registration rate of \$100. The next opportunity will be at NLC's Congress of Cities, which will take place Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 2010 in Denver. For more information, contact Claire Libert at (202) 626-3014 or fellow@nlc.org or Katie Meade at (202) 626-3074 or meade@nlc.org.

Let's Get Uncomfortable by Peter Benson

It's easy to get comfortable in youth work. We know our programs and our kids. We know the other players, the politics, the trends and the landmines. We may not get paid much, and we may work in challenging circumstances. But all in all, it's pretty comfortable.

Sometimes being comfortable gets in the way of doing important work. Indeed, my experience is that the best youth work happens when we're outside our comfort zones.

One of the zones where we're often most uncomfortable involves religion. Youth work has an implicit "don't ask, don't tell" policy about religion. It's a private thing, and we don't want to get into kids' business.

That's too bad. It hurts young people when we don't offer a welcoming and engaging space to open up about all aspects of themselves. And we miss a powerful opportunity to build a respectful culture as part of the "curriculum" of youth development.

Not long ago, Search Institute and Interfaith Youth Core completed an interfaith service-learning project that taught us a lot about the promise and pitfalls of religious pluralism in youth work. Called "Inspired to Serve: Youth-Led Interfaith Action" (www.inspiredtoserve.org), it was supported by a Learn and Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and other youth (including those of no religion) came together in Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia and St. Paul, Minn., to listen, lead, serve and learn around issues of the common good.

It wasn't always comfortable. People who had negative stereotypes about other religious groups had to learn to work together. In order to maintain a welcoming environment for all, we took pains not to allow proselytizing or promoting religion. But in the discomfort, we learned Ten Commandments for Interfaith Youth Work (knowing that they are not as inspired as the original Big Ten):

1. Thou shalt not assume that youth don't care about religion. Many do, though they may keep those commitments and questions hidden.
2. Thou shalt include a broad spectrum of the faith community. The breadth enriches the experience and increases the odds that the conversations will be respectful and inclusive.
3. Thou shalt not perpetuate stereotypes, fear or mistrust. The challenge is to move beyond tolerance toward building positive, mutually reinforcing relationships, even when young people disagree with each other on doctrine.
4. Thou shalt not assume "exposure" equals "growth." Youth are already exposed to other faiths at school, in the media, among friends. That exposure may not be thoughtful, intentional or even responsible. Structured reflection and dialogue are key.
5. Thou shalt focus on deepening relationships. Young people will tell you that the most

- meaningful aspects of their interfaith experiences are the deep relationships that form.
6. Thou shalt invite youth to tell their stories about how they live and what inspires them to make the choices and commitments they make. Through story-telling sessions, youths articulate their experiences and, just as important, listen to stories from religiously diverse youth.
 7. Thou shalt pay attention to religious holy days, dietary restrictions and other boundaries. Some young people cannot participate in prayer, meditations, religious music or other rituals with people from other traditions. Taking care to understand and address these practical issues shows respect and allows young people to participate fully.
 8. Thou shalt listen to each other. If you're wondering if something would be appropriate or inappropriate, ask people from the different traditions represented. Respect their responses.
 9. Thou shalt not expect youth to homogenize their beliefs, but to become more articulate about the particularities of their own faith while also learning about others. This is an important message for parents and religious youth workers who may fear that interfaith engagement might "water down" their kids' faith.
 10. Thou shalt give time and space for trust and openness to grow. People aren't used to working interfaith. It can be awkward at first.

According to the FBI, one in five hate crimes in the United States is motivated by religious bias, making this category of crimes second only to racially motivated bias crimes. Interfaith youth work offers not only a unique way to engage young people meaningfully, but creates a powerful counterforce to the potentially harmful tensions stimulated by growing religious diversity. It's not always comfortable, but it's vital for the future of our pluralistic, multicultural society.

Getting more comfortable with interfaith work may be one of the most important areas of youth work that needs attention in the 21st century.

Peter Benson is CEO of Search Institute, based in Minneapolis. www.search-institute.org.

Institute for Local Government Launches Insuring Kids Online Resource Center

The Institute for Local Government is pleased to announce an exciting new resource to help local officials connect families with affordable health insurance for their children: the Insuring Kids Online Resource Center (www.ca-ilg.org/InsureKids).

The Online Resource Center is designed for local agencies that want to connect families with affordable health insurance for their children. It offers:

- Easy-to-follow, step-by-step information on how to get started;
- Best practices and tips for success;
- Templates and resources; and
- Much, much more.

The Insuring Kids Online Resource Center is based upon best practices and lessons learned by California cities and counties that participated in a three-year program called "Communities for Healthy Kids." These participants helped identify the best ways for local officials to connect with parents whose children are eligible for no- or low-cost health insurance. Funding for the Insuring Kids Online Resource Center was provided by a generous grant from the Anthem Blue Cross Foundation. For more information, contact Wendy Chang wchang@ca-ilg.org

Upcoming Youth-Related Trainings and Events

Youth Development Network

- *The Power of Networks: Mobilizing our Community of Assets to Support Youth Success - May 27, 2010*

This meeting will include:

- meeting and connecting with leaders representing a broad spectrum in the youth development field;
- see and become part of a new web-based tool to help providers in the field better

- connect to one another, as well as resources for youth;
- o Find out what it takes to build a strong network and express your ideas on how we can strengthen our regional networks to support youth success; and
- o Receive a list of networks in the region.

Time: 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: TBD

The event is FREE. Click [here](#)to register.

- *Service Learning 101: Creating Strategies to Engaging Youth in the Community* - June 22, 2010

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn:

- o Elements of successful service learning projects
- o How to identify, coordinate and assess service learning projects, including developing successful community partnerships
- o Techniques to engage youth and develop youth voice and leadership

Time: 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Sacramento County Office of Education
10474 Mather Blvd.
Sacramento, CA

Cost is \$50 -- includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials and a copy of "The Complete Guide to Service Learning" by Cathy Berger Kaye. Click [here](#)to register.

New Guides, Reports, and Articles on Youth Public Engagement

Click [read more](#) to learn about new guides, reports, and articles on *portrait of Millennials, youth and media, out-of-school time programs*, and more.

Youth Engagement Resources at the Institute for Local Government



The Institute for Local Government has recently launched a newly revamped Web site (www.ca-ilg.org) that will make it easier to access information and resources, and will allow for greater interactive capabilities. Now users will be able to exchange information and to provide feedback to the Institute.

In the Youth Commission and Engagement section of our Web site:

- **California Youth Commission & Engagement Resources**
 - o Roster of California Youth Commissions and Youth Councils
 - o Youth Commission Briefing Papers that provide background information and ideas for youth commission or council activities and action
 - o List of CGI and other publications on youth commissions and youth engagement
 - o A sampling of youth commission and council charters (in development)
 - o Youth Master Plans from communities throughout California (in development)
- **Access to archived issues of the Youth Commission Staff E-News** online tri-annual newsletter
- **Youth Commission and Council Stories** offer a growing number of brief stories about youth commissions and councils in California. To view all the collected stories to date,

see the [Youth Commissions & Engagement Stories](#) section of our Web site. There you will also find our [Youth In Public Engagement Story Form](#) to add new stories.

- **Youth Engagement-Related News and Upcoming Events**



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 or topics you want to see covered, please let us know. **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, please 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
Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance Program
Institute for Local Government
tamsler@ca-ilg.org

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