



*“Young people with the power and voice
to shape the future of Hampton”*

Annual Report of the Hampton Youth Commission

Fiscal Year 2004

Hampton Youth Commission

Every year the Hampton Youth Commission assembles a well-trained, diverse and dynamic group of 24 youth to represent the voice of young people in Hampton. Their vision is . . .

"Young people with the power and voice to shape the future of Hampton"

Through work sessions, monthly public meetings, committee work and extensive contact with their peers this team of high school-aged youth tackles issues important to young people. The primary areas of focus are captured in the young people's own component to the city's new Community Plan.

One of the ways that Commissioners promote the goals of the HYC is to operate their own grant program, appropriating funds to Initiative Grants (up to \$2500) and Service Grants (up to \$500).

Commissioners also serve as liaisons to adult boards and commissions to ensure a youth voice in city-wide decision-making. This included a Youth Focus Group for the Community Plan and youth input into the new School Investment Panel.

The 2003 - 2004 year was very success for the work of the Commission. Eight public meetings were held with the youth "public". Commissioners heard and supported a report of the Wetlands Board and hosted a presentation by the new Uth ACT board to promote youth engagement and philanthropy. The HYC also held its first Candidates Forum prior to the May elections. Other public forums included creating a new website, new ideas for the Teen Center, feedback for the School Investment Panel and speakouts on the Hampton Community Plan.

Commissioners had the opportunity to represent Hampton by presenting at the National League of Cities Congress of Cities, the national conference of Healthy Communities Healthy Youth, and the Innovations in Government award competition.

Community Plan Topics

Caring Relationships -

Creating/ensuring positive youth and adult relationships

Places To Go, Things To Do -

Increasing the number of youth-friendly spaces and activities

Essential Life Skills -

Ensuring access to opportunities that provide skills to succeed in life

Youth Share Leadership

Increasing youth engagement and civic activities

Youth Prepared For Careers

Ensuring every young person has a career goal and opportunities to get there

Getting Around -

Diversifying and increasing transportation options for youth

2002 - 2003 Youth Commission

Commissioners:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Keshia Ashe | Senior, KHS | HYC Chair |
| Meredith Blackwell | Senior, PC | Co-chair, Teen Center |
| Omar Blue | Senior, PHS | Community Plan |
| Dominique Broadnax | Junior, BHS | Community Plan |
| Amber Brooks | Junior, HHS | Teen Center |
| Kristen Brown | Senior, BHS | Co-chair, Teen Center |
| Alex Corchado | Senior, PHS | Community Plan |
| Kyle Gullar | Senior, KHS | Community Plan |
| Anne Harris | Sophomore, HRA | Teen Center |
| Portia Henry | Sophomore, PHS | Appropriations |
| Monique Hollowell | Senior, BHS | Chair, Community Plan |
| Ashley Huggar | Senior, PHS | Co-chair, Appropriations |
| Jessika James | Senior, BHS | Appropriations |
| Jasmine Martin | Freshman, HHS | Community Plan |
| Tomeka Mitchell | Junior, BHS | Teen Center |
| Kelly Perry | Senior, HHS | Community Plan |
| Alex Pope | Sophomore, PHS | Community Plan |
| Tyeisha Radcliffe | Senior, BHS | Community Plan |
| Keith Rogers | Senior, BHS | Teen Center |
| Emily Shuart | Senior, KHS | Co-chair, Appropriations |
| Eric Torrence | Senior, PHS | Appropriations |

Youth Staff:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Alicia Tundidor | Senior, BHS | Youth Planner |
| Jacob Berg | Junior, BHS | Youth Planner |
| Kim Hancock | Sophomore, PHS | Secretary |

Adult Staff Support:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Ebony Copeland | Youth Coordinator, Coalition for Youth |
| Cindy Carlson | Director, Coalition for Youth |
| Terry O'Neill | Director, Planning Department |
| Allyson Graul | Director of Youth Engagement, Alternatives, Inc. |
| Bob Trahan | Community Facilitator |

Additional support provided by Planning Department, Parks & Recreation

HYC Highlights 2002 - 2003

- Recruited, trained and placed 24 commissioners. Held a successful Boot Camp and Retreat to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming year.
- Conducted 8 public meetings and 9 work sessions. September public meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Isabel.
- Conducted one round of funding for Initiative Grants and awarded \$28,437 to 15 organizations. Conducted one round of Service Grants and awarded \$4,029 to 7 organizations. Over 1100 people participated in grant-funded projects.
- Participated in National Youth Service Day through promotion of service activities across the community and receiving a proclamation from City Council.
- Completed site checks with a number of business and organizations to pilot test a new guidebook to be used by youth to interact with businesses and organizations to help them become more youth-friendly.
- Created a new website called **RU In The Game?** that will be launched at the beginning of the school year. This site replaces YouthLink which had lost funding. The new site is made up primarily of links so it will involve less maintenance.
- Sent a delegation to National League of Cities Congress of Cities in Salt Lake City. Selected to display in the Showcase of Cities on youth civic engagement. Commissioners spoke at the national conference of Healthy Communities Healthy Youth and Keshia Ashe, along with Mayor Locke, did the keynote presentation. Keshia Ashe represented the city at the Innovations in American Government Awards competition. Ashley Huggar was selected as the National Service Learning Partnership summer intern in Washington, DC.
- Helped to place liaisons on Parks and Rec Advisory Board, Citizens' Unity Commission, Neighborhood Commission and Superintendent's Advisory Group.
- Developed a new partnership with Uth ACT, the new Youth Innovation Fund from the Kellogg grant. Helped sponsor a successful youth rally for over 100 youth in conjunction with City Hall Open House and supported their grant-making process.
- Held a successful Candidates Forum prior to the May elections. Many candidates said it was the best they had ever attended and a number of neighborhood and community groups used the same model. Over 100 youth attended and those over 18 registered to vote on site.
- Conducted two presentations to groups of community members to gain support for the Teen Center and began to solicit commitments from adult supporters.
- Presented to City Council and secured inclusion of design funds for the Teen Center in the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Sponsored a public meeting for youth input into the work of the School Investment Panel. Sent representatives from the meeting to present at public hearings. Recruited and trained a youth advisory group to meet with the adult group.
- Created recommendations for the Wetlands Board to get more youth interested in environmental issues.
- Continued to support the Youth Focus Group and integration of youth issues into all areas of the Community Plan. Conducted a field trip to Richmond and a youth speakout to gather further input for the plan.