



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

Annual Report of the Hampton Youth Commission

Fiscal Year 2005

Hampton Youth Commission

Every year the Hampton Youth Commission assembles a well-trained, diverse and dynamic group of 25 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, 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 Community Plan.

In another strategy to promote the goals of the HYC, Commissioners operate their own grant program, appropriating funds to Initiative Grants (up to \$2500).

Commissioners also serve as liaisons to adult boards and commissions to ensure a youth voice in city-wide decision-making.

The 2004 - 2005 year was very successful for the work of the Commission. Four public meetings were held with an average attendance of 50 youth as guests. Young people voiced their opinions about school improvements, gained skills and knowledge about career and future planning and brainstormed ideas for the new Teen Center in Hampton.

Community Plan Topics

Caring Relationships -

Positive interactions and relationships in the community that have an impact on youth.

Youth Space -

Places to go and things to do that are accessible and youth-friendly.

Employment -

Work opportunities for teens and being prepared for the workforce of the future.

Transportation -

Getting around in a youth-friendly, accessible transportation system.

Leadership -

Youth share in leadership opportunities with adults.

Life Skills -

All young people will acquire the necessary skills to be successful in everyday life.

Commissioners had the opportunity to represent Hampton by presenting at National League of Cities Congress of Cities and the Search Institute National Conference.

2004 - 2005 Youth

Lindsay Anderson	Junior, KHS	Teen Center
Dominique Broadnax	Senior, BHS	Community Plan, Attended NLC
Amber Brooks	Senior, HHS	Teen Center Chair
Ryan Cerone	Junior, KHS	Teen Center
Michael Chapman	Senior, HHS	Appropriations
Crystal Couser	Sophomore, BHS	Teen Center
Anne Harris	Junior, HRA	Teen Center
Gregory Harrison	Sophomore, HHS	Community Plan
Portia Henry	Junior, PHS	Appropriations Chair, Attended NLC
Clarence Lacy Jr.	Junior, BHS	Appropriations
Megann Lawrence	Senior, BHS	Teen Center
Jasmine Martin	Sophomore, HHS	Community Plan
Victor Mason	Junior, PHS	Community Plan Chair
Naomi Meno	Senior, PHS	Appropriations
Matthew Milby	Junior, HHS	Community Plan
Tomeka Mitchell	Senior, BHS	Chair, Teen Center, Attended NLC
Stevon Moss	Senior, PHS	Teen Center
Alex Pope	Junior, PHS	Community Plan
Morgan Saunders	Sophomore, KHS	Teen Center
Garnell Scott	Senior, BHS	Community Plan
Joy Stanley	Junior, PHS	Appropriations
Tiphonie Sutton	Junior, KHS	Teen Center
Eric Torrence	Senior, PHS	Appropriations
Levar Whitaker	Junior, PHS	Teen Center
Monica Wood	Senior, HRA	Community Plan

Staff:

Jacob Berg	Senior, HHS	Youth Planner
Sarah Rodriguez	Junior, HHS	Youth Planner
Carl Shek	Senior, KHS	Secretary

HYC Highlights 2004 - 2005

- Recruited, trained and placed 25 commissioners. Held a successful Boot Camp and Retreat to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming year.
- Conducted 4 public meetings and 14 work sessions. Averaged 50+ youth from the public in attendance at public meetings.
- Conducted one round of funding for Initiative Grants and awarded \$28,345.10 to 15 organizations.
- Participated in National Youth Service Day through promotion of service activities across the community and receiving a proclamation from City Council.
- Hired and trained young people to work as evaluators to visit businesses and organizations and evaluate them as being **youth-friendly** according to criteria developed by the HYC and incorporated in the Youth Commission's guidebook.
- Evaluated 170 businesses as of May 2005.
- Created a database of youth-friendly businesses and organizations in the city.
- Sent a delegation to National League of Cities Congress of Cities in Indianapolis. Selected to display in the Showcase of Cities Youth in Action/ Youth in Government.
- Partnered with Uth ACT and Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board to plan and host a Youth Leadership Conference with 50 youth participants.
- Cosponsored the Second Annual Youth Rally with over 300 attendees.
- Launched a youth website (www.areyouinthegame.com) with resources, activities and information for all young people to access.
- Participated in Kids Vote, a national nonpartisan campaign to educate young people about the voting process by training volunteers for the voting polls.
- Made a public presentation to the City Council encouraging the purchase of the Sentara Fitness Center for the purpose of a teen center.
- Recruited and trained over 50 youth volunteers to serve on teen center work groups with adult volunteers.
- Hosted a kick off event for over 100 teen center volunteers.
- Approved the concept for the Hampton Roads Children's Museum.
- Created a youth engagement display in partnership with NYAB and Uth ACT for the "Get Your Move On" event at the convention center.
- Volunteered at the Gala opening event of the new Hampton Roads Convention Center.
- Sponsored a website promotion with Avril Levigne.
- Presented a workshop on Youth Civic Engagement.
- Presented to National Conference of Search Institute.
- Hosted a visit for the evaluator from the Innovations in Government Award panel.
- Hampton received the Innovations in American Government Award for their youth civic engagement program.

Committees

The Youth Commission was divided into three smaller committees: Teen Center, Community Plan, and Appropriations. By dividing the group into smaller committees, the committee members have a grasp of the work of the commission as a whole, but also get the opportunity to work more in depth with a specific topic that the Commission is promoting.

Teen Center Committee

The Teen Center Committee began the year by preparing for a fundraiser to raise money that could be used for a teen center. The committee had planned to start a dodgeball tournament that would promote youth activities while simultaneously getting the word out about the teen center and raise money for the future. Half way through the year, they shifted gears a bit after City Council announced their intent to buy the Sentara Fitness facility for the use of a teen center. This was a very exciting and proud moment for the commissioners that had been involved with the prospect of a teen center and now the committee focus has been on developing subcommittees of youth and adults to help plan for the opening of the center. There are currently five subcommittees (programming, ambience, fund development, community partnerships and facilities) and over 100 volunteers working to ensure that the teen center will be a welcome, safe and fun place for the young people of Hampton.

Community Plan

The Community Plan Committee worked this year toward the goal of youth space from the youth component of the Community Plan for the city. The problem defined by young people is that there is nowhere to go and nothing to do in the city. The Community Plan committee members found that there are places to go, but the young people don't know about them. Committee members created a youth-friendly guidebook, evaluation and process to determine the businesses and organizations in Hampton that are "youth-friendly". Sixteen young people were hired and supervised by youth commissioners to go into the community and determine the businesses and organizations that live up to their youth-friendly standards. An award ceremony will be held to congratulate the passing businesses and organizations and the winners will receive a sticker to post for the public and be recognized on the youth website as being "youth-friendly".

Appropriations

The Appropriations Committee was tasked with allocating city funds to be used for youth and adult partnership programs to benefit the community. This year, the committee members chose to focus on five developmental assets that they felt needed to be better represented in Hampton. The five assets they chose to work with were Safety, Caring Neighborhoods, Creative Activities, Positive View of Personal Future, and Equality and Social Justice. All of the programs that the committee chose to fund had to focus on at least one of these assets and represent a youth and adult partnership as a means to improve the community. Fifteen programs were funded and with the data that has been collected thus far, over 1,500 young people (elementary, middle and high school aged) participated in a grant funded project. (See attached for a description of the funded projects.)

