

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
THE D.C. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



## Open Government Report 2014

Mayor's Order 2014-170 seeks to institutionalize a culture of transparent and open government, accountability, and to expand opportunities for resident participation and collaboration. This Report describes how the D.C. Youth Advisory Council (DCYAC) has developed and enhanced transparency, public participation, and collaboration and will continue to do so.

The DCYAC is one of twelve affinity offices housed under the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. The DCYAC was established to provide an organized youth perspective regarding various issues to the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, District of Columbia schools, key decision makers in the District of Columbia Government, officials, and community leaders. The DCYAC's relationship with the public involves engaging D.C. youth, as well as the larger community on behalf of D.C. children and youth.

### Transparency

#### Online

The DCYAC's official website ([www.dcyac.dc.gov](http://www.dcyac.dc.gov)) provides information regarding the following:

- the DCYAC's [history, purpose, mission, and functions](#);
- [eligibility requirements and selection criteria](#) for membership on the DCYAC;
- [frequently asked questions](#) regarding the DCYAC;
- an online DCYAC membership [application](#);
- postings of DCYAC events;
- a general DCYAC email address ([dcyac@dc.gov](mailto:dcyac@dc.gov)) that links directly to the DCYAC Director and staff for public comments or queries; and
- a direct link to the DCYAC's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officer.

The DCYAC has a Facebook page and is on Twitter #influenceyouth, where DCYAC activities and events are periodically reported.

#### Public Information

The DCYAC routinely responds to queries from the general public. This is done via the DCYAC's general email ([dcyac@dc.gov](mailto:dcyac@dc.gov)), as well as the DCYAC's general telephone number (202-727-7966). Among typical requests from the public are information regarding:

- internship and employment opportunities;
- DCYAC membership and program requirements;
- specific youth-related organizations and city services appropriate for youth with a wide range of needs;

- individuals and organizations interested in providing their speakers and services to D.C. youth; and
- individuals and organizations interested in collaborating with the DCYAC.

The DCYAC Office freely responds to any queries that fall within the vast body of youth affairs information that is not confidential but in the public domain.

### **Availability of Data**

The Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) are identifying a significant number of District Government agency datasets to publish online later this year. If they do not select a dataset from the DCYAC to be a part of the 2014 release, we will continue to work with them to identify datasets appropriate to publish in 2015. In the future, the Chief Data Officer will provide requirements for open data reporting.

### **Public Engagement and Participation**

District of Columbia youth, ages 13-22, have ongoing opportunities to join the DCYAC. The DCYAC and its members conduct continuous outreach in order to recruit and cultivate youth participation. Some key strategies include:

- ongoing presence in local D.C. schools; and
- ongoing partnerships with local agencies and organizations that provide information regarding DCYAC to its broad youth constituencies via social media;

### **Opportunities**

In FY2015, the DCYAC looks forward to:

- increasing the recruitment of youth participants via stronger overall outreach, especially via social media;
- continuing partnerships with agencies and organizations that have access to youth who are ideal candidates for membership on the DCYAC; and
- building our Facebook and Twitter followings.

### **Collaboration**

The DCYAC has two significant collaborations in keeping the public information.

- We are a host agency with the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. As a host agency, we interview and select about 40 youth, ages 14-22, to participate in our Summer Enrichment Program. This Program provides enrichment opportunities to youth participants in the areas of Life Skills, Etiquette, Effective Communication Skills, Career and College Readiness, and Personal Development. Youth participants in our Summer Program typically seek membership on the DCYAC.

- The Charles Sumner School, Museum and Archives has been the host site for the majority of the DCYAC's activities, meetings, and events. The DCYAC has been in partnership with the Sumner School for almost four years. Through this partnership, the DCYAC has access to countless D.C. youth, parents, educators, and organizations through which additional partnerships have been formed. In addition to the DCYAC's programming, these partnerships have resulted in several enrichment activities and events for hundreds of youth in various D.C. schools.