City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:	General Purposes Committee	**Date:**	October 8, 2019
From:	Kim Somerville Director, Community Social Development	**File:**	07-3000-01/2019-Vol 01
Re:	**Youth City Council**		

Staff Recommendation

That the Youth Civic Engagement Program (Option 1) as described in the staff report titled "Youth City Council," dated October 8, 2019, from the Director, Community Social Development be approved.

Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development
(604-247-4671)

Att. 2

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Staff Report

Origin

On June 10, 2019, a group of Richmond students delegated to City Council requesting that a Youth City Council be instituted (Attachment 1) resulting in the following referral to staff:

That staff analyse the proposed implementation of a Richmond Youth Council and provide recommendations.

This report responds to the referral by providing detailed program and funding options for youth civic engagement opportunities.

This report also supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018–2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

8.1 Increased opportunities for public engagement

This report also supports the following actions defined in the Youth Service Plan 2015–2020 Theme 2: Youth Engagement, Leadership and Empowerment:

- *2.2 Increase the number of (and access to) meaningful youth volunteer opportunities in civic and community based programs and activities.*

- *2.3 Provide leadership skills development programs that are specifically designed for youth.*

Analysis

Background

The City, its partners and community organizations, have a long history of providing opportunities for youth civic engagement in Richmond. In 1991, the City of Richmond Parks and Leisure Services Department initiated a Youth Council for youth ages 12–18 years that focussed specifically on events (e.g. Halloween fireworks). After one year, the youth participating shifted their focus from events to issues and proposed to expand the Youth Council's scope. In 1992, City Council endorsed the development of a Richmond Youth Advisory Council to provide opinions and recommendations from a youth perspective to City Council. The Richmond Youth Advisory Council existed from 1992–2003.

Youth Services Delivery Model

Recently, the City embarked on an internal review of the City's Youth Services Section that identified the need to focus on a more inclusive program and service delivery model for all youth. The revised Youth Services program and service delivery framework is consistent with the City's 2015–2020 Youth Service Plan and focusses on four key areas: Engagement; Partnerships; Programs and Events; and Training and Education. Creating and implementing refreshed programs and services that focus on opportunities to develop youth's capacity and

CNCL - 147

connection to their peers and community along with enhancing volunteering opportunities, employment and civic engagement opportunities is the priority. Staff are currently launching the new Youth Services programs and initiatives to the community.

Existing Youth Civic Engagement Opportunities in Richmond

Currently, there are a number of opportunities for youth in the community; however, a Richmond Youth City Council does not exist. The other leadership opportunities for youth in the community are provided by the City, community partners and youth serving organizations. These formalized engagement opportunities are as follows:

1. Youth on City Council Appointed Advisory Committees – This initiative provides opportunities for youth (18–24 years) to serve on Council appointed Advisory Committees. Youth who are appointed to committees are given an orientation and paired with a staff liaison that provides coaching and mentoring. This youth engagement initiative provides youth with exposure to civic life and the ability to develop leadership and employment skills.

2. Green Ambassadors Program – This program, coordinated by the City in partnership with the Richmond School District, provides opportunities for high school students to participate in monthly symposiums to learn about environmental sustainability. These youth apply what they learned as volunteers at City events and activities and also manage green initiatives at their schools, including the annual Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit.

3. Community Association/Society Youth Groups – These leadership skill development opportunities for youth include Community Centre Youth Councils and specialized youth groups such as the Green Initiatives Environmental Education group; Beta U Business and Entrepreneurship group; Holla Bak Youth Leadership Program and C-Change Social Development and Social Change groups.

4. Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), Youth Now Program – This program provides candidates (26 years and under) the opportunity to serve on a non-profit board (e.g. West Richmond Community Association) for one year while receiving guidance from a board mentor. Concurrently, youth take part in an education series on topics ranging from strategic planning to board governance.

5. Richmond Student District Council Organization (RSDCO) – This youth-led group strives to unify and represent all students in the Richmond School District by cultivating leadership and passion in schools through hosting events and initiatives. RSDCO builds leaders, showcases youth talent and amplifies the youth voice.

6. The Association for Building Leadership Excellence in the Richmond School District (TABLE38) – This initiative has been in existence for 25+ years. A network of student leaders meets monthly to learn concepts and skills about leadership, how to organize events and how to enhance school spirit.

6236478

7. Richmond Model United Nations (RICHMUN) – This non-profit organization focusses on providing engaging and meaningful experiences for youth delegates by participating in a condensed Model United Nations experience that focuses on enlightening discussions and heated debates.

These opportunities in the community offer a wide-range of meaningful experiences for youth to gain leadership skills, be connected and to provide a conduit to voice their views.

Review of Other Municipalities

In addition to the Richmond examples, City staff reviewed nine municipalities in the Lower Mainland. Of those, five offer a Council appointed Youth Advisory Committee (Vancouver, New Westminster, Langley, West Vancouver and Port Moody). These staff-led Committees typically meet on a monthly basis, have a term length and act as a resource to City Council and staff on issues affecting youth. The Committees have a formal application process with appointments selected by City Council along with a Council Liaison and City staff person as a resource. A Youth Advisory Committee provides a meaningful volunteer opportunity for youth to provide their perspective on municipal matters; however, the Committee requires significant resources to coordinate and recruitment and retention can be a challenge due to the lengthy commitment and youth aging out.

The other four municipalities reviewed offer an event focussed City Wide Youth Committee (Burnaby, Coquitlam, Surrey and Port Coquitlam). These youth-led City Wide Youth Committees provide planning and input for events and initiatives that impact youth. Members of City Wide Youth Committees do not require a formal application process and the committee typically meets more frequently (ranging from weekly to biweekly). A city wide Youth Committee requires a part-time staff person to coordinate, a budget for incidentals, and it can be difficult to recruit and retain youth due to the higher frequency of meetings.

The City of Vancouver and City of New Westminster also offer registered youth civic engagement programs. The City of Vancouver Women4Politics is a 10-week program aimed at encouraging women 18–23 years to become more involved in local politics. Participants are mentored by a City Councillor, take part in a mock Council meeting and learn about the role and function of local government. The City of New Westminster recently launched the New West City 101 civic engagement program for youth where participants learn about the City of New Westminster and have the opportunity to co-design projects and present back to Council. A registered Youth Civic Engagement Program requires resources for both curriculum development and program coordination and it may be difficult to recruit youth due to the perceived need of political knowledge prior to participation.

Additional details on the municipalities noted above are available in Attachment 2. All of the municipal examples have elements that are aligned with the Youth Services Delivery model; however, if implemented in Richmond, a number of these would replicate existing programs in the community.

6236478

<u>Potential City-lead Youth Opportunities</u>

With many existing opportunities for youth to engage in leadership and civic engagement, it is important that the City does not duplicate a program or service. After analysis of the request to institute a Richmond Youth Council and taking into account the leadership opportunities currently available, staff have provided three options for Council's consideration. These proposed options outline the resources required along with the advantages and disadvantages of each opportunity.

<u>Option 1 –Youth Civic Engagement Program</u> (Recommended)

The Youth Civic Engagement Program would be a free registered education-to-action program offered for youth three times per year (i.e. Fall/Winter/Spring). During this eight-week program, up to twelve youth would learn about local government, how City decisions are made and have the opportunity to co-design projects that spark their interest and with the potential to present back to a group or committee. Developed with youth input topics such as City services, civic engagement, and City planning will be included in the program delivery. These informative sessions would be highly interactive with the opportunity for lively discussion and debate. The City's relationship with community partners would assist in the recruitment of youth to the program (e.g. Community Association Youth Development Coordinators could refer youth).

This program would be a great addition to the offerings within the refreshed Youth Services program and service delivery model, which now has enhanced capacity to offer additional programming. The program would require a portion of the City's Youth Coordinator's time however it would be predominately led by a contract instructor. Option 1 could be achieved within existing resources in the Youth Services budget.

The following chart outlines the advantages and disadvantages of a Youth Civic Engagement Program:

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Short-term commitment (8 week program); • A youth perspective on municipal matters; • Meaningful educational opportunity; • Opportunity for youth to co-design a project that is important to them; • Can be tailored to the needs of the group (e.g. small group work); • Serves a greater number of youth as well as diverse youth (up to 36 youth annually); • Youth gain leadership and employment skills; • Increased opportunity to recruit youth from the program to participate in City	• Youth may want the experience to participate on a City Council appointed Committee; and • Recruitment may be difficult due to the perceived need of political knowledge.

6236478

initiatives (e.g. Youth on City Council appointed Advisory Committees); • Flexible curriculum that can evolve and be transferred to other audiences (e.g. newcomers); and • Enhanced youth engagement.	

Staff recommend this option for its opportunity to reach and engage youth interested in local government, program flexibility, ability to deliver the program within existing resources and the prospect for youth to provide input on City projects or initiatives.

Option 2 – Youth City Council (Not Recommended)

This option is based on the presentation by the June 10, 2019 delegation (Attachment 1). A Youth City Council would be a City Council appointed committee that would engage youth, raise awareness on issues that affect Richmond youth, encourage understanding of government and provide an opportunity for youth to voice their opinions.

With a formal application process, the Youth City Council would be comprised of up to 9 youth, each with one-year terms that meet monthly, plus an appointed City Council Liaison and City staff person that coordinates and acts as a resource. To follow the structure of other City Council Appointed Advisory Committees, the City's Youth Coordinator would be required to coordinate the Youth City Council, which would have an operational impact to the Youth Services section (i.e. reduced focus on other areas). Option 2 could be achieved within existing resources in the Youth Services budget.

The following chart outlines the advantages and disadvantages of a Youth City Council:

Advantages	Disadvantages
• A youth perspective on municipal matters; • A meaningful volunteer opportunity for youth; • Youth gain leadership and employment skills; • Improves the quality and effectiveness of City policies, strategies, programs and services; • Increased opportunity to recruit youth from the program to participate in City initiatives; • Intentional leadership development for youth when taking on particular roles (e.g. role of Chair); and • Enhanced youth engagement.	• Recruitment and retention may be difficult (i.e. high turnover of youth); • Formal structure in civic and political processes may deter youth from participating; • Serve a limited number of youth (up to 9 youth annually); and • Significant Council Liaison and staff resources.

6236478

A Youth City Council is an option that provides an opportunity to engage youth, however, there would be considerable internal resources required to implement the Youth City Council that may impact other youth programs and services.

Option 3 – Status Quo (Not Recommended)

With Status Quo, the City would continue to work collaboratively with community partners and youth serving organizations to provide programs and services that meet the needs of youth. Currently, the new Youth Services program and service delivery model strengthens connections with youth, community partners and key stakeholders through the creation of opportunities in four focus areas: Engagement; Partnerships; Programs and Events; and Training and Education. In addition to the delivery of programs and services for youth, City staff continue to place emphasis on youth for participation on Council Appointed Advisory Committees and also highlight other existing leadership opportunities offered in the community. Option 3 would maintain the current level of program and service delivery.

The following chart outlines the advantages and disadvantages of Status Quo:

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Leadership development for youth; • Continued youth engagement. • Youth gain leadership and employment skills; and • Opportunity to recruit youth to participate in City initiatives (e.g. Youth on City Council appointed Advisory Committees).	• May not focus on civic engagement and politics to the level of the other two options; and • Youth may want the experience to participate in formalized local government civic engagement.

All three options provide opportunities for youth to actively engage, develop competencies, make decisions, have a voice and be connected to community. However, the Youth Civic Engagement Program (Option 1) is recommended for its ability to provide a registered program to serve a greater number of youth in shorter time commitments that offers youth exposure to civic engagement, creates an outlet for youth to learn about how a city runs, as well as to engage in topics that impact Richmond. In addition, the program complements other programs and services offered in the Youth Services delivery model.

Financial Impact

None. The proposed Youth Civic Engagement program (Option 1) can be offered within existing City resources in the Youth Services budget.

Next Steps

Should City Council approve the recommended Youth Civic Engagement Program (Option 1), staff will proceed with curriculum design. This process would also include further discussion with youth, City staff and community partners to identify prioritized content, program delivery

6236478

methods, recruitment and promotion strategies. Staff will aim to commence the program in Spring 2020.

Conclusion

The City, in collaboration with community partners and youth serving organizations, continues to work collaboratively to create opportunities for Richmond youth (13–24 years) to be actively engaged, develop skillsets, have a voice and be connected to the community. Civic engagement opportunities enhance the leadership and employment skills of young people and highlight the importance of youth being involved in the decisions that affect them. A registered Civic Engagement Program (Option 1) provides a short-term educational opportunity that engages more youth over the course of a year and can be integrated seamlessly within the new Youth Services delivery model.

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Att. 1: Proposal for the Implementation of the Youth City Council
    2: Municipal Youth Civic Engagement Opportunities in the Lower Mainland

6236478

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PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE YOUTH CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY- ADVOCACY - GOVERNMENT - GLOBAL ISSUES

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May 2nd, 2019

Submission to the City Council on the Implementation of a Youth City Council in the City of Richmond

RATIONALE FOR THIS PROPOSAL AND SUMMARY OF FOUR KEY POINTS:

1. **Engagement of Youth in Community:** Nowadays, youth are heavily focused on gaining admission to university, leading them to be academically ahead, but lacking in soft skills that will carry into their adulthoods, in the resources that will help them advocate for themselves in a professional manner, and in the ability to improve and recognize the state of their mental well-being.

2. **Raising Awareness and Supporting the Development of Opinions on Global Issues:** It is crucial that we encourage and support discussion of issues such as environment, education, community safety, and recreation in the community of youth, and provide them with the education and resources to do so.

3. **Encouragement of Richmond Youth's Understanding of Government:** Providing a platform for youth to observe and learn firsthand, as well as sharing their knowledge of how municipal governments work will lay a concrete foundation for them to participate in political electoral activities as well as further exploring their passions for politics.

4. **Advocacy for Youth Voices:** Youth in Richmond have stances, opinions, and ideas about issues concerning our community and the youth in Richmond, and a liaison between the Junior City Council and the City Council will provide them with an opportunity to voice them.

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DISCUSSION OF FOUR KEY POINTS

1. Engagement of Youth in Community

Having spoken to various students and adults in Richmond, a common concern that has been brought up time and time again is the engagement of youth in our community. Students need to feel connected with and supported by their larger community in order to thrive when faced with adversities and challenges that are difficult to overcome. In order for us to best support them, we must create opportunities that allow them the room to grow as empowered individuals in our community.

Although academic success is important, when students graduate, they will be valued for their leadership skills, adaptability skills, interpersonal skills, as well as many other soft skills that they can continue to develop through their work with the Youth City Council. These skills will carry into their adulthood and provide them with a strong foundation in communicating and articulating their ideas, taking initiative, and empowering others, all of which are strengths that cannot be taught in a classroom setting, and that future employers and clients will place a great deal of emphasis on when choosing who to work with. The Youth City Council will also teach students how to advocate for their ideas in a professional and appropriate manner, helping them learn how to voice their passions clearly and how to easier transition into university. Being involved in the community, and interacting with peers also gives youth the opportunity to recognize the importance of mental well-being, and providing them an opportunity to be in an environment surrounded by supportive students, something they may not be able to experience at school. The most important aspect that the Youth City Council will offer is the opportunity for youth to explore their passions and ideas, helping them to avoid risky behaviour and activities, and being a place where they can relieve their stress.

Through their work with the Youth City Council, students will have more chances to meet new people, experience and celebrate the diversity in culture that Richmond has, influence change in the community as well as their schools, and build confidence, self-esteem and structure in their lives. Being engaged in the community through the Youth City Council means that they will be able to experience politics, which may be a new area of interest for them, expand their social networks, strengthen their university applications, and understand what it means to be an active citizen. I believe that encouraging them to be

COMMUNITY- ADVOCACY - GOVERNMENT - GLOBAL ISSUES

ANNIE LAI

active citizens in the community will help them become more responsible, understand challenges locals face, and work to improve the quality of life in Richmond through political and non-political processes. The Youth City Council will also allow them the opportunity to engage with adults, because youth are starting to recognize that the lack of communication between adults and youth is impactful and important in the creation of a community where there is a sense of closeness.

Encouraging youth engagement benefits students, teachers, families, and the community as well. When Council actively encourages youth engagement through a program that is student-led, Council will be reaching youth through the voices and reaches of other students, resulting in a higher participation rate. Some positive results done by academic studies show that:

- Attending after school programs can improve students' academic performance. A national evaluation found that over 40 percent of students attending 21st Century Community Learning Center programs improved their reading and math grades, and that those who attended more regularly were more likely to make gains (Naftzger et. al., 2007).
- Effective afterschool programs can improve classroom behavior (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2010), school attendance, academic aspirations, and can reduce the likelihood that a student will drop out (Huang, Leon, La Torre, Mostafavi, 2008).
- Participation in afterschool programs has been associated with reduced drug use (Investing in Our Young People, University of Chicago, 2006) and criminal behavior (UCLA National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing, 2007).

Advocating for engagement of youth in community will ultimately lead to promoting students to become role models to their peers, allowing them and teaching them the skills to stand up for social, recreational, environmental, or educational causes that they believe in, and creating opportunities for them to meet supportive and caring adults in the community, therefore fostering a safe environment for them to thrive in.

2. Raising Awareness and Supporting the Development of Opinions on Global Issues

In order to achieve goals of living sustainable lifestyles, helping those in poverty, creating equal rights, and combatting other global issues, youth need to first understand the depth and impact that these issues have on people. By introducing these topics and encouraging discussions, youth will be given the

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chance to learn outside of the classroom and be able to discover where their passions lie in humanitarian causes. Encouraging discussions about issues that impact the world does not stop there; emphasis will also be placed on discussions about community issues, and Canadian politics. There are millions suffering in our world, and Youth City Council members will be able to expand and deepen their knowledge on humanitarian issues and be given a platform where they can learn how to create awareness for the issues that they are passionate about. Raising a generation of youth that are not only passionate about community, but other countries as well results in a population that is aware, empathic, and are change-makers. The Youth City Council will create a warm and friendly environment, where opinions and ideas are respected and valued, therefore creating further discussion that is unable to occur at school for reasons such as limited time.

As Richmond strives to prioritize *Leadership in Sustainability*, youth must first be given a platform where the impacts of climate change are thoroughly explored. Young people can easily adapt to low-carbon lifestyles, and are the key to spreading awareness about the new technologies, policies, and habits in place to fight climate change. This population will be the one who suffers from the consequences of global warming, and deserve a chance to truly understand the consequences, as well as a platform to help them advocate for environmental friendly habits and lifestyles. As *advancing green and sustainable initiatives* are important to the Council, I urge Council to allow the Youth City Council to be the driving force behind the initiative of fighting climate change in the City of Richmond.

3. Encouragement of Richmond Youth's Understanding of Government

Encouraging the understanding of how government functions outside of the classroom has been proven to be successful, and will aid youth in the comprehension of the governmental systems of Canada, thus providing them with, or supporting a foundational level of interest in politics which will in turn increase the likelihood of youth participating in electoral activities in their future. Youth make up 1.8 billion of the world's population, yet play an incredibly minor role in politics. The lack of representation from youth in decision-making processes stems from a lack of knowledge, awareness and understanding of politics, civic engagement, and how they can contribute to their community.

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The British Columbia Youth Parliament recently hosted the first Richmond Delta Youth Parliament in February-this parliamentary session attracted over forty youth from all over Richmond. At this session, a plethora of young voices eagerly pitched their voices and opinions, debating various issues, and learning how to develop and pass bills. Although this is a great program that teaches youth about our Parliament, it only lasts for one weekend in an entire year. Many members finished the program yearning to learn more about government, discuss issues they are passionate about, and meet like-minded peers. I am committed to bringing a local, easily accessible program that immerses these passionate individuals in the workings of our municipal government and provides them the resources that they continuously search for.

As the generations pass by, interest in voting drops among the younger age groups, leading to a large demographic of youth and young adults who are not well-versed in the political, socio-cultural, economic and environmental development, growth, and issues of their local community as well as their country.

In his study, *Political participation and civic engagement of youth*, Martin Turcotte states his findings in which he learned that:

- In 2013, 47% of youth aged 15 to 19 and 61% of youth aged 20 to 24 indicated that they were very likely to vote in the next federal election. This compared with 84% of seniors aged 65 to 74. Turcotte, 2015]

- In 2013, just over one-half of youth aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 indicated that they were at least somewhat interested in politics, compared with three-quarters of seniors aged 65 to 74. Turcotte, 2015]

- Among youth aged 15 to 19 who reported that they were not very or not at all interested in politics, 25% were very likely to vote in the next election, compared with 63% of seniors aged 65 to 74 who had the same level of interest in politics. [Turcotte, 2015]

- The proportion of "politically inactive" persons, defined as those who did not participate in non-electoral political activities and who were not very likely to vote in the next election, was 32% among youth aged 15 to 19 and 26% among youth aged 20 to 24, compared with 12% among seniors aged 65 to 74. Turcotte, 2015]

This data shows readers that interest in electoral and political activities substantially decreases as the pool of individuals ages lowers. The solution to this growing problem would be to implement a Youth City Council because by showing other municipalities that a Youth City Council can and should be
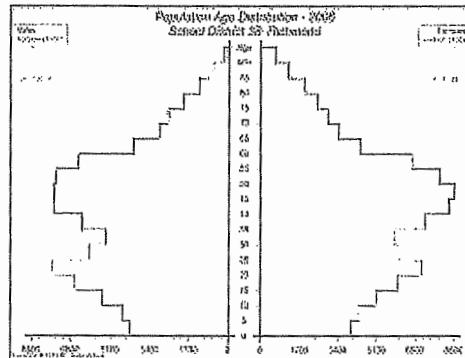
ANNIE LAI

integrated into their community, the City of Richmond would effectively help initiate the movement of making more resources and opportunities available for youth in Canada, increasing interest as well as understanding of politics, and therefore resulting in more young adults and youth participating in electoral as well as political activities.

4. Advocacy for Youth Voices

The importance and relevance of youth voices needs to be emphasized in our community; youth around the world are leading global movements such as Fridays for Future, standing up for causes they believe in, and empowering other young leaders to take initiative as well, but the young voices of Richmond rarely gather to discuss important matters such as their education, sustainability and environment in the City, social causes that are ongoing in the community, and various other issues. I can attest that youth in Richmond are extremely capable in the formation of opinions and ideas on such matters, and merit a City who places emphasis on these congregations and encourages discussion of important issues affecting the City, as well as Canada. The Youth City Council will allow students the chance to refine their voices on specific matters by conversing with their peers and presenting their ideas to the Youth City Council. It will also provide them the opportunity to be **heard** by Council, and then able to implement their ideas into **action plans**, an experience that benefits both parties, as the City's values align with those of the Youth City Council whereas the City would like to:

1) *see an increase in community engagement for all ages and segments of the community to ensure everyone has a voice and is involved in building a better Richmond together*
2) *[provide an opportunity for youth to] engage in various levels of dialogue and decisions with the City*

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Population Age Distribution - 2008
School District 38 - Richmond

Having a Youth City Council would promote a well-informed youth demographic in Richmond, and this is becoming extremely vital for future political and electoral activities. Our current political crisis involves an apathetic population who chooses to opt out of voter activities; equipping our youth with the knowledge and motivation of current politics will create a generation who is eager to vote when they reach the age. According to the 2006 Age Distribution data from BC Statistics, 18.2 % of Richmond's population is below the age of 17, and this number is continuously growing. One fifth of our City's demographic is unable to vote, unseen and unheard by their community, and considered too young to be mature enough to have valuable ideas. This stigmatization that students are too young to understand the depth, impact, and importance of social issues, economical issues, educational issues, as well as other problems that affects our community needs to be challenged as the young members of our community should be valued and treated as equal citizens by the adults in our community.

FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH CITY COUNCIL

The internal structure of how the Youth City Council runs is completely flexible and open to suggestions from Council.

Various cities such as Kamloops, Edmonton, and Victoria run successful student-led Youth City Councils that are supported by their Councils. The City of Tecumseh in Ontario provides their Youth City Council with an annual budget of $5000. Students are able to share youth perspectives and experiences with the City Councils.

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The following structure and policies for the Youth City Council are subject to change at Council's discretion.

PART I- ESTABLISHMENT

PURPOSE

1   To establish the City of Richmond's Youth City Council

MANDATE

2   a) The Youth City Council's mandate is to provide information and advice to Council in relation to issues involving or affecting youth, and will perform the following tasks:

      I.   Research and write policies and bylaws for Council's review

     II.   Educate youth on the three levels of government in Canada

    III.   Promote initiatives that support community and youth

    IV.   Develop relations with organizations and youth to address concerns regarding youth and community

     V.   Educate youth on City governance, policy-making, and procedures

    VI.   Consult with Council about supporting youth initiatives

   VII.   Provide networking opportunities to youth

  VIII.   Receive direction from Council on work or reports regarding youth or other issues, at Council's discretion

    IX.   Inform Council on issues affecting Richmond's youth

     X.   Establish the General Assembly of Youth City Council, oversee it's meetings, and report all minutes to Council

    XI.   Establish a presence in the City of Richmond

COMMUNITY- ADVOCACY - GOVERNMENT - GLOBAL ISSUES

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XII.   Promote friendly debate and discussion on a variety of topics concerning the City of Richmond and Canada, as well as global issues

PART II- STRUCTURE

3   a) General Assembly of Youth City Council will comprise of up to ten members

b) Members will serve a full term of up to a year

c) One Councillor will be appointed by City Council to act as a liaison between Council and Youth CIty Council

d) Members meet once a month in City's Chambers

e) Chair and Vice Chair of the Youth City Council will be appointed at Council's discretion

PART III- CITY COUNCILLOR'S ROLE

4   a) Presents budget requirements to Youth City Council for their initiatives and events

b) Facilitates the preparation of Youth City Council's reports to Council every three months/once a year

c) Acts as Youth City Council's liaison to Council until new liaison is appointed by Council

PART IV- CITY COUNCIL'S ROLE

5   a) Appoints a Councillor as a liason

b) Determines a budget for Youth City Council; finances used at Youth City Council's discretion to either create events, and initiatives, or to support and sponsor ones held by youth in community

c) Allows Youth City Council to convene once a month in Chambers

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d) Allows the Chair of Youth City Council to present reports and policies on issues of significance decided upon by Youth City Council and progress on it's mandate once every three months

e) Council reviews the Youth City Council's progress on it's mandate at the end of the term

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Municipal Youth Civic Engagement Opportunities in the Lower Mainland

A review of civic engagement opportunities offered by municipalities across the Lower Mainland for youth in their jurisdiction is summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Youth Civic Engagement Opportunities in the Lower Mainland

Civic Engagement Opportunity	Municipalities	Financial Commitment & Advantages/Disadvantages
Council Appointed Youth Advisory Committee A Council appointed committee to: • Act as a resource to City Council and staff on issues affecting youth; • Provide a youth perspective on matters that relate to youth; and • Encourage youth's understanding of government. Details include: • Formal application process with appointments selected by City Council; • One to two year terms depending on municipality; • Monthly meetings; • Formal meeting process (e.g. Robert's Rules of Order); • Council Liaison and City staff sit on the Committee as a resource.	• City of Vancouver* • City of New Westminster • City of Langley • City of West Vancouver • City of Port Moody	Financial Commitment: • Part-time City staff (approximately 5–10 hours/month); • Participant training budget; and • Incidentals (e.g. meals and refreshments). Advantages: • Raise the profile of youth; • Meaningful volunteer opportunity for youth; • Increased youth voice in municipal matters; • Increased youth engagement; and • Opportunity for youth up to age 24 years. Disadvantages: • Significant staff resources (part-time staff person required); • Transient nature of youth may affect participation; • May only attract high achieving youth; and • Recruitment and retention may be difficult due to long-term commitment.
City Wide Youth Committee A youth-led committee that plans and provides input on events or initiatives that impact youth. Details include: • Informal application process (not Council appointed); • Informal meeting process; and • Collaborate with staff to plan and implement city wide events and initiatives (e.g. Youth Week).	• City of Burnaby • City of Coquitlam • City of Surrey • City of Port Coquitlam	Financial Commitment: • Part-time City staff (approximately 10–20 hours/month); and • Incidentals (e.g. meals and refreshments). Advantages: • Increased youth interest in City events and initiatives; • Intentional leadership development for youth when taking on particular roles (e.g. marketing and budgeting); and

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		• Increased youth engagement. Disadvantages: • Significant staff resources (part-time staff person required); • Transient nature of youth may affect participation; and • Recruitment and retention may be difficult due to higher frequency of meetings related to timing of initiative or event.
Registered Civic Engagement Program Women4Politics is a 10-week program aimed at encouraging women who are between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become more involved in local politics. Details include: • Formal application process; • Mentorship with a City Councillor; • Learn about the role and function of municipal government; and • Take part in a mock Council meeting. New West City 101 is an 8-week program delivered in collaboration with the non-profit CityHive. Details include: • Formal application process; • Learn about the role and function of municipal government; and • Participants will have the opportunity to co-design projects and present them back to City Council.	• City of Vancouver (Women4Politics) • City of New Westminster (New West City 101)	Financial Commitment: • Resources to hire a consultant or for staff to create content; and • Incidentals (e.g. meals and refreshments). Advantages • Short-term commitment; • Enhanced youth engagement; • Meaningful educational opportunity; • Provides an opportunity for a broader range of youth; • Participants gain leadership and employment skills; and • Flexible curriculum that can evolve. Disadvantages • Transient nature of youth may affect participation; and • Recruitment may be difficult due to the perceived need of political knowledge.

Please note: The above list is a sample of the formalized offerings for youth in the Lower Mainland and is not an exhaustive inventory of youth civic engagement opportunities.