

Richmond Youth Advisory Committee 2025 Annual Report

Introduction

The purpose of the Richmond Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is to act as a resource and provide advice to Council regarding the planning, development and implementation of policies, programs and services that directly impact youth and young adults in Richmond. The YAC supports the City's commitment to amplifying youth voices and ensuring their perspectives are considered. This includes supporting the implementation of the City's Youth Strategy 2022–2032.

This Annual Report serves as a summary of the YAC's key activities from the 2025 calendar year.

2025 Membership

The composition of the YAC includes up to 15 Council-appointed members – nine citizen representatives between 13 to 24 years, one citizen representative over 24 years and up to five organization representatives. The organizations represented include: Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), Aspire Richmond, Foundry Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Richmond School District (SD38).

The YAC consisted of 14 voting members in 2025.

Citizen Appointees

- Owen Chan, Chair
- Wendy Zhang, Vice-Chair
- Jasmine Bains, Citizen Member
- Maryum Butt, Citizen Member
- Ekatarina Gofsky, Citizen Member
- Mengna Ma, Citizen Member
- Nayis Majumder, Citizen Member
- Miranda Se, Citizen Member
- Priesha Thakur, Citizen Member
- Joe Vu, Citizen Member

Organizational Representatives

- Ravinder Johal, SD38
- Alvin Li, RASS
- Jason Liu, Aspire Richmond
- Gregg Loo, VCH and Foundry Richmond

The YAC also included four non-voting representatives. The four non-voting members included:

- Councillor Carol Day, Council Liaison
- Stefanie Myler, Area Coordinator, Parks, Recreation and Culture Representative
- Gabriel Narciso, Recording Secretary
- Grace Tiu, Planner 2 (Youth), Staff Liaison

2025 Highlights

The YAC held nine meetings between January and November 2025. The committee provided a youth perspective on a number of City strategies and initiatives, as well as current and emerging trends. Committee members also gained an awareness of the programs and services available to youth in the community, which they actively shared amongst their networks.

Highlights of the YAC's work and participation in youth-related initiatives in 2025 included:

- **Guest Speakers** – Numerous guest speakers shared information and sought input from YAC members. Invited guests in 2025 included:
 - Sergeant Thomas Ohara, RCMP (Youth Section programs)
 - Kiran Shergill, City of Richmond (Building Safer Communities Fund)
 - Florence Bergeron and Roy Murnaghan, Students Commission of Canada (State of Youth Report to inform Canada's Youth Policy)
 - Paul Clark and Jordan Young, Intervistas and Susan Rybar, Vardo Creative (Tourism Richmond's Tourism Master Plan engagement)
 - Shant Goswami, City of Richmond (City's DEI roles)
 - Naaz Sidhu, Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS) (insights from RMCS' BIPOC Inclusion and Capacity Building Anti-Racism Series)
 - Ash O'Grady, Andy Buitrago and Soph Lim-Metz, Pathways Clubhouse (Youth and Youth Adults Programs available to youth)
 - Jyotika Dangwal, City of Richmond (City's draft Social Development Strategy)
 - Mohamed Ibrahim, Touchstone Family Association (programs available to youth and families)
 - Hashir Safi and Julie-Anne Toda-Sinclair, City of Richmond (engagement on the City's Economic Development Strategy)
 - Genevieve Valteau, Richmond Public Library (Teen Ambassador program and programs available to youth)
- **Annual Work Program** – In 2025, YAC identified priority areas of focus and aligned them to its Work Program and the Council-adopted Youth Strategy. YAC is committed to supporting the City in the ongoing Youth Strategy implementation.

- **Engagement and Discussion** – The YAC provided insights into current and emerging youth trends related to physical activity; sense of belonging and the role of supportive adults; and enhancing promotion of youth programs and services. Feedback was shared with appropriate City departments and partners. YAC representatives attended a focused discussion on the Minoru Precinct Directional Wayfinding Project and a virtual information session on the Richmond Official Community Plan Update. YAC members were invited to participate in Let's Talk Richmond surveys about the Lansdowne Parks and Open Space Master Plan, the draft Social Development Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy. Committee members were also encouraged to share these engagements with youth in their networks.
- **Involvement in City Initiatives** – YAC members participated in City initiatives that support actions in the City's Youth Strategy. A YAC member joined the planning team for Sunset Snacks, a summer event hosted by the City, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Vancouver Coastal Health. This event aimed to encourage youth to connect with one another and spend time outdoors. YAC representatives are currently involved in the planning of Employment Connections, an event to connect youth with employment-related community supports. Youth involvement ensures that these initiatives consider youth perspectives and are responsive to youth needs.
- **Parks, Recreation and Culture Monthly Reports** – Through the monthly reports presented by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Representative, YAC members gained further knowledge of the programs and services offered to youth by the City and Community Associations and Societies. Discussions at YAC meetings also provided an opportunity for committee members to provide feedback and insights to help inform the planning and implementation of Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and services for youth and young adults.

Conclusion and Acknowledgments

In 2025, YAC continued to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring youth voices are included in the policies, programs and services that impact them the most. Through YAC's work, the committee supported the implementation of the City's Youth Strategy, contributed to a deeper understanding of emerging youth needs and trends, and provided input on several plans, strategies, discussions and initiatives related to youth.

The Richmond Youth Advisory Committee would like to extend our gratitude to the Mayor and Councillors for their continued support. The committee would also like to thank Council Liaison Carol Day for keeping the YAC informed about issues arising and resources that impact youth.

Report prepared by:

Owen Chan, Chair
Richmond Youth Advisory Committee