

Youth Leadership Councils

About us

Young people are disproportionately impacted by city issues, yet often have the least amount of input in solving our City's problems. NYC Service, a division of the Office of the Mayor, launched NYC Youth Leadership Councils (YLCs) to address this disconnect. In all 5 boroughs, YLCs are creating a bolder, more just city by engaging youth to shape **policies, practices, and advocacy** affecting them and their communities. Each YLC is part of a larger network of YLCs in the City that works toward improved youth/adult partnerships, solutions to city needs, and youth leadership development.

Our Mission

To ensure equitable access to transformative civic opportunities for all NYC high school youth.

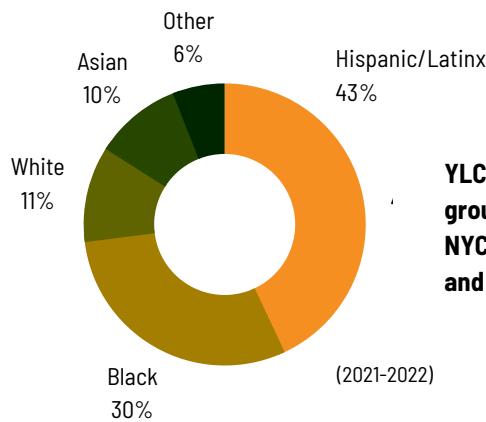
Our Vision

Every NYC high school student is equipped with the skills needed to build stronger communities and an inclusive city.



Partner with us!

Over 70 different community-based organizations have hosted YLCs in partnership with us in the past. We also partner with City agencies, schools, NYPD precincts, and NYCHA residences. As a host site, you will be part of a network working collectively to impact important local issues and create a culture of youth voice and civic engagement in our city.



YLCs attract a racially diverse group, creating pathways for NYC youth to build leadership and civic skills.

Since our inception in 2015, we have reached...

7,176 youth members **1,301** adult facilitators

9.6 / 10 was the average score for "Youth and adults in my YLC trust and respect one another." (2021-22)

"YLC impacted adult facilitators, by surprising us with their eagerness, planning, and overall their concerns of their communities." - Adult Facilitator

Policy:

Influencing the structure of the organization's official laws or governing concepts, and the strategic plans around these laws or concepts.

Practice:

Reviewing the process of everyday work being done within the organization, and coming up with ideas, strategies, or methods that can be integrated and effectively improve the work of the organization.

Advocacy:

Developing campaigns to engage others in learning about or doing something about critical issues facing the community that advance the work of the organization.



"I enjoyed being able to converse with those my age and find unity in finding solutions to address the lack of youth voice."

- YLC Youth Member

Support & Resources

Workshops

Trainings and events are hosted by NYC Service for both facilitators and youth. Workshops help pace you and your council through the topics of our Youth Civic Action Guide for practical leadership application. These connect you to other likeminded groups doing similar work with youth.

End of Year Summit

All YLCs are invited to our annual summit where we celebrate the past year. This is a space for youth to present and share their ideas with other youth and adults from around the city.

Youth Application

Enroll your host site in our free YLC application hosted at [Generation NYC](#). When listed on the online application, your YLC will get exposure to youth all over NYC and youth applications will come directly to your host site by email.

1-1 Support

Receive virtual coaching from our team of youth development professionals. Request 1-1 support for questions/topics not covered during the monthly development topics (e.g. feedback on YLC project, help brainstorming local stakeholders, and much more).

The Audubon Society

This YLC's community mapping project revealed the presence of stores selling clothing made with environmentally unfriendly materials. According to a survey they designed and administered, an overwhelming majority of people said they would be willing to buy clothing from thrift stores if they had easier access to them. So, the YLC members set up a Saturday pop up thrift store and invited local council members to come learn about how they can develop sustainable clothing policies for the community.

A majority of adult facilitators (61%) reported that the YLC projects led to community outcomes. (2021-22)



PowerPlay NYC

Youth in this YLC focused on gender equity and women's empowerment during the school year. Then over the summer, they created and led workshops on gender equity to a group of 37 high school and 21 middle school girls. The members created skits and facilitated discussions with participants. This three-hour youth-led event engaged other youth in the conversation and allowed participants to process their thoughts together on gender and its role in society.

Get in touch

If you are interested in starting a YLC at your organization, please email us!

Email: nycylc@cityhall.nyc.gov
More info: linktr.ee/nycylc