

## MYCT 5th Annual Report

June 2023–June 2024

Prepared by Chair Ashley Brewster and Vice Chair Theodore Wygle

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Dear Mayor and Council,

After a long and eventful year, we formally present our fifth annual MYCT report for the 2023 - 2024 year. Established in 2019, the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma has grown alongside Tacoma and its youth for the past five years. We have spent these past years increasing youth community involvement in local politics and social issues and creating a space for Tacoma youth to grow and learn.

We are proud to say we had a successful Youth Summit in accordance with the Charting Our Future Conference where our committees gave meaningful presentations to youth and adults in attendance. We heard from many speakers on local and statewide initiatives, issues, and projects. We gave input and raised awareness on a variety of topics. We held a game night for the youth in our community. Many of us got Teen Mental Health First Aid certified. We even attended the National League of Cities City Summit in Atlanta, Georgia where we were able to have meaningful conversations and panels with youth and adults alike.

Though we had difficulties with attendance as we are still rebuilding and reaching audiences after quarantine, we persevere and continue to help our community and the youth in the community be involved. The Tacoma youth have voices deserving to be listened to, and I am proud to be a part of a commission that gives them that opportunity. The future of this Commission is hopeful, and I am excited to see the work and connections continue to be put forward.

We have work left to do yet, but I am incredibly proud and lucky to say I was a part of this commission this past year. With caring adults and organizations, we are able to accomplish incredible feats. Thank you to the MYCT admin team, thank you to the General Assembly members, thank you to Graduate Tacoma, and thank you to the City of Tacoma. Thank you to Chair Ashley Brewster for all the work you have put in this past year—I am glad to have had you as my Chair. A special thank you to Mayor Woodards and the City Council. Every person, organization, and group that we collaborated with this past year have made our year wonderful; without you, there would be no Mayor's Youth Commission. I am so grateful for all I have learned and all the opportunities the Mayor's Youth Commission have opened me up to.

Sincerely,

Ashley Brewster & Theodore Wygle

## **Commission Achievements**

What we did as a whole commission:

### **1) 3rd Annual Youth Summit**

- a) MYC held 4 different sessions at our Youth Summit during the Charting Our Future conference hosted by Graduate Tacoma.
- b) We collaborated with organizations and people in the community to create youth led panels and conversations around issues in our community. We were open to both students and adult attendees of the conference, overall, over 20 people attended our summit.

### **2) Attending High School And Beyond Plan Listening Session**

- a) Our general Assembly attended a listening session on the High School And Beyond Plan with added input on what to improve and their general knowledge of it.

### **3) Attended the National League of Cities**

- a) Our Commission leadership team attended the National League of Cities conference in Kansas City, Missouri in November 2022. b.
- b) We supported Mayor Woodards as former president of the League.
- c) We participated in the Youth Delegate Session for the conference and gave our input on conversations happening nationwide. We hope to continue our work and discussion on a larger, nationwide scale moving forward as well.

### **4) Teen Mental Health Training**

- a) Thanks to Mental Health First Aid, our general assembly was open to get Mental Health First Aid certified, and many of us did! This course taught us how to interact with and help those in crisis.

### **5) Game Night**

- a) We held a youth game night with over 30 attendees! There was great food and fun games for all.

## **Committee Projects**

The exciting achievements and projects of your four Commission committees.

### **1. Social Health**

- a. Youth Summit Session

- i. A lesson and demonstration on the importance of youth voter education and youth voting

## **2. Education, Arts, and Culture**

- a. Youth Summit Session

- i. A conversation with TPS officials about communication and youth leadership

## **3. Environmental Health**

- a. Youth Summit Session

- i. In collaboration with the Justice and Safety committee and a few different organizations, a panel about housing equity and how it relates to environmental health.

## **4. Justice and Safety**

- a. Youth Summit Session

- i. In collaboration with the Justice and Safety committee and a few different organizations, a panel about housing equity and how it relates to environmental health.

Thank you so much for your support to the Commission and the youth of your city.

Please reach out with any questions you may have. I look forward to the future of the Commission and the City of Tacoma.