

Youth Commission Meeting

Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:30pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center, 1730 Oregon St., Berkeley CA, 510-981 6670

Mission Statement

The Berkeley Youth Commission identifies the needs of youth, reviews and recommends youth services and programs.

Commission Members

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mayor	Maya Ng-Yu	BUSD/Brown	Vacant
Kesarwani	Vacant	BUSD/Leyva-Cutler	Andrea Morales
Davila	Vacant	BUSD/Appel	Vacant
Bartlett	Vacant	BUSD/Student Director	Max Schlosberg
Harrison	Gabriella Lerman	BUSD/Sinai	Daijah Conerly
Hahn	Rachel Alper	BUSD	Mallika Hari
Wengraf	Samuel Kaplan-Pettus	BUSD/Alper	Evie Berg
Robinson	Vacant	BUSD	Auden Friedman
Droste	Vacant	BUSD	Vacant

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

- 1** Call to Order (Chair)
- 2** Roll Call (Secretary)
- 3** Announcements (Chair)
- 4** Approval of Agenda (Chair)
- 5** Approval of Minutes (Chair)
- 6** Public Comment (Chair)
- 7** Director's Report

Discussion Items

- 8** Discussion with Urban Forestry Arborist Ian Kesterson about Environmental Initiatives (Kesterson)
- 9** Discussion with Jackie Arizabal, Student at San Francisco State, About Human Rights (Arizabal)

Action Items

- 10 Approval of Gender Neutral Bathrooms letter to the Berkeley Unified School District School Board
- 11 Approval of January 2020-December 2020 Meeting Dates
- 12 Adjourn

Commission Information: The Youth Commission packet is available for review at both the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3rd Floor, during normal business hours. If you have questions, contact Commission Secretary, Ginsi K. Bryant, at 981-6671 or by email at Gbryant@cityofberkeley.info.

ADA Disclaimer: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB343 Disclaimer: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor, Berkeley CA.

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Youth Commission Regular Meeting Dates January 2019 –December 2019

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, January 14	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, February 11	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, March 11	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, April 22	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, May 13	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, June 3	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
July	Break	
August	Break	
Monday, September 9	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Tuesday, October 15	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Tuesday, November 12	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, December 9	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley

Youth Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:30pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center, 1730 Oregon St., Berkeley CA, 510-981 6670

Mission Statement

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Commission Members

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Robinson	Vacant	BUSD	Auden Friedman
Droste	Vacant	BUSD	Vacant

Draft Minutes

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order (Chair) 6:36pm: Ng-Yu, Alper, Kaplan-Pettus, Schlosberg, Hari and Friedman. Excuse Absent: Morales and Berg. Absent: Lerman and Conerly
2. Roll Call (Secretary)
3. Announcements (Chair)
4. Approval of Agenda (Chair) M/S/Ng-Yu/Friedman: Aye's: Alper, Kaplan-Pettus, Schlosberg, Hari, Ng-Yu and Friedman. Noe's: None. Abstain: None. Excuse Absent: Morales and Berg. Absent: Lerman and Conerly
5. Approval of Minutes (Chair) M/S/Ng-Yu/Alper: Aye's: Kaplan-Pettus, Schlosberg, Hari, Alper, Ng-Yu and Friedman. Noe's: None. Abstain: None. Excuse Absent: Morales and Berg. Absent: Lerman and Conerly
6. Public Comment (Chair)
7. Director's Report

Discussion Items

8. Berkeley Aquatics Update on Investigating Berkeley Swim Lessons and the Willard Pool (Lerman)
9. Gender Neutral Bathrooms Update (Chair)
10. BHS Environmental Initiative Update (Berg, Kaplan-Pettus, Hari)

Action Items

15. Approval of Data Collection Letter to the Berkeley Unified School District School Board
 M/S/Ng-Yu/Alper: Aye's: Kaplan-Pettus, Schlosberg, Hari, Alper, Ng-Yu and Friedman. Noe's: None.
 Abstain: None. Excuse Absent: Morales and Berg. Absent: Lerman and Conerly

16. Adjourn

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**City of Berkeley Youth
Commission**

Ginsi Bryant, Secretary
2180 Milvia St. 3rd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
GBryant@CityofBerkeley.info

December 9th, 2019

Dear Honorable School Board,

We are writing in our capacity as the City of Berkeley Youth Commission to urge you to fund two gender-neutral bathrooms at Willard Middle School. One would be in the main academic building, Tudisco Hall, and the other would be in the gym building.

Willard needs gender neutral bathrooms because, as one student said, “some students at this school are Transgender and Non-Binary/Genderqueer and they might not feel comfortable using a certain gender bathroom.” Another student said that a Transgender girl/boy who just came out might not want to use a gender specific bathroom yet, so they would feel more comfortable using a gender neutral bathroom. Furthermore, a Non-Binary student might not want to use a gender-specific bathroom because they do not apply to either binary gender.

By working closely with the Willard Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GASA), we have learned that next to the main and smaller gyms there are two designated boys’ and girls’ bathrooms. These are infrequently used because there are already bathrooms in the gym for girls and boys. The main and small gym bathrooms could easily be turned into a gender neutral changing room and bathroom. The stalls can stay for students who need to change out of something they are binding their chest with, as it is unsafe to exercise while binding. And the other bathroom could be a gender neutral bathroom. The only change needed would be extra lockers and new signage, which is not extremely expensive.

For Tudisco Hall, it would be great to have at least one gender neutral bathroom in the multi-floor building. Right now on each floor, there is only one girls’ and boys’ bathrooms. It would be ideal to convert the bottom floor bathrooms into two gender neutral bathrooms. Or, to convert one of the two staff bathrooms into a gender neutral bathroom for everybody.

This is a problem throughout Berkeley middle schools, and students are aware and insisting change. The President of the GASA said, “Gender neutral bathrooms are crucial not only because they provide a place for students to use the bathroom, [but] they help push Willard forward as a welcoming and supportive school. It’s a hard switch but a very important one.”

Sincerely,

City of Berkeley Youth Commission