

IDEA 54 The Seattle Youth Commission: Now Indy doesn't have to reinvent the wheel

The Seattle Youth Commission is a group of 25 Seattleites aged 13-19 from all over the city who are appointed by the Mayor and City Council to connect youth to their elected officials.

<http://www.seattle.gov/seattle-youth-commission>

The first Youth Town Hall was held in 2002 and brought over 200 young people together to voice their opinions on issues that affected them. The results of this meeting were clear: City government needed to connect with and involve Seattle's young people in its decision-making process. The Mayor's Youth Council was born out of this desire to bring youth into City government in a more meaningful way.

Youth Council members host community gatherings and town halls throughout Seattle to reach out to Seattle's youth and empower teenagers. These community forums led to the development of policy recommendations on issues pertaining to youth, which were presented to the Mayor later in the year.

In 2010 the Mayor's Youth Council became the Seattle Youth Commission (SYC). The new Commission structure allows the Youth Commission to interact with all of the elected officials in the city (the mayor, the city council, and the city attorney) to ensure that the voices of young people are heard. Commissioners are jointly appointed by the mayor and city council in June of each year following an extensive interview process.

What the commission does:

- Discuss issues with students across the city by hosting Youth Community meetings
- Work with local elected officials from the city, county, school district, and other municipal bodies to address issues that are important to youth
- Work to get more youth involved in government by engaging with other students in the city and hosting an annual Youth Town Hall with the mayor and city council

<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleYouthCommission/>