

**City of Los Angeles
Human Relations Commission (City HRC)**



Youth Ambassador Cohort

**Leadership, Civic-Engagement, Volunteerism,
Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy**



WHO WE ARE (The Nation's Leading Model for Youth Engagement)

The Y.A. Program is in its 6th year, it's a citywide nonpartisan effort, it is one of the one of the more engaging and most comprehensive youth engagement programs in the nation. It galvanizes the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Departments, Congress, the White House and the private sector to create a quasi-government initiative that brings positive life changing experiences to youth populations. Our exclusive program helps promote youth involvement in leadership, civic engagement, and volunteerism.



WHAT WE DO (We Provide Outstanding Community Service Opportunities.)

We bring together teens from all socio-economic backgrounds in a year-long program of activities and workshops, culminating in a 5-day trip to Washington, D.C., where they meet with congressional leaders, White House administration and tour the historical foundations and institutional structures that make up our great nation.

WORKSHOPS!

Through workshops, field trips, travel, and volunteer events, Y.A. Program teens learn about policy, legislation, the civic process, and how our local, state, and federal governments operate. They practice leadership, innovation, advocacy, and develop relationships with other youth groups to promote civic activities.

**Congresswoman
Janice Hahn**

**Representing the
44th District of
California**



**Diplomacy
Reception
Room at the
White House**

**Attention high school
students, ages 14-17:**
**If you are eager to create
change, become an effective
leader, learn about policy,
legislation and exercise your
voice, then apply to the Nationally
recognized & Award Winning Los
Angeles Youth Ambassador
(Y.A.) Program today!**

YouTube.com: <https://youtu.be/RGptsR2juYA>

Check us out on ABC 7: <http://abc7.com/society/cool-kid-lisa-sobajian-tackles-bullying-head-on/384218/>

Youth Ambassador Video, Directed by Award winning producers, Winston A. Abalos & Deborah Mozer (Link available spring 2015).

HOW IT WORKS

Each year our committee selects a number of students from a pool of public and private high school applicants throughout Los Angeles. The selected teens (called Y.A. Cohorts) are invited to participate in a year of monthly workshops to learn about civic engagement, volunteerism, government, the history of Los Angeles, and human relations. Y.A. Cohort members find out how to identify needs in their communities, manage projects, plan events, and how to effectively work with government agencies.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM:

Some exciting topic areas in the Y.A. Program eight-month workshop include:

- **Introduction to Government:** An insider's guide to how local, state, and federal governments really work.
- **L.A. History (1781 to present):** Explore how Los Angeles has evolved and transformed politically over the years.
- **Civic Engagement:** Examine real-life examples showing what it takes to collaborate, organize, and facilitate a project through layers of government to get results.
- **Social Justice & Organizing:** Define the areas of need in your community and develop the skills to become engaged and make a difference.
- **Human Relations:** Find out how to manage groups, solve conflicts, motivate others, and assess human dynamics.
- **STEM:** Meet directly with top level executives, programmers & engineers at Google, have discussions through Google Moderator, Google +, tour and discuss career paths over lunch. Sit down with White House Executive staff and highlight your passions for Science, Technology, Engineering & Math.
- **Domestic Issues Debate:** ask a liberal speaker and a conservative speaker to share their views and positions on current issues you are concerned about and that impact your community.



- **Global Warming/ Climate change:** How can we turn the corner towards climate stability?
- **Legislative Process:** What is Legislation? How does citizen input reflect in the process? Learn what point in the process do members of the public have access to take part in shaping legislation.
- **The Role of Citizenship in Sustaining Democracy:** Explore different action that citizens can take to impact their communities and shape the course of public decision making (Cooperative Civic Commitment, Oppositional Civic Commitment.)
- **Health & Wellness:** Explore sound approaches to health and obesity in your community (Farmers markets, Policy, Advocacy, and Outreach) from industry professionals and health experts
- **Creative Government-Business Alliances:** Work directly with businesses to find innovative ways to work with government agencies.
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Y.A. PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Youth Ambassador Program is a highly competitive program. The HRC staff, commissioners and partnership base review all applications very thoroughly.

Although grades and academics are important, we look beyond numbers and focus on leadership characteristics, initiative, and ambition. Our goal is to equip our Youth Ambassadors' with the proper tools needed to become our next generation of leaders.

Open Enrollment Begins February 9th 2016 and ends April 1st by 5pm.

Applicants should be:

- No younger than age 14 and no older than age 17 at the start of the program on October 3, 2015.
- A student in the Los Angeles public or private school system. Foster Youth, Home-schooled children and International students are also encouraged to apply.
- Able to pay travel and program fee cost of approximately \$2,000 for program services, and travel, **or** meet the financial aid/ sponsorship assistance requirements.
- Available for an in person interview.

We encourage you to fill out the application included in this packet and begin your path to leadership. You will be challenged like never before, you will meet others from diverse backgrounds, advocate on behalf of your community as the youth voice, and learn what it takes to be a leader by learning from the best.

Reminder: Make to make sure that your application is complete before you submit it.

Section 1: Completed by you, and includes:

- Three essays and a bonus question
- Two letters of recommendation (see application form for details)
- Your documented attendance record for the previous school year (2015-2016)

Section 2: Completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Please submit your application as follows:

- 1.) Internet (Link Provided)
- 2.) Email
- 3.) Certified Mail (Postmarked)

Attention: Sheldon Cruz, Y.A. Cohort Founder,
Senior Policy Analyst
200 North Spring Street
City Hall Room 2111
Tel: (213) 308-7609
Fax: (213) 978-1668
Sheldon.Cruz@lacity.org



Youth Ambassador's Honored by Councilmember Joe Bucaino

Quantitative & Qualitative Facts:

Since 2010

Google Engineer Staff Quotes:

Lily Yuan, Account Solutions Specialist

"The kids were so BRIGHT and asked fantastic questions! I had a ton of fun participating in the panel."

Jason Carr, Account Executive – Media Entertainment

"I was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm, knowledge and drive of the students from the Youth Ambassadors program. The program and staff are doing great service for these students by encouraging thought leadership as well as instilling a desire to see these students grow and hopefully become future Googlers!"

- 100% of Y.A.'s are accepted into four-year colleges
- A total of 77 youth representing all (15) Council Districts have been admitted into the Cohort since 2010
- 100% retention rate
- 80% of Y.A.'s are interested in public service after
- 100% of Y.A.'s complete 100 hours of community service/volunteer hours by the time they graduate from high school
- 100% of Y.A. alumni join our inter-collegiate consortium
- Youth Ambassadors are more likely to get admitted into the University of their choice than their counterparts because of their strong community service & civic-engagement portfolio.



Our Youth Ambassadors have been either accepted or have enrolled in the following Universities:

UC Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Cruz

Georgetown University

Stanford

Harvard

Dartmouth College

YALE

Loyola Marymount University (LMU)

Cal State Northridge, Long Beach, LA

Northwestern

University of Southern California (USC)

University of Hawaii

Mount Saint Mary University (MSMU)

Dillard University

Pacific Lutheran

LEADERSHIP, CIVIC-ENGAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERISM



The Youth Ambassador Cohort Initiative has successfully serviced all (15) Council Districts, within the City of Los Angeles' geographic area each year, including outreach to all 1,270 LAUSD schools within the city line and its student body population of 907,019.