

**City of Edmonton Youth Council - 2024 Appointment Recommendations**

Public Members	Appointment Term
<p><b><u>Appointments (9)</u></b></p> <p>Ashley Arulnithy            Corinne Au            Rowan Hanf            Jessica Huynh            Matthew Katz            Reet Khinda            Mamboumuni Kuverua            Aditya Peddi            Ellen Tam</p> <p><b><u>Alternate (2)</u></b></p> <p>Bella Jiao            Asfyandar Piracha</p>	<p>September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026            September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026</p>

**New Appointee Biographies:** to be provided.

**Ashley Arulnithy**

Ashley is a high school student at Old Scona Academic. This is her first term as a Voting Committee Member, and she is looking forward to meeting others who are willing to make a difference in the city. Outside of CEYC, Ashley volunteers to tutor younger students in mental math, assists in her school student council’s many subcommittees, and helps at her local temples to serve food. She has also organized events for her school, such as her grade 9 farewell. In her free time, she likes to bake, read, and spend time with her friends and family.

**Corinne Au**

Corinne is a nursing student at University of Alberta. She is eager to learn about how municipal policy affects healthcare, and aims to facilitate better youth patient outcomes through contributing her nursing knowledge to CEYC initiatives. Corinne is passionate about pediatric health literacy and the participation of youth in health-related settings.

## Attachment 1

Corinne aspires to use her artistic background in conjunction with her nursing schooling to understand and enhance how pre-existing city projects already support youth health. Prior to university, Corinne filled artistic extracurricular gaps in her school by providing opportunities for students to showcase their art. Notably, Corinne used her positions as director at NextFest (Edmonton's emerging artist festival) and 2022 editor-in-chief of her school magazine to involve students in professional performing arts and formal publication of their work, thereby encouraging the growth of the arts in her community. These experiences have allowed her to witness how non-healthcare programs can affect youth's early childhood development, mental health, and education—all of which influence health outcomes. In her free time, Corinne is an avid fan of film, fashion, and figure skating.

### **Rowan Hanf**

Rowan holds a double degree in Biology and Psychology, and is enrolled in the after-degree Nursing program at the University of Alberta. Recently, she has returned from a psychology research internship in Germany and will be receiving her first research publication. Rowan strongly believes that CEYC is a platform to inspire positive transformations in the city, by working with like-minded individuals in a collective of empowered youth voices. She derives the most fulfillment from advocating within the community and loves channeling this passion into the CEYC, to create a meaningful impact.

Beyond her involvement with the CEYC, Rowan is deeply committed to student leadership, having held various roles including General Council Student Science Representative, VP of Finance for Concordia Students Association, Student Board of Governor's Representative, Founder and President of the Cultural Club, Student Ambassador, and several more. Rowan's dedication to volunteering and community engagement is evident through her 7-year involvement with the Kidney Foundation and her 3-year involvement as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Rowan has also been recognized with several accolades for her strong love for volunteerism, varsity athletics, and student government, one of which includes the Laurence Decore Award. In her leisure time, she enjoys golfing, skiing, hiking, and writing poetry.

### **Jessica Huynh**

Jessica Huynh is a Vietnamese-Chinese first-generation Canadian who is determined to help others find their voice in times of disparity, assuring that individuals, no matter their backgrounds, have an impact on their community. Being one of the few people of colour in her community at a young age, the feeling of being silenced and needing to blend in is something Jessica continuously tries to fight through her work

## Attachment 1

in debate, environmental awareness, and city involvement. In school, Jessica is the president and co-founder of the Debate Club, where she can help members practice their public speaking skills and learn the inner workings of policymaking in Canada.

In bringing awareness to climate change, Jessica is the co-president of her school's Project Green, a club that advocates caring for the environment through events like bottle drives and park clean-ups in her neighbourhood. Additionally, she is a member of her school's student-principal advisory council, where she advocates for her peers in academics and wellness, discussing ways to better the education system for students who have English as a second language and mental health during the school year. In her community, Jessica has been participating in CEYC initiatives for the past three years that have allowed her to give youth opportunities to express themselves through the arts, learn the sciences, and bring awareness to fashion environmentalism.

With determination and hope to show others that they have a voice in their community, Jessica's work in public speaking, environmental awareness, and city volunteering is in hopes of empowering individuals who have felt silenced due to their differences, establishing that their voices matter and that they can positively impact their community.

### **Matthew Katz**

Mathew is a student at Strathcona High School. He served as the lead of the Engagement Initiative on the CEYC for the 2023-24 term. Outside of CEYC, Mathew is passionate about anti-racism and has helped to organize school events and initiatives. He enjoys running long distance and playing cello. He is passionate about climate change and loves biking around the city. Mathew lives with his parents and two younger siblings in southwest Edmonton. As a proud Edmontonian, he is excited to serve on CEYC and contribute to his community.

### **Reet Khinda**

Reet is a high school student who is passionate about mental health and writing, using her literary talents to advocate for issues that are important to her. Her interest in writing has led her to win the Canada 150 poetry contest hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, where she had the privilege to travel to Stettler on the Alberta Prairie Railway with the Lieutenant Governor to present her poem. It has also secured her a spot in the Express Inspire Connect national conference, where she advocated for youth representation in contemporary educational struggles. Additionally, Reet has travelled to Costa Rica on a conservation service trip to plant mangroves and support the local environment, and aspires to use these lessons to

support the environment in her own community. Reet has also received several awards in dance and speech arts, and enjoys crocheting, bullet journaling, and participating in competitive cheer in her free time. By becoming a member of the CEYC, she hopes to promote knowledge on community decision-making to other youth while ensuring that their voices are heard, and connect with like-minded peers.

### **Mamboumuni Kuverua**

Mamboumuni is a Canadian permanent resident born and raised in Namibia, Africa. He is a student and youth leader who served on local, provincial and National leadership portfolios in the years 2019 to 2023 prior to coming to Canada mid January 2024.

Out of numerous portfolios Mamboumuni held; he holds experience and expertise in youth leadership as he was once a brand ambassador of the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level (grade 12) Namibia organization, a school board member at his high school, a Finance Executive Officer of Namibia National Student Organization (NANSO) at provincial level prior to coming to Canada.

### **Aditya Peddi**

Aditya is a 15-year-old student going into grade 11 at Lillian Osborne High School. He is entering his fourth year on the City of Edmonton Youth Council. In his previous term, he led the Networking Initiative in the Internal Subcommittee, where he successfully ran a Networking event. Aditya enjoys gaining valuable experience, meeting like-minded people, and leading or participating in initiatives to create change and opportunities in the city through CEYC. Aside from CEYC, he was the vice president of sales at his Junior Achievement company, Revive Aromatherapy, and a sergeant at the 810 Air Cadets. He is also part of the Ethics Bowl team at his school. Currently, he serves as the president of the Jack.org chapter at Lillian Osborne, Canada's largest youth mental health advocacy group. Aditya aspires to be more involved in his community to influence essential issues and opportunities directly impacting Edmonton.

### **Ellen Tam**

Ellen is a second year honours student at the University of Alberta, studying neuroscience and astrophysics. She has worked as a research assistant and youth advisory councillor for the Youth and Innovation Project at the University of Waterloo for the past four years and is a current McCall MacBain Shad Leader where she acts as a mentor to youth, igniting their passion for STEAM and leadership. Ellen

## Attachment 1

volunteers at the Student innovation centre at the UofA, as well as girl empowerment groups like BeYOUtiful, and runs her own social justice club, PEGASI.

In her free time, Ellen plays competitive badminton, ranking in the top four for Alberta and has coached at the Royal Glenora club for the last six years. She also enjoys doing case competitions in her free time, and making seriously unserious slide show presentations.

### **Bella Jiao (Alternate)**

Bella is currently a Grade 12 student at Old Scona Academic High School. As an avid debater and current member of the Edmonton Public School Board Student Senate, she wishes to not only stay informed of the issues surrounding her community, but also work towards sustainable solutions. At the Student Senate, she led the team working on brochures aiming to inform students on, and destigmatize, the usage of learning tools, and as one of the co-founders of EduCamp, a student run non-profit established during the quarantine, she helped organize and taught at various camps aimed towards teaching students skills such as speech and debate, research, bias awareness, and informing them of current global issues. Bella looks forward to applying her skills and past experiences to the CEYC in order to support its initiatives to the best of her ability.

### **Asfyandar Piracha (Alternate)**

Asfandyar is an undergraduate physiology student at the University of Alberta, entering his fourth year in the 2024-25 academic year. The 2024-25 term will also be his fourth as a CEYC member. Asfandyar has been a member of the Anti-Racism Initiative throughout the duration of his time with CEYC, having co-led the initiative in the 2023-24 term. In addition, Asfandyar has also been a part of the Indigenous Allyship Initiative. As the upcoming term approaches, Asfandyar looks to continue his work with both initiatives, with the overall goal of empowering, and amplifying the voices of all youth in the city.

Outside of his work with the CEYC, Asfandyar trains as a powerlifter, and is a member of the University of Alberta Powerlifting Club. Asfandyar is also the upcoming VP Internal for the University of Alberta's Jack.org chapter, and spends time volunteering at the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre. In his free time, Asfandyar can be seen spending time with friends and family, getting ice cream, or doing both at the same time.