

Update: Youth Council / Next Gen

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| Initiative Title: | Youth Council / Next Gen |
| City Council Lead(s): | Councillor Iverson and Councillor Krushell |
| Department Lead(s): | Lyall Brenneis, Community Services |

Objective:

Child Friendly Edmonton is comprised of Child Friendly Edmonton Strategy and Edmonton Youth Council.

City of Edmonton Youth Council Committee was formed in 1996 through an innovative project. The idea of a youth council was first brought forth by the Mayor's Task Force on Safer Cities. The council is composed of youth from diverse backgrounds between the ages of 13-23. The first City of Edmonton Youth Council was inaugurated on February 15, 1995. Bylaw 14126, City of Edmonton Youth Council Bylaw outlines the mandate, mission, function, and role of Youth Council.

The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) operates in a dynamic, collaborative and mentorship role. A climate has been created that encourages creative thinking, opportunities to discover new ideas/projects and acceptance of everyone.

- 2011 – 2012 season, 35 members. 20 returning members, 45 new applicants. 800+ volunteer hours
- 2012 – 2013 season, 38 members. 31 returning members, 7 new members chosen out of 60 applicants, 1000+ volunteer hours

In a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, Child Friendly Edmonton and City of Edmonton Youth Council works with citizens, community groups and orders of government to create the best possible results for children and their families in the following five areas;

1. To ensure children and youth have a voice, influence and understanding of responsibility to themselves and others.
2. Children and youth feel safe and are protected.
3. Children and youth join in and participate freely.
4. Children and youth play, have fun, make friends and develop skills.
5. Children and youth feel welcome and respected and have a sense of belonging.

Edmonton NextGen is an Initiative of the City of Edmonton that was created in 2006. It involves an Administrative Committee that brings together community members and representatives from all City of Edmonton Departments.

There is also a core team of volunteers from all walks of life and varied backgrounds working to implement the NextGen initiative and help give voice to Edmonton's future.

- 2012 season, 38 members. 900+ volunteer hours
- 2013 season, 70 members. 1100+ volunteer hours

Edmonton NextGen will reach its mission of: we are creating a city that attracts and gives voice to the Next Generation in the life and growth of our community. NextGen is a hub for connecting people, places, community and ideas together through their working groups, Ignite, Voice, Pecha Kucha, Communications and Sustainability.

Key Outcomes, Projects or Activities and their Status as of May 2013:

Child Friendly Edmonton and Youth Council

Goal: *Advocate & Advise City Council and City Departments on issues that affect Children and Youth*

1. A Voice for Edmonton's Children
2. Inform, share research findings such as; Out of School Care, After school hours (ARPA After school agenda & ARPA Stone Soup) (ongoing)
3. Input and support to Child Friendly, CEYC (City of Edmonton Youth Council) site development, CEYC social media (Twitter, Facebook) (ongoing)
4. CEYC provides meaningful youth input and facilitates participation in municipal politics. This is seen through their annual 'Mock Council' where youth council members take on the role of City Councillors to debate and pass motions on issues that are current and resonate with youth. Mock council occurred in April 2012 and 2013 with help from City Clerk office and hosted by Councillor Iveson's office.
5. 'My Edmonton' writing contest was held in May 2013. CEYC partnered with Edmonton Journal and held a contest open to Junior High and High school students who were new to Edmonton to write about their experiences as a newcomer. There were 45 submissions in total. Stories raised an awareness of what it was like to be new to Edmonton through the eyes of youth.
6. Partnership opportunities with CBC, AMA, AXE Music and BEAR in celebration for Youth Week, May 1 – 7; Distractive Driving Campaign & video, Battle of The Bands.

Goal: *Provide networking opportunities*

1. Presentations about Engaging Youth at the Civic level and Youth Council to City Hall schools, community organizations, schools and fairs (ongoing as requested)
2. Partnerships with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Boys and Girls Club, Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School Board, Child & Youth organizations, United Way, Success By 6 and Province on OST (Out of School Time) and National Child Day activities.

3. Youth Council developed lesson plan and video called 'Project Vocalize' which reached 80 Junior High students from Vernon Barford and Ottwell Junior High School. Focus was on civic engagement. Activities included; a student debate on issues affecting youth and civic engagement.
4. Youth Council partnered with City of Edmonton Human Resource department to put on Youth Career Symposium (February 2013) 300 youth attended from the community and Strathcona Youth Co-op and other cultural organizations.

Goal: *Strive to improve accessibility for all children and youth so that they have the choice and opportunity to join in and participate freely*

1. Partnerships with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Boys and Girls Club, Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School Board, Child and Youth organizations, REACH at the OST table.
2. CEYC created a 'Recreation subcommittee' to enhance the awareness of the importance of physical literacy and a healthy lifestyle. Recreation opportunities and events held at WEM.
3. The City of Edmonton Youth Council hosted a movie screening of 'Bully' the movie and made it free to youth. 300 youth took advantage of the movie screening. A facilitated discussion followed the movie screen was lead by CEYC members.

Goal: *Provide Training to both Internal and External staff on best practices to engage children and youth through programming opportunities*

1. Kids At Hope, HOPEOLOGY – an initiative on how we can increase resiliency in children and youth through adult interaction.
2. High Five, Principles of Healthy Child Development - 100 Principles of Healthy Child Development (PHCD)
3. Youth Week with kick-off/wrap up events each year (annual)
4. Coordinating National Child Day (November 20), Youth Week (May 1-7)

Edmonton NextGen

Goal: *NextGen consistently and proactively speaks out with credibility on issues relevant to the NextGen*

1. Annual Council and CLT mixers.
2. Pecha Kucha night 15 drew in 800 participants with partnership from Northlands, Graphos, Capital Power.

Goal: *NextGen builds strategic partnerships so we are the central 'hub' for the next generation.*

1. Communications to support NextGen month and other partner activities. Develop partnership guidelines. Manage partnership database. Support and attend partner events.
2. Continue to incubate social ideas through pollinator called #ideas4yeg. DIYalogue on gaming in January 2013.
3. Ex-officio position created held for a representative from EEDC, CEYC on the NextGen committee.
4. Worked with Uof A project students on a 'measurement survey' of NextGen.

Goal: *NextGen accelerates social, community and cultural ideas.*

1. Nextgeners Blog about topics from committee presenters. Provided cliff notes online for relevant policy and strategy documents.
2. Commented on Food & Agricultural Strategy, Growth Coordination Strategy, Civic Precinct, Light Up The Bridge & Cultural Campus Project.

Goal: *We build our capacity (money, resources and membership) and diversity to expand our reach.*

1. Hosted partnership meetings and NextGen month.
2. Communications supported NextGen month and other partner activities. Support and attend partner events.
3. Held micro-funding through MEAET.

Future Steps:

Work to complete these goals is ongoing and will continue through the 2013-2014 planning and budget Cycle. Projects, events and activities currently in various stages of planning and execution for the remainder of 2013 included;

Child Friendly Edmonton and Youth Council

Goal: *Advocate & Advise City Council and City Departments on issues that affect Children and Youth*

1. A Voice for Edmonton's Children
2. Child Friendly Strategy Review with a focus on the development of a Youth Strategy
3. Child Minding program review.

Goal: *Provide networking opportunities*

1. OST (Out of School Time) and National Child Day activities.
2. 'Project Vocalize' in High schools, June 2013.
3. Presenting at Combat Crime and looking at a project to combat crime.

Goal: *Provide Training to both Internal and External staff on best practices to engage children and youth through programming opportunities*

1. Implement Child Friendly training.
2. High Five, Principles of Healthy Child Development - 100 Principles of Healthy Child Development (PHCD) training to community partners, internal staff at OST Conference.
3. Coordinating National Child Day (November 20)

Edmonton NextGen

Goal: *NextGen consistently and proactively speaks out with credibility on issues relevant to the NextGen*

1. Will continue to build communication tools, Website, social media. Will also produce NextGen editorials
2. Will select topics, items for NextGen to express opinion on.
3. Will review NextGen's network and identify demographic gaps.
4. Establish a public involvement toolkit to reach stakeholders quickly. Lower barriers to entry.
5. Partnership development through election platform development. Development of an election App.

Goal: *NextGen builds strategic partnerships so we are the central 'hub' for the next generation.*

1. Host partnership meetings, define Terms of Reference for definition of partnership and maintenance. Develop partnership database and HUB map. Continue with web update, annual report, committee liaisons and NextGen month.
2. Pecha Kucha to host first Canadian-wide Pecha Kucha, October 2013.
3. Communications to support NextGen month and other partner activities. Develop partnership guidelines. Manage partnership database. Support and attend partner events.
4. Ignite will continue to incubate social ideas through pollinator called #ideas4yeg. Continue developing and promoting DIYalogue, 2/year. Continue micro-funding through MEAET, 3/year

Goal: *NextGen accelerates social, community and cultural ideas.*

1. Will continue to create opportunities for people to connect. Will build NextGen capacity to develop new ideas.
2. Will Blog about topics from committee presenters. Provide cliff notes online for relevant policy and strategy documents.

Goal: *We build our capacity (money, resources and membership) and diversity to expand our reach.*

1. NextGen to host first Canadian-wide Pecha Kucha.