



City of Dallas

Youth Strategic Planning Update

**Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee
November 17th, 2025**

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Presentation Overview



City of Dallas Youth
Programming and
Background



Dallas Youth Insights



Youth Strategic Plan
Priorities



Youth Strategic
Planning Partners



Next Steps



Dallas Youth Commissioners at opening of community closet
Credit: City of Dallas

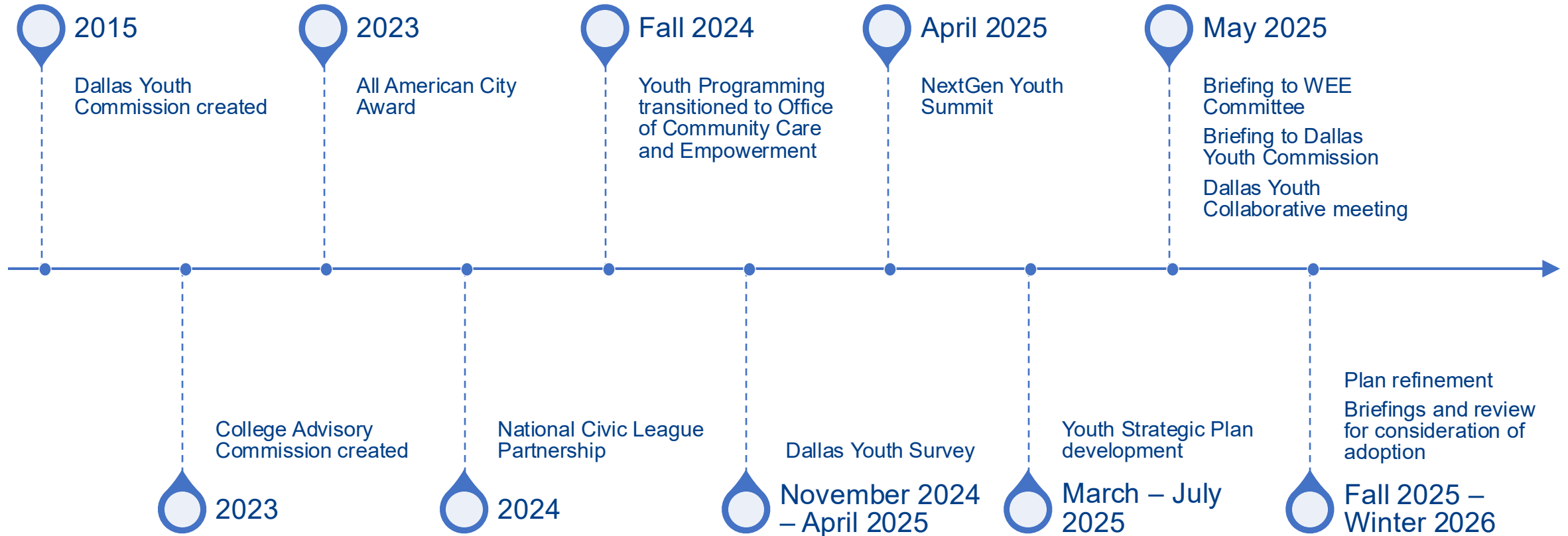




Youth Programming and Background



Youth Engagement Background



Youth Strategic Plan Process



Review data from Dallas Youth Survey, Dallas Youth Commission, demographics and need, NextGen Roundtable insights, and Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative Strategic Plan



Compile information on all City youth-focused or youth-targeted programs



Align around strategic priorities that fit the role, function and strengths of the City of Dallas



Development of Draft Strategic Plan with input from numerous City departments, as well as several core strategic partners



Feedback on identified priorities from Workforce Education and Equity Committee, Dallas Youth Commission and College Advisory Commission members



Planning and goalsetting session(s) and conversations with Dallas Youth Collaborative partners



Final approval / adoption Winter 2026



Youth Programming Alignment



Youth Strategic Plan Priority	Youth Perspective Area	Aligned Drivers of Opportunity	City Operational Priority	City Foundational Structure
• Youth Safety and Resilience	• Socioeconomic Challenges • School and Neighborhood Safety	• Crime Prevention • Safety from Crime • Trust-based Community Policing	• Public Safety • Homelessness and Housing	• Safe • Vibrant • Growing • Livable
• Youth Opportunity and Economic Mobility	• Socioeconomic Challenges • Advanced Education and Employment	• Economic Opportunity & Growth • Effective Public Education • College Preparedness • Digital Access • Strong Workforce Development	• Targeted Economic Growth	• Vibrant • Growing • Livable • Sustainable
• Youth Civic Engagement and Infrastructure	• Civic and Community Engagement • Recreation, Outdoor Activities and Environment • Transportation	• Active Civic Participation & Engagement • Welcoming Public Spaces & Vibrant Community Life	• Basic City Services	• Livable • Sustainable • Fiscally Sound • Core



Youth Programming within City of Dallas



- Housing and Community Empowerment (HCE)
 - Youth Commission (YC)
 - College Advisory Commission (CAC)
 - Youth Safety Collaborative
 - Dallas Youth Collaborative
 - Youth Intervention/ Urban Specialist
 - Youth Intervention/Youth Guidance
 - The GEMS Camp (Girls interested in Engineering, Mathematics, & Science)
 - TOPS (Teens Organized & Prepared for Success)
 - Youth Navigation (TIPS)



Dallas Youth Commission at an outreach event
Credit: City of Dallas



Youth Programming within City of Dallas Continued



- **Dallas Park and Recreation (PKR)**
 - Out of School time
 - Youth Sports Programming
 - Outdoor Adventures at Samuell Farm
- **Dallas Public Library (DPL)**
 - Early Literacy Programs and Outreach
 - K-12 Learning and Connection
- **Office of Arts and Culture (OAC)**
 - Out Loud Dallas art classes & showcases
 - Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra - orchestra classes & concerts
 - Junior Players theater productions
 - Big Thought art classes & showcases
 - Orpheus Chamber Singers vocal lessons
 - Camp Metalhead
 - Dallas Children's Theater "Teen Scene"



Youth Programming within City of Dallas Continued



- Dallas Police Department (DPD)

- Youth Programs
- Police Activity League (PAL)
- Junior Police Academy
- Dallas Police Explorers/Jr. Explorers/ Blue in the School/P-Tech

- Dallas Municipal Court

- Diversion Program
- Teen Court

**CALLING ALL
TEENS!**



TEEN COURT

The City of Dallas is looking for energetic Teen Volunteers to participate in our 2023-2024 Teen Court Program! This is a great opportunity to receive community service hours while serving in a leadership role as a Judge, Jury, Bailiff, Prosecutor or Defense Attorney. Teens between the ages of 13-17 can participate.

**COME JOIN US!!!
For Our Monthly**



When:

Typically, Every 3rd
Thursday of the month
From 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Where:

Municipal Court Building
2014 Main St.
Dallas, Tx 75201

How to register:

shanda.daniels@dallas.gov





Dallas Youth Insights

Summary of input received from youth survey and events



Demographics of Dallas Youth



Demographic Estimates - City of Dallas Youth and Young Adults

City of Dallas Youth and Young Adult Population (14-24 years)	194,080
Percentage American Indian Alaska Native Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	1%
Percentage Asian Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	3%
Percentage Black African American Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	20%
Percentage Other or Multiple Race Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	36%
Percentage White Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	38%
Percentage Hispanic or Latino Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	55%
Percentage of Children Under 18 Years Old with Family Income Below Poverty	25%
Percentage of Youth and Young Adults in Poverty (14-24 years)	22%
Percentage of City Householders Under 25 Years Old	6%
Median Income of Householders Under 25 Years Old	\$42,440
Percentage of Householders Under 25 Years Old with Annual Income Less Than \$50,000	57%

Source : Estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023) American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables for Ages 14-24; Under 25 Years Old; Children Under 18 Years Old. "Dallas City, Texas." <https://data.census.gov/all?g=160XX00US4819000>



Dallas Youth Survey Results



Developed by staff and Dallas Youth Commission, with support from National Civic League, the Dallas Youth Survey was launched in October 2024.

- Over 4,300 responses received
- Survey aligned around 6 key areas:
 - Community and Civic Engagement
 - Recreation, Outdoor Activities and Environment
 - Socioeconomic Challenges
 - Transportation
 - Advanced Education and Employment
 - School and Neighborhood Safety



Key Findings: Community and Civic Engagement



Community and Civic Engagement

Government, politics and civic issues:

- Most respondents report a moderate, yet genuine, interest in government, politics and civic issues
- 54% of respondents state they never or rarely engage in political discussions

Areas of interest:

- 87% said they care about reducing poverty
- 25% believe climate change is a very big issue, and 53% said that climate change is a major issue but not the biggest

Local/National Political Representation:

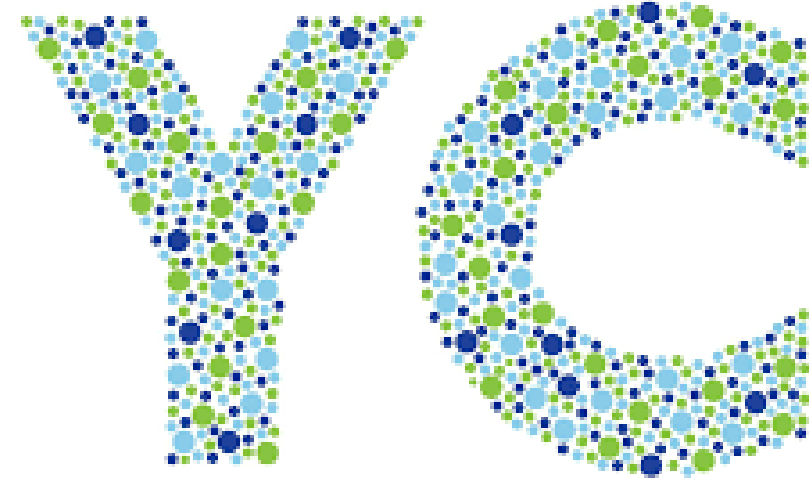
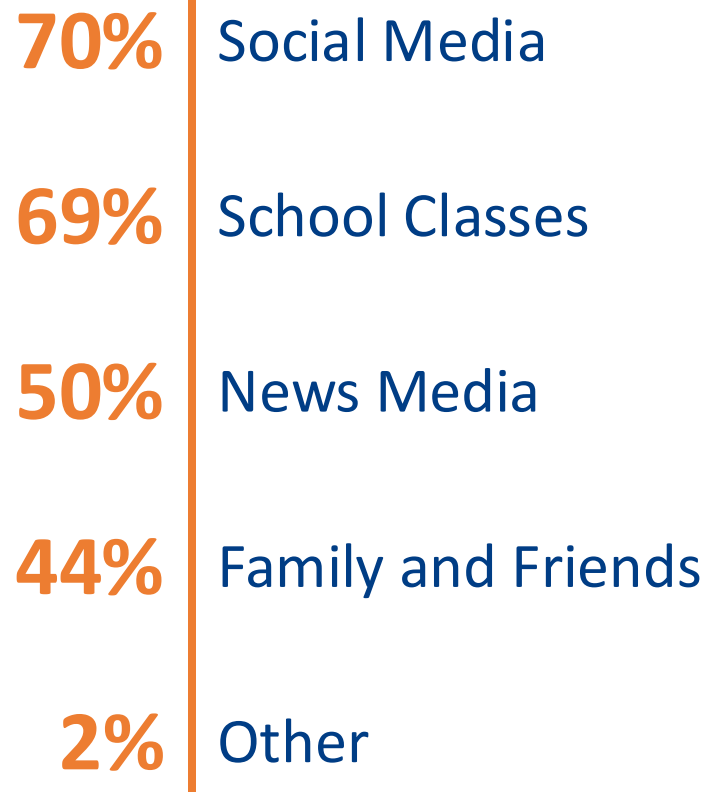
- 40% do not know their council district
- 76% do not know their Congressional district
- 48% said they were somewhat familiar with their elected officials and 6% said they were very familiar



Where do you learn about government, politics and civic issues?



Total percentage of respondents who selected (respondents were able to select multiple):



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City of Dallas



Key Finding: Recreation and Outdoor Activities



Recreation and Outdoor Activities

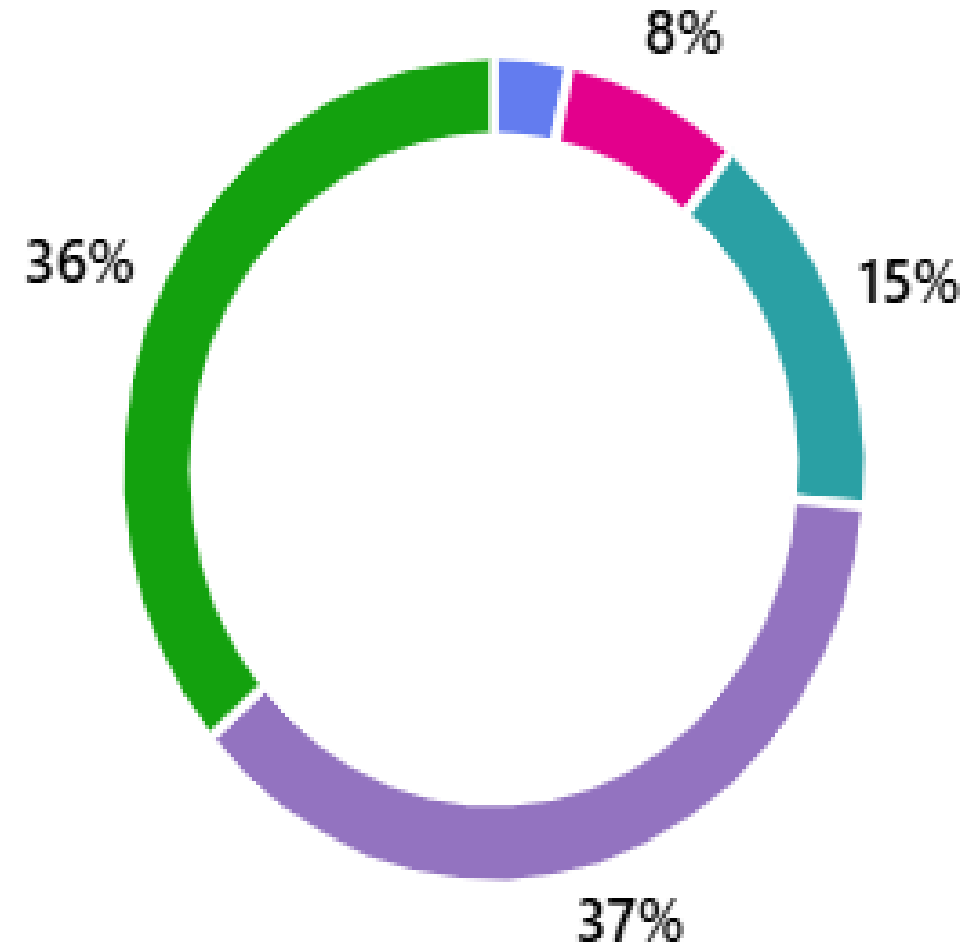
- 27% state they visit parks, lakes and trails in their communities weekly
- Respondents highlighted chess, gaming, STEAM, summer sports camps, more fitness activities, and more athletic activities like pickleball, volleyball, ping pong, boxing, etc. as activities they would like to see offered at recreation centers



How often do you go to recreation centers in your community?



● Daily	143
● Weekly	338
● Monthly	672
● Rarely	1632
● Never	1582



Key Findings: Socioeconomic Challenges



Socioeconomic Challenges

- 55% reported being directly or indirectly impacted by poverty
- 34% reported having experienced or known someone who experienced homelessness or housing insecurity

Taking on adult responsibilities

- 31% reported they regularly translate for parents who are non-English speakers
- 16% reported working part time jobs to help cover household expenses
- 10% reported that they help pay bills or help manage family finances

Hardships

- 6% report occasionally skipping meals due to food insecurity
- 5% report dealing with unreliable utilities at home (e.g., water, electric)
- 4% reported moving frequently due to unaffordable housing



Key Findings: Transportation



Transportation

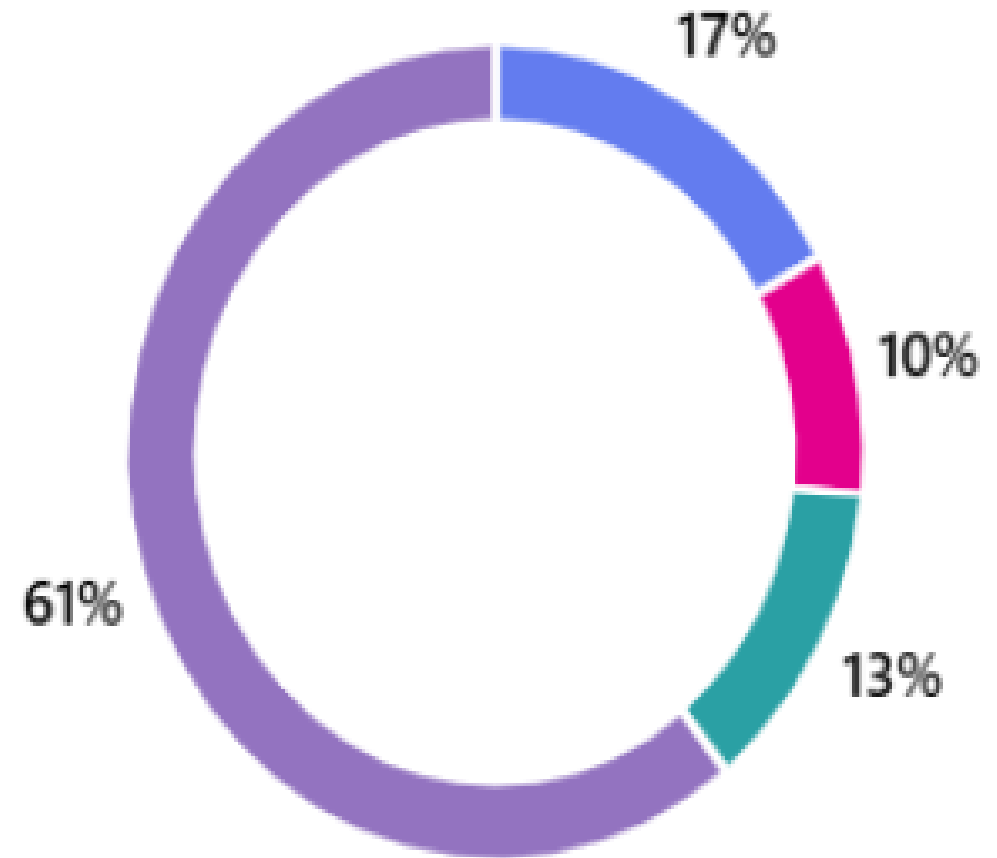
- 31% of youth respondents believe that it is very important to ensure public transit is accessible and available to teens in the community
- 28% use public transit for work, school and errands
- 27% reported discomfort using public transit, citing safety concerns as the primary reason



How often do you use public transportation?



● Daily	744
● Weekly	419
● Monthly	552
● Yearly	2652





Advanced Education and Employment

- Most respondents have plans for after high school
 - 57% plan to further their education
 - 13% plan to enter the workforce
- 57% said they have support from parents or guardians to pursue educational goals



Dallas Youth Commissioners
Credit: City of Dallas



Do you know how to prepare a resume?



● Yes	2148
● No	2219



Key Findings: School and Neighborhood Safety



School and Neighborhood Safety

Youth expressed a variety of concerns related to community and school safety

Primary issues in neighborhoods

- Dirty streets and sidewalks
- Unsafe streets and sidewalks
- Maintenance of public spaces
- 54% believe better streetlights could improve safety
- 36% believe increased policing could improve safety
- 34% believe more youth programs could improve safety
- Generally, respondents report feeling safe in school environments, noting security measures like guards, cameras and metal detectors as contributing safety
- 57% believe that better student support and resources could improve safety



- 250 high school students in attendance from
- Partnership with Close Up Foundation and National Civic League, sponsored by Communities Foundation of Texas, the Hersh Foundation, and Kathy and Harlan Crow
- Key insights: As a part of the session, youth were asked to prioritize key areas of focus and they ranked the below areas.
 1. Civic Engagement: Increasing civic learning and civic engagement opportunities for young people.
 2. Climate Change: Reducing carbon emissions from industry.
 3. Homelessness: Boosting employment opportunities, followed closely by enacting Housing First programs
 4. Public and School Safety: Increasing police presence.
 5. Public Transportation: Ensuring reliability, safety, fares are paid, and the user experience is reliable and positive.



Youth Strategic Plan Background and Inputs

The City's Role as an Anchor Institution



- City of Dallas is a key community anchor institution
- Convening Power – the City can partner with and align with other anchor institutions and community-based organizations
- Dallas Youth Collaborative – collaborative of youth-serving organizations launched in November 2024 to convene youth serving organizations and anchors
- Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative – grew out of NLC partnership for Reimagining Municipal Public Safety, led by Lone Star Justice Alliance



- Targeting ages 12-24
- Organization-wide document focused on defining role of the City within the youth services ecosystem
- Relies on the City as an anchor institution rather than a primary service provider (services provided by City must align with City operational priorities)



Youth Strategic Planning Priorities

Strategic Plan Priorities and Focus Areas



Priority 1: Youth Safety and Resilience	Priority 2: Youth Opportunity and Economic Mobility	Priority 3: Youth Civic Infrastructure and Engagement
1.1 - Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative Strategic Plan	2.1 - Reach Youth Citywide by Expanding and Aligning City Resources	3.1 - City of Dallas Commissions
1.2 - Data-Driven Youth and Violence Prevention	2.2 - Advance Mentorship and Workforce Development Opportunities	3.2 - Youth Engagement
1.3 - Wraparound Support for Youth and Families	2.3 - Unlocking "Opportunity Youth" Potential	3.3 - Volunteerism and Civic Engagement
	2.4 - Digital Skills and Digital Access	
	2.5 - Bridging Financial Empowerment from Generation to Generation	

Priority 1: Youth Safety and Resilience



Focus Areas:

1. Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative Strategic Plan – align with Lone Star Justice Alliance as backbone for implementation of YSCSP
2. Data-Driven Youth Safety and Violence Prevention
3. Wraparound Support for Youth and Families



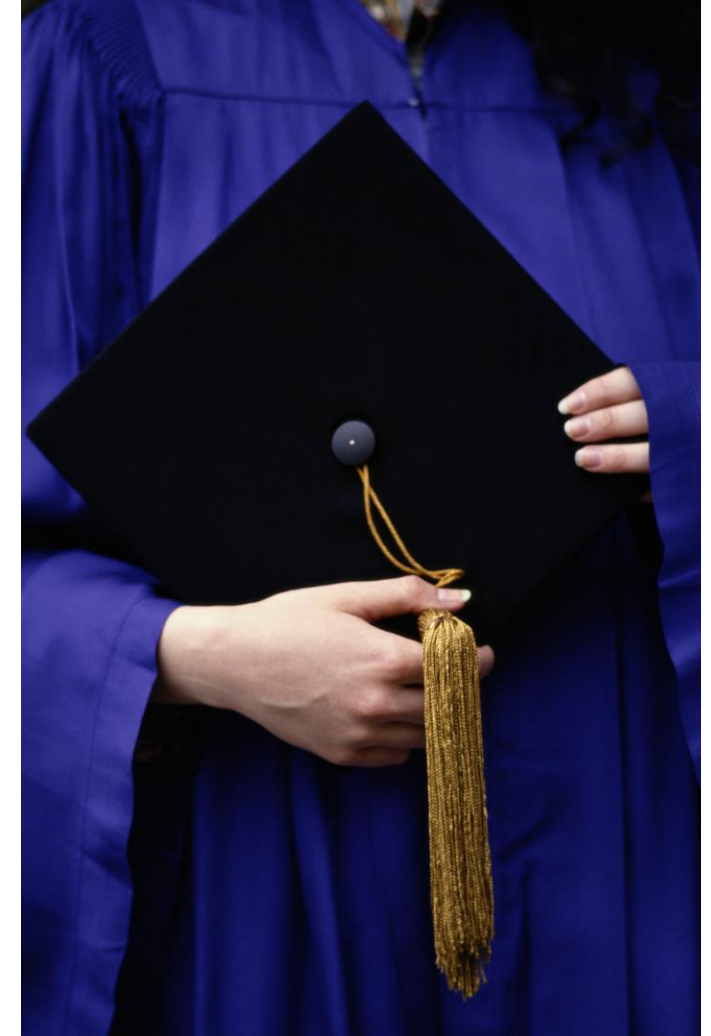
Dallas youth participate in a scavenger hunt in the emergency ops center at City Hall
Credit: City of Dallas

Priority 2: Youth Opportunity and Economic Mobility



Focus Areas:

1. Reach Youth Citywide by expanding and aligning City resources
2. Advance Mentorship and Workforce Development Opportunities
3. Unlocking “Opportunity Youth” Potential
4. Digital Skills and Digital Access
5. Bridging Financial Empowerment from Generation to Generation



Priority 3: Youth Civic Infrastructure and Engagement



Focus Areas:

1. City of Dallas Commissions
2. Youth Engagement
3. Volunteerism and Civic Engagement



Dallas Youth Commissioners at an outreach event
Credit: City of Dallas

Upcoming Youth Investment: Data-Driven Youth Safety / Violence Interrupters



- \$300,000 appropriated for nonprofit subrecipients in an Upcoming CDBG-funded NOFA (annual plan and appropriation approved by City Council on DATE via Res 25 -####)
- Alignment:
 - Youth Strategic Plan – Priority 1: Youth Safety and Resilience
 - Drivers of Opportunity
 - Domain: Public Safety and Wellbeing
 - Domain: Opportunity-Rich Neighborhood
 - Domain: High Quality Education
- NOFA will be released by end of November 2026
- Seeing a subrecipient administrator to contract with and providing funding to multiple community-based organizations to provide the services below:
 - Enrichment Programming, Workshops and Skills Development
 - Youth re-engagement
 - Parent and family support
 - Teen Centers
 - Credible messenger programs
 - Victim support programs
 - Physical safety and well-being
 - Other programming identified to have a positive impact on youth safety



Youth Programming Partners

Internal & External Planning Partners



Dallas Public
LIBRARY



**Emergency
Management &
Crisis Response**



**Human
Resources**



Junior
AchievementTM
of Dallas



**Park &
Recreation**

SMU



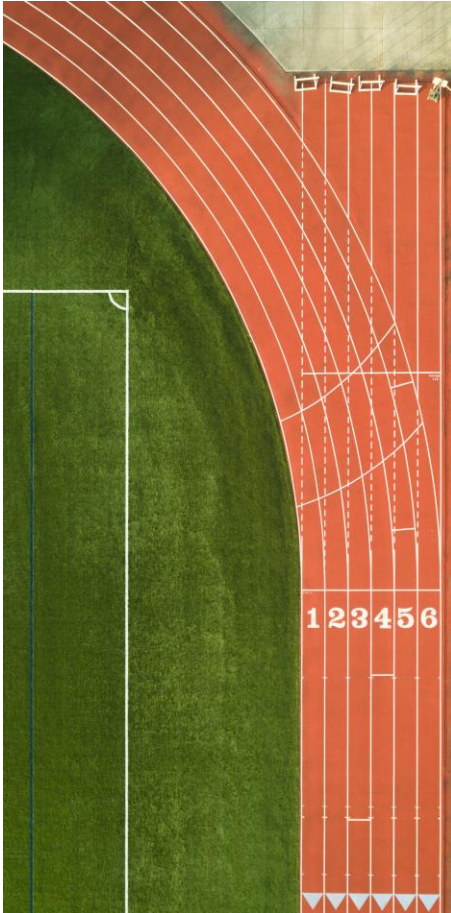
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Next Steps

NEXT STEPS



- ✓ Feedback from Workforce, Education and Equity Committee
- ✓ Feedback from Dallas Youth Commission
- ✓ Feedback from College Advisory Commission members
- ✓ Integrate insights from Youth Summit
- ✓ Reconvene Dallas Youth Collaborative for plan discussions
- + Feedback from Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee
- Plan refinement based on feedback
- Final adoption – Winter 2026



City of Dallas

Youth Strategic Planning Update

**Quality of Life, Arts and
Culture Committee
10/14/2025**

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