



Re13

2013 Report on the Youth Plan

Youth Plan Vision

Mississauga is a youth and young adult friendly city that is respectful, inclusive and forward thinking; a city where youth are meaningfully engaged and thrive as equal members of the community.

Guiding Values



Our Five Principles

Becoming “youth friendly” means making the City’s policies, programs, services, and facilities more inclusive and responsive to the needs and interests of youth. To that extent we have divided our Plan into five clear principles that will guide us forward.

1. Transportation

Public transit is an essential service for youth

2. Program Delivery

All youth have the opportunity to be active in diverse programs, utilize public spaces and develop skills

3. Youth Engagement

The contribution of young people in community decision-making, program development and public policy is valued and reflective of the diverse youth population

4. Social Responsibility

Youth are involved in achieving social responsibility.

5. Partnerships

Youth friendly communities are built on respectful youth and adult partnerships



1. Transportation

- 5 year freeze on student bus fares extended to 2014
- 26 dedicated school routes, two more than in 2012/2013
- 22 high schools participated in the MiWay Ambassador Program for the 2013/2014 school year; represents double the number of schools participating since the first year of the program
- 2 college/university marketing students employed to support MiWay promotions for both fall/winter terms and 5 for the summer term
- 88 youth events attended by MiWay staff
- 55 events at secondary schools and 7 post-secondary school events engaged in MiWay outreach
- 10 per cent increase in student ridership over the past three years

2. Program Delivery

- over 380 no cost, drop-in youth programs and events delivered
- youth website, Facebook and sauga Twitter increased awareness of volunteer opportunities, programs and events
- Wal-Mart continued to subsidize afterschool drop-in programming that offers youth activities such as basketball, dance, art and IQ homework clubs
- over 84,000 youth (aged 10-24) visits in drop-in programs and events
- 3,660 youth volunteers provided 36,940 hours of time to support drop-in programs and events





3. Youth Engagement

- Youth Plan budget of \$257,100 reached 18 service provider hubs in community centres and libraries, each of which reports successes quarterly through the Recreation Division
- 213 youth advisory meetings held with 1,283 youth who volunteered over 3,000 hours
- Mississauga Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) became an affiliated group under the Community Group Support Program
- MYAC operated for the first time as a “not-for-profit” affiliated group in the Recreation Division serving as a city-wide advisory team that acts as a resource and conduit for youth groups and individual youth to promote the well-being of youth in Mississauga.

- MYAC hosted the Youth Achievement Awards in May 2013 with 119 people in attendance. Four youth received awards in the categories of leadership, contribution to their community and outstanding young citizen award
- Third annual Youth Connect 2013 on Mississauga Celebration Square attracted 10,000 youth throughout the day and evening. 36 youth agency booths included: Canada’s winning robotics team and activity stations, street table tennis, street basketball, street jump rope, art in the park, skateboarding games, minute to win it, open mic, Emcee, local live bands, 3 BMX stunt shows, a flash mob marching band in the fountain and an internationally acclaimed concert by Classified
- City of Mississauga employees were trained in the Ontario Disability Act and Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations





4. Social Responsibility

- Unity Charity expanded their after school artistic/educator/mentorship program to 5 high schools in Mississauga. Unity's after school program attracted youth from very diverse backgrounds and interests at no cost
- Over 200 youth serving agencies received in-kind support from City resources to expand locations and diversify youth programming across Mississauga such as Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood's Newcomer Youth programs, Global 180 Merge Youth Centre, Nexus Youth Centre, Citizens For The Advancement of Community Development after school drop-in programs and Erin Mills Youth Centre after school programs
- Ten major youth events on Mississauga Celebration Square connected 163,700 youth from across the city. Events supported by 546 youth volunteers contributing a total of 2,622 volunteer hours
- Peel Children and Youth Initiative released the Recreation After School Strategy (RASS) report. Its research supports and recommends accessible recreation opportunities in the after school hours. As a result, community centres are targeting to deliver drop-in after school programming 5 days a week during the school year

- Recreation's Active Assist Program provided service and financial assistance to a maximum number of families, children and youth (8,000) for the fifth year in a row

5. Partnerships

- The Recreation and Culture Divisions collaborated to create Rebel13 a unique identity for Mississauga to celebrate two national campaigns: National Youth Week and National Youth Art Weeks from May 1 to 7. Mississauga was the only city in Canada to create a unique brand and delivered the highest number of events
- Rebel13 delivered 58 youth-led events, engaged over 200 young artists, 130 youth volunteers and community youth in a wide variety of activities from hip hop, spoken word, first nations pow wow, henna tattoo's, pool party, basketball, skateboarding, live bands, twitter/calligraphy mural, teen dances and youth achievement awards
- Recreation, Culture, Corporate Security and Sheridan College partnered for a 2nd year to place 25 Police Foundation student volunteers as public safety representatives on Mississauga Celebration Square
- The Recreation Division and Nexus Youth Centre partnered to deliver drop-in youth events including a street basketball game between 25 youth and security staff, 42 youth attended Black History month and 50 youth attended the Thanksgiving feast open mic night in the glass pavilion on Mississauga Celebration Square.
- In March 2013, Mississauga received gold level recognition as a youth friendly community from Play Works: The Ontario Partnership for Active and Engaged Youth
- 19 community centre/arenas had the Youth Friendly logo painted on the entrance walls as a symbol of Mississauga's commitment to being youth friendly

Youth Movement in 2013-2014

- Continue to develop and enhance the recommendations in the Recreation After School Strategy to increase drop-in after school programming in all community centres and diversify activities in sport, arts, digital, literary, social media that will appeal to a wide range of youth
- Continue to grow Rebel week to promote awareness and the significance of Mississauga's youth friendly community status
- Expand the Sheridan College Police Foundation student internship to other locations in Mississauga to provide diverse experiences for students
- Continue to support and engage the Mississauga Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) to provide a voice for youth in Mississauga



Gold Youth Friendly Community

Mississauga is a great place for youth. This is proven by the City's Gold Youth Friendly Community Builder Designation from Playworks. Mississauga was celebrated for formally connecting youth to the community, providing options for play and facilities specifically designed and dedicated to youth. Youth polled as part of the application process felt they belong and thrive in the community.

What is Playworks?

The Playworks Program acknowledges great work being done by communities to ensure their youth (ages 13-19) have continuous access to a diversity of 'play' (play being anything a young person does in his/her free time which could include: sport, recreation, drama, dance, music, the arts, volunteerism, leadership development, service leadership and/or civic engagement).

For more information:

For a copy of the Youth Plan or to stay informed about youth organizations and activities in Mississauga, please visit **mississauga.ca/portal/residents/youth** or email **Youth.Plan@mississauga.ca**

