



2015-16
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.



2. Program Delivery

- 200 + no cost drop in youth programs per year
- 250 + free youth events per year
- Sauga At Play is at all 11 community centres 5 days a week
- Lunch time Sauga At Play Malton and South Common
- Community centre lobby furniture/games tables create youth friendly spaces
- 100,000 youth 10 to 24 year old participating in free drop in programs and events supported by Youth Plan
- 3,800 youth volunteers provided 11,801 hours supporting Youth Plan initiatives

1. Transportation

- 26 high schools participate in the MiWay Ambassador Program
- Student bus fare freeze continued from 2011
- Rented bus to transport youth to Mississauga Valley basketball every week
- 14 post- secondary marketing students employed to support MiWay outreach
- 60+ youth events attended by MiWay ambassadors in 2016
- Over 6,000 12-14 yrs old got Freedom Passes to ride free
- 15 dedicated high school bus routes in addition to regular MiWay Routes





- MYAC monthly Connects are themed to develop positive youth development that support Competence, Confidence, Caring and Character. Monthly Connects are held at Civic Centre and average over 65 high school students in attendance
- MYAC organizes and hosts the yearly Youth Achievement Awards in the following categories: Youth Citizen of the Year, Mayor's Leadership Award and Sponsored Community Citizenship Award. TD Bank donated their "green branch" as the host location
- Yearly Sauga Block Party, Pride Parade, Rock The Coliseum youth events on Celebration Square combines street sports, street art, music, advocacy attracting over 5,000 youth each
- 11 part time Youth Engagement Mentors hired for each community centre/library to foster a youth friendly centre that is responsive to the needs of youth.
- Local skateboarders identified need for skateboard park in their neighbourhood and were successful in having the Union Park 459 built to their specifications.

3. Youth Engagement

- Annual Youth Plan budget of \$350K to support 29 service provider hubs in community centres, libraries and central administration.
- Yearly donations total \$90K to support after school programs.
- Mississauga became High Five accredited
- 198 youth advisory meetings with community centre and library teams
- 3,343 youth participated on community centre and library youth teams
- Mississauga Youth Action Committee (MYAC) provide valuable volunteers for various events such as Dancing with the Stars fundraiser for The Community Foundation, judges for Legends Row inductions, Our Place Peel youth homeless shelter.





4. Social Responsibility

- Unity Charity expanded their after school Share Our Spirit program to four Mississauga high schools
- 216 youth agencies and groups received in kind support from the city, including program and event space as well as staff assistance to hold a wide range of youth related events, meetings and programs
- 13 major youth events on Celebration Square connected 147,200 youth from across the city supported by 270 youth volunteers and 1,600 volunteer hours
- Active Assist Program provided service and financial assistance to a maximum number of clients (8,000) for the eighth year in a row including a special event where 50 Syrian refugees were signed up
- Children in Care were provided Leader In Training at no cost
- Youth Advisory Groups at libraries and community centre continue to do yearly food bank donations and volunteerism

5. Partnerships

- Rebel Week (National Youth Week) May 1-8 Mississauga with over 250 youth led events including a special Pan Am kick-off event that attracted 2,000 school youth to Celebration Square
- Youth Plan forges over 250 partnerships with schools, churches and youth serving agencies to deliver and connect with youth in our community i.e.: Boys and Girls Club , Nexus Youth Services, Newcomer Centre of Peel, Centre For Skills and Development , The Dam, Dixie Bloor and Malton Neighborhood Services
- Nexus Youth Centre, Youth Plan and Unity Charity received 3 year Trillium Grant to support The Hub; a free weekly drop in space where leader/mentors from various artistic backgrounds engage teens in positive youth development through the 5 elements of hip hop; spoken word, dance, emcee, DJ and beatboxing
- Million dollar multi-court park built and funded in priority neighbourhood in partnership with Maple Leaf Sports, Jump Start Peel Region, City, Erin Mills Youth Centre, Peel Police. Local youth will be trained and hired to become peer-to-peer mentors
- Youth Friendly Community window decals installed at every Mississauga high school; all City owned recreation buildings have the Youth Friendly Community logo painted at the entranceway
- Mississauga and Peel Region partnered to provide opportunity to 10 youth into co-op placements in various departments
- Walmart and Pepsi have provided funding for 10 consecutive years and recently renewed their commitment to continuing funds towards free after school programming for teens

Youth Movement beyond 2016

- Evaluate successes/impact of new Youth Mentor positions and get approval to support these positions through yearly budget
- Champion Self-Regulation for professionals serving youth in Peel through comprehensive “train the trainer” program
- Continue to live, work and play as a Youth Friendly Community



Youth Friendly Community

Mississauga is a great place for youth and recognized through Playworks as a Youth Friendly Community who formally connects youth, providing options for play with facilities designed and dedicated for youth. Youth surveyed feel they belong and thrive in Mississauga.

What is Playworks?

The Playworks Program works to acknowledge the great work communities are doing to ensure youth (ages 13-19) have continuous access to diverse ‘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 e-mail Youth.Plan@mississauga.ca



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