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## **NYC SERVICE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SUMMIT SHOWCASES YEAR OF COMMUNITY ASSET BUILDING**



*Largest Municipal Youth Leadership Program in the Nation and First Summit Since 2019, Returns with 1,500 Youth and 115 Independent Groups Participating Across All Five Boroughs*

**NEW YORK** — NYC Service’s Youth Leadership Council Summit returned for the first time since 2019 to celebrate the culmination of service by 1,500 youth in communities with the support of community organizations and City agencies. This year, NYC Service Youth Leadership Councils (YLCs) rebounded to pre-pandemic engagement levels with more than 115 independent groups participating across the five boroughs — the largest municipal youth leadership program in the nation. During the summit hosted at NYPD Headquarters, the network of citywide YLCs presented community asset maps and action plans to Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell, and Chancellor David C. Banks, as well as other City leaders for feedback and consideration.

“Let’s recognize the leadership, the community engagement, and everything else these 1,500 young people are doing to have their voices heard and be a part of the decision-making process,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “The young people serving on the NYC Service Youth Leadership Councils exemplify what it means to be New Yorkers and to ‘Get Stuff Done’ for this city, and so I thank them for their good work, as well as the community-based organizations that have stepped up to support them every step of the way.”

“I want to thank the 1,500 young people in the NYC Service Youth Leadership Council program for every necessary act of service done for your city. Your leadership has changed the hearts, minds, and spaces around you,” said **Deputy Mayor Wright**. “Change starts with strong partnerships, and I am proud of the community-based organizations and City agencies that connected with youth to support their efforts.”

“Youth are not just our future, but our present – and their leadership now is key to an inclusive democracy where we all thrive. We are proud of every youth and adult partnership for creating action plans and building community assets locally,” said **Chief Service Officer Laura Rog**.

“Our city has made a powerful commitment to youth voice as evidenced in the 115 youth leadership councils in every borough.”

“In order to build a strong, vibrant city, our focus must be on the next generation of New Yorkers,” said **Commissioner Sewell**. “That’s why the NYC Service’s Youth Leadership Council program is so vital, and the NYPD – through our Youth Coordination Officers in every precinct and public service area citywide – is immensely proud to work with these dedicated community partners. I want to thank the Mayor’s Office, NYC Service, the NYC Department of Education, and everyone who works to empower New York City’s youth.”

“Youth are full of hopes and dreams! When youth leaders have opportunities to access programs like the NYC Service Youth Leadership Council Program, those dreams become tangible goals. I commend every youth, adult, and community partner for striving to make our City better and I hope you all to continue to build a brighter future for generations to come,” said **Chancellor David C. Banks**.

Youth leaders and their councils attended the summit on June 8<sup>th</sup> to showcase action plans to address issues impacting their community. YLCs focused on impacting community safety, youth mental health, and environmental sustainability, among an array of topics areas. Throughout the year, youth leaders addressed local issues by completing acts of service, such as educational workshops, neighborhood beautification, or advocating for change through art and media.

*Youth Leadership Council showcase their efforts to address local issues in their communities.*



The NYC Service’s Youth Leadership Council program fosters youth and adult partnerships by training adults to empower youth ages 14-21 to shape policies, practices, and services affecting them and their communities. Youth are also prepared for future leadership opportunities with insight into higher education and career pathways, community service events, and personal and professional development trainings. The comprehensive approach is designed to position youth voice at the forefront of decision-making processes and create a more equitable city for youth now and future generations.

Showcase presentations from Youth Leadership Councils.



The YLC program engages a diverse network of youth from all five boroughs with a large majority of youth leaders who are Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx and Asian. The YLC model has steadily improved youth and adult participant trust with youth reporting feeling heard by adults and seen as equal partners. Youth also consistently report positive outcomes, such as increased communication and listening skills, greater confidence, community awareness, and deeper sense of empathy.

Since launching in 2014, the NYC Service Youth Leadership Council program has cultivated City agency and community-based partners, such as GreenThumb, NYPD, JAIA, Department of Education, and others. The largest YLC partnership is with the NYPD and spans 78 precincts and 8 public service areas. Youth Coordinating Officers recruit youth, foster connection, and uplift youth ideas and actions. NYPD Youth Leadership Councils have been proven to be very effective in building strong youth-adult partnership and peer bonds, as well as in ensuring that councils were inclusive, with youth leaders reporting feeling more welcomed and safer in New York City.

Information about the NYC Service Youth Leadership Council network serving to collectively create a culture of youth voice and inclusive democracy can be found online at [nyc.gov/service](http://nyc.gov/service). Youth are encouraged to get involved and learn more at [nyc.gov/youthvoice](http://nyc.gov/youthvoice).



### **About NYC Service**

NYC Service is a division of the Mayor's Office that builds partnerships to deepen and expand civic engagement through volunteer and service programs and connects New Yorkers to public service. We unite New Yorkers in service to advance lifelong civic engagement for a more equitable and inclusive city. To learn more about NYC Service and connect to volunteer opportunities, visit [nyc.gov/service](https://nyc.gov/service).

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