



# Yolo County Youth Commission: 2024

Yolo County Board of Supervisors  
Affirmation of the Yolo County  
Youth Commissioners 2024

# What is the Youth Commission?

- 15 young people from the area representing the 5 County Districts in partnership with the Yolo Board of Supervisors
- This is a local government initiative led by the Youth Commissioners of Yolo County
- We devote our time to seeking out the youth voice and opinions about what's going on for young people throughout Yolo County.
- Responsible for evaluating youth-led organizations and services in Yolo County for potential grant funding to support youth leadership and community connections
- Develop a Cycle 2 grant funding plan to present to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance
- Participating in other youth leadership and development activities throughout Yolo County

# Thank you Yolo Youth Commission “1st Class”

The first group of Youth Commissioners did a 1st Class job:

Establishing the program

Awarding 3 YEA! Grants





# We Need New Commissioners for 2024

- Cycle 2 Grant Leadership for Youth Programs in Yolo County
- Support the implementation of Cycle 1 Grants for three recipients
- Engagement in youth events and activities
- Professional learning about public service
- Liaison with Yolo County Supervisors and the Yolo County Office of Education



## Commissioner Candidates have earned the opportunity to serve

- Application process
- Multiple Interviews with YCOE and MLK Freedom Center
- Vetting interviews with County District Supervisors
- Affirmation by the County BoS (1/23/24)
- Swearing in (1/27/24)

# Meet our 2024 Yolo Youth Commissioners: Five of our young leaders are returning to service!

- Olivia Brandon, District 1
- Miles Mariani, District 2
- Jazmin Garcia, District 3
- Isabelle Chan-De Silva, District 3
- Riya Vij, District 4



# New and Returning Youth Commissioners: District 1

## **Saraya Montgomery**

**River City High School**

*"I think it is really important to allow youth to have some say in their own future so I thought that this was just so amazing. As well as I participate in a lot of community events that have allowed me to meet some really inspirational people. Most recently I was able to meet my town's mayor and she is a really powerful and amazing woman and leads our ALL women city council."*

## **Sa'Maya Dixson**

**Bridgeway Island K-8**

*"One of the ideas I have for improving the well-being in youth is giving teachers and others who work with kids resources to understand youth more and what they go through during their child and teen stages."*

## **Olivia Brandon**

**River City High School**

*"I really liked hearing the youths thoughts and what they thought was important to have in their community. My future goal is to go to college and become an architect, this will help because you have to speak and share thoughts and ideas "*



# New and Returning Youth Commissioners: District 2

## Boyeon Choi

Davis High School

*“My dream is to go to law school to become an attorney. I am especially interested in handling civil cases, specifically familial and feminist issues. With these goals in mind, I think that being able to have some firsthand experience as a teenager will be beneficial as I will be able to be more empathetic but also know how to make decisions that will affect many young people. Being able to have formal discussions”*

## Olivia Interbitzen

Davis High School

*“I am interested in joining the Yolo Youth Commission in order to provide a safe and supportive community for youth in Yolo County. I am a leader in an all-girls Boy Scouts troop, where I meet weekly with many people from many different parts of Yolo County. Because of this, I hear many different perspectives and ways we could improve in our community.”*

## Miles Mariani

Winters High School

*“I think that youth engagement is very important. And this is the perfect playground for that. It is where you can actually see the difference you are making. I really enjoyed my time as a commissioner last year and want to do it again.”*

# New and Returning Youth Commissioners: District 3

## **Genevieve Frank**

**Pioneer High School**

*"It's important for people as a young age to be able to stand up for others in the name of justice. I'm interested because as a student of the freedom center I have learned so much about leadership and I want to put that to use even further than I do there."*

## **Jazmin Garcia**

**Davis High School**

*"I would like to join the Youth Commission, to help others who need it. I want to represent the youth of the county and interact with other leaders who will help me become a better representative. I would like to use my experience and knowledge in civics and my participation in various leadership roles in West Sacramento, Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland to help me to pave a way for present and future youth commission officers."*

## **Isabelle Chan De Silva**

**Emerson Jr High School**

*"Last year it was fun, and I think that the commission made a difference so if I can be in it again I could gain more experience and can help my community and county. I also learned how to give and receive feedback which I think is a valuable skill to have, so I would be able to exercise that skill and build off of it to become better."*

# New and Returning Youth Commissioners: District 4

## Ash Knudsen

Da Vinci High School

*"I'm interested in joining the Yolo Youth Commission because I want to make a difference in the Yolo County community. I believe that my unique perspectives and lived experiences can contribute to creating positive changes in the surrounding areas. I'm passionate about improving the lives of young people in the community and I believe that the Yolo Youth Commission is a great platform to do so."*

## Jonah Spang

Davis High School

*"Serving on the Yolo Youth Commission provides a unique opportunity for our county's youth to decide where funds will be allocated and how they will be used. Through participating on the Commission, I can also learn a lot more about the different types of challenges that Yolo County's youth face."*

## Riya Vij

Holmes Jr High School

*"In the future, I want to help make the community a better place for the youth. I hope to gain valuable life-long skills such as leadership and communication while also becoming a more aware and involved member of my community."*

# New and Returning Youth Commissioners: District 5

## **Parami Jayakody**

**Emerson Jr High**

*"I want to help silenced voices be heard and help them finally be able to bring about change."*

## **Angel Torres**

**Esparto High School**

*"Growing up in a small town, I wanted to represent Esparto, further developing the town as a community and to give my fellow classmates and future students different pathways in there life."*

## **Leonardo Tafolla**

**Esparto High School**

*Has been a member of the Martin Luther King Freedom Center.*



Thank You!

