

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



THREE FOCUS AREAS

* Sustainability

The City of Columbia's Sustainability Director is Eric Hempel, he would be a great contact to ask questions about sustainability and youth.

* Youth Wellness

The City of Columbia's Public Health and Human Services Director is Rebecca Roesslet, another great connection to discuss youth wellness.

* Youth Safety/Security

The Administrator of the Office of Violence Prevention is D'Markus Thomas-Brown. He would be great to connect with on youth safety/security.



What Are Other Youth Advisory Council's Doing?

Youth-Led. Community-Driven.

In **North Central Michigan**, the YAC and staff work together to conduct a survey of their fellow youth to determine what their peers feel are the most pressing and urgent issues that they face. They do the youth needs assessment every 3 years.

In **Winston-Salem, NC** the Youth Advisory Council has a Free Expression Wall. The YAC selects a theme each year, and then youth from the community gather together to paint positive messages and imagery on the wall. Other projects they've done include:

- Baskets for Habitat for Humanity Families
- Community Garden
- YAC PACKS, bags for youth experiencing homelessness

Other Examples:

- In **Oregon City, OR** the YAC Chair formally requested the City to create and pass a resolution banning flavored tobacco products.
- At **Greene County, Alabama** students hosted a mental health fair called "Mind your Mental."

