



LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council Report

March 15, 2024

Link to application: [Here](#) | Website: www.lgbtq.wa.gov/YAC

Contents:

- Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Townhalls Recap
- YAC Application Parties
- YAC Estimated Timeline

For YAC related questions please reach out to Sam Fennell, Program Manager
Samuel.Fennel@lgbtq.wa.gov,



Youth Town Hall Recaps

Town Hall 2/13/2024 in Walla Walla

- **Commissioner Maroon held a town hall in Walla Walla WA.**
- **8 Attendees, all between the ages of 13 and 18.**

Question #1: What are your top issues that need to be addressed by the state?

- Lack of spaces for LGBTQ youth
- Latino/a/x-specific support
- Access to gender-affirming care
- Support for BIPOC youth.
- Making reporting bullying easier at school, knowing what our resources are

Question #2: What do you want the YAC to address?

- More support for LGBTQ kids in the [public] school system
- Better inclusivity in schools
- Also focus on support in alternative schools
- Setting up safe spaces, support groups, helping youth become emancipated.

Question #3: What are the barriers for you participating in the YAC?

- School schedules get in the way. We might not get support from our school to miss class for this.
- Think about the timing on the weekends.
- Transportation support, how are we going to get there if it's in Seattle?
- Flexibility in who our chaperones could be, not just our parents.
- Gas vouchers would lower the barrier, my folks can't afford to drive me across the state.

Town Hall 2/17/2024 in Olympia & on Zoom

- **Hybrid townhall that was hosted by Commission staff: Sawyer, Sheri, and Sam**
- **Students from across WA state attended – 3 in person 9 online.**

Question #1: What are your top issues that need to be addressed by the state?

- Access to gender affirming care, HRT is limited.
- Access to PReP and Pep,
- Reproductive care for queer people
 - Education around all these things
- Protections under law and legislation for LGBTQ+ youth.



Question #2: What do you want the YAC to address?

- Using social media for positive outreach
- LGBTQ+ Mental health issues
- Queer scholarships
- Language diversity
- Be involved in colleges and universities.
- Refugees

Question #3: What are the barriers for you participating in the YAC?

- In person is important but traveling can be inconvenient
- Having a safe space to be on zoom
- Access to technology
- Names and information are subject to public records.
- Age diversity
- Language diversity
- Youth who are not out or in accepting households
- Commitment time

Groups of youth that was said to prioritize:

- Gender diverse
- POC Representation
- Housing insecure youth
- Age diversity



Youth Advisory Council Application Parties

About the application parties:

An opportunity interested youth can stop in and chat with Commissioners or Commission staff about the LGBTQ Youth Council, the LGBTQ Commission, and any other questions they may have.

- The application parties will occur across the state.
- Staff have been reaching out to organizations to host applications parties.
- Goal is to host 4-8 parties in different regions.
- Will host at least one application party online.
- Parties will occur from the end of March to the application deadline, May 15th.

If any commissioners are interested in hosting an application party, please let us know. We have funding to support the hosting of the parties. Please let us know what you will need to be able to host it.

- Parties can be as long or as short as you are interested. We plan ours to be about 2-3 hours.
- Set up like an open house: an opportunity for youth to stop by and ask any questions or support they need while filling out the application.

