

Youth Advisory Council Summit Report

Washington State LGBTQ Commission

1. Overview

Purpose of the Summit:

The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council Summit was to bring together all council members in person to build community, establish shared goals, and continue to define the structure and responsibilities of the council. This gathering served as a foundation for the year ahead, while also creating space to reflect on the past year, analyzing what worked, what didn't, and identifying ways to adapt and improve. Through connection and collaboration, youth members contributed to shaping the council's direction and impact moving forward.

This was the 2nd annual youth summit for the council. It was held at Seattle University from Monday, 7/28/2025 to Thursday 7/31/2025

2. Agenda Highlights

Day 1: Monday July 28th

- Session 1: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM: How Do We Dream?
- Banquet Dinner: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Day 2: Tuesday, July 29th

- Session 1: 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM: Tech Support & Email Basics
- Session 2: 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM: Event Planning & Calendar Mapping (In-person)
- Session 3: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Commissioner-Led Small Group Discussions
 - Commissioner Serinus lead an insightful and thoughtful discussion on his experiences.

Day 3: Wednesday, July 30th – Traveled to Olympia

- Round Table Discussion and Presentation: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (In-person)
 - Attendees: Franklin Plaistowe, Nathan Bays, Neal Luna (ATG CRD Civil Rights Division), and Adrien Leavitt (ACLU WA)
- Archives Tour: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Day 4: Thursday, July 31st

- Round Table Discussion with Senator Wilson and Kit Hager: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Closing Lunch: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

3. Restructuring the council: Roles and Responsibilities.

At the beginning of the council's first year, members created a set of leadership roles and responsibilities intended to guide how the group functioned. However, over the course of the year, it became clear that those roles were not effective in practice. The original structure created confusion around expectations and did not align with how the council members preferred to collaborate and contribute.

During this year's summit, the council revisited and restructured its internal organization. After reflection and discussion, members agreed that it would be most effective for the **Operations**

and Policy Manager to take the lead on setting **meeting agendas** and **facilitating meetings**, ensuring alignment with the Commission's goals and providing consistent support.

In place of formal leadership positions, the council created a set of **operational roles**, each focused on a key area of the council's work. These roles are shared by **two council members** who serve as leads and collaborate with the rest of the council to bring ideas to life. This model ensures shared responsibility, encourages teamwork, and supports leadership through action rather than title.

The new roles are:

- **Scheduler**
Responsible for coordinating and scheduling council meetings, check-ins, and events.
- **Accountability Partner**
Checks in with council members about their ongoing projects and roles, offering reminders and support to ensure follow-through.
- **Event Coordinator**
Leads the planning and logistics for youth-led events, including summits, workshops, and community gatherings.
- **Social Media Manager**
Works with staff to create and share youth-generated content for the Commission's social media platforms.
- **Application Reviewer**
Supports the recruitment process by helping review applications for new council members and offering input during selection.
- **Resource Manager**
Keeps track of council documents, links, and shared tools, and ensures that resources are accessible and organized.
- **Meeting Notes/Recap**
Takes clear notes during meetings and shares recaps with the council to keep everyone informed and aligned.

4. Council Events and Timeline for 2025 – 2026

August 2025

- Host a GSA Network Training for council members:
 - Izzy
 - Emma
 - Felix
 - Desi
 - Ling
- Announce open council positions for 2026 appointments.

September 2025

- Youth-Led GSA Event
 - Led by: Ling & Desi
- GSA Event on September 23rd, 4:00–5:30 PM

- Participating Members:
 - Ling
 - Desi
 - Mystix
 - James

October 2025

- Host a Town Hall on the East Side to engage with local LGBTQ+ youth and gather input.

January 2026

- Check-in on Council Appointments.
 - Current members

February 2026

- Host a Youth Town Hall at the Capitol to engage legislators and community members.

April 2026

- Reopen Council Applications for the next cohort.

May 2026

- Close Applications, conduct reviews, and begin interviews.

June 2026

- Finalize appointment decisions.

July 1, 2026

- New Council Member Term Begins

Other event ideas for the year:

- Knit & Knows
 - Connecting with organizations that provide support to LGBTQ+ seniors and hosting intergenerational events

5. Operations and Policy Manager: Next Steps

As part of the revised structure adopted during the Youth Advisory Council Summit, the Operations and Policy Manager will play a central support role—facilitating meetings, guiding agenda development, and offering individualized support to council members throughout the year.

1:1 Meeting Structure

The Operations and Policy Manager will hold quarterly 1:1 meetings with each youth council member to provide space for reflection, problem-solving, and support. These meetings are designed to strengthen communication, ensure role alignment, and build relationships.

Each 1:1 will include:

1. Check-In

- General well-being and engagement
- How they're feeling about their role and council work

2. Role Review

- Updates on tasks and projects related to their position
- Any wins or challenges they've experienced
- Collaboration with other members or barriers to participation

3. Support Needs

- Any tools, resources, or guidance needed
- Ideas or feedback for improving council operations

4. Goals

- Personal goals within the council
- Ideas for upcoming quarter and beyond
- Each meeting will be around 30–45 minutes and held virtually

Additional Operations & Policy Manager Responsibilities

- **Facilitate Monthly Council Meetings**
Draft agendas in collaboration with youth; ensure clear structure, time for discussion, and progress tracking.
- **Support Operational Role Execution**
Check in with role leads monthly (via email, group chat, or 1:1) to ensure progress and identify needs.
- **Provide Resources and Training**
Offer mini-trainings or guides on things like event planning, public speaking, or legislative engagement.
- **Maintain Council Communications & Logistics**
Manage shared documents, calendars, and meeting follow-ups to keep council operations smooth and organized.

6. Key Takeaways from Council Members:

- The summit was a very enjoyable experience for me this year. Everything was a lot more structured than last year, and the activities were very fun and informative. It's hard to pick one thing that I enjoyed the most. The Archives tour was really cool, and it helped me learn more about Washington state's LGBTQ history, which isn't really talked about all that much in school. The banquet dinner also had a lot more guests this year compared to what I remember from last year, and I'm very grateful to have been able to connect with so many new people from all sorts of state agencies.

As for what I would like to see done differently, maybe more meals outside of the dorm food? It's honestly not the worst, but it would be a bonus to get other food.

My main takeaways would be the interactions I've had with people (commissioners, legislators, etc) and that the state is doing a lot to help the LGBTQ community. Overall, it was great to get everyone together in person, and I think we got a lot sorted out for the year ahead.

- The 2025 Youth Advisory Council Summit was quite enjoyable and productive in my opinion. Having binders with all of our information was a really beneficial decision for

organization. One of my takeaways which was also a bit surprising to me was how when planning an event, it's fairly simple (compared to what I expected) if you can decisively make decisions. I also think having more freedom this year after our work was done was helpful in team building. I don't think there's particularly anything I would change about the summit, but I personally need to bring an extra fan next year.

- My main takeaway from the summit was that our council really thrives with structures and roles with outlined tasks. I really enjoyed bonding with everyone as well as talking with the attorney generals office and the ACLU. I think we could benefit from making group agreements at the beginning of our summit so we can uphold everything we decide throughout.