

Engaging Youth: The Journey of Three Cities

League of CA Cities Annual Conference
Institute for Local Government
October 7, 2016

**ILG is the non-profit
research and education
affiliate of**



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

Governments Engaging Youth

Vision:

Communities and schools collaborate to prepare students for civic life and college/career readiness.



Elk Grove youth participating as City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk

Governments Engaging Youth

- **Mission:** Create strong partnerships between school districts and local government entities to offer students opportunities to gain 21st century work skills, build interest in public service careers, provide tools to become civically aware and engaged and bring authentic youth voice to local government issues.
- **Partners:** Sacramento County Office of Education, Council for a Strong America, Linked Learning Alliance

Why Target the Public Sector Service?

- Need for more diverse workforce to reflect community.
- Baby boomer retirements.
- Local governments offer a wide range of career paths.
- Civic engagement is problematic:
 - The United States ranks 139th in voter participation of 172 democracies around the world.
 - Less than 8% of registered 18-24 year-olds actually voted in the 2014 primary election.
 - 55% of all youth ages 12-18 volunteer; less for youth of color.

Governments Engaging Youth – Program Goals

- Create a high school to career pipeline to ensure a more diverse and prepared public sector workforce.
- Students learn 21st century workforce skills.
- Students learn how to become active citizens.
- Increase youth knowledge of how local government operates.
- Strengthen intergenerational relationships and improve adult knowledge of youth.

Speakers

- Preet Didbal, Council Member, Yuba City
- Mary Anne Rooney, Project Director, Ventura County Civic Alliance
- Yxstian A. Gutierrez, Mayor, Moreno Valley

Yuba City



Preet Didbal
Council Member
Yuba City

Summer at City Hall

- City Council Member Champion.
- A partnership of City of Yuba City with Yuba City Unified School District, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools and Northern California STREAM Pathways Consortium Grant Funds.
- Planning for project: a collaboration between City Council and City staff with schools and STREAM Board members.
- Process for application and interview to hire teacher.
- Process for application and interview students.

Program Components

- Started program in summer 2016.
- 18 students.
- 3 week program.
- 8:30AM – 3:00PM.
- Classroom instruction at City Hall.
- 2 half days of job shadows.
- Mock council meeting.
- Department tours/guest speakers.



Videos

- Summer @ City Hall Mock Council Meeting

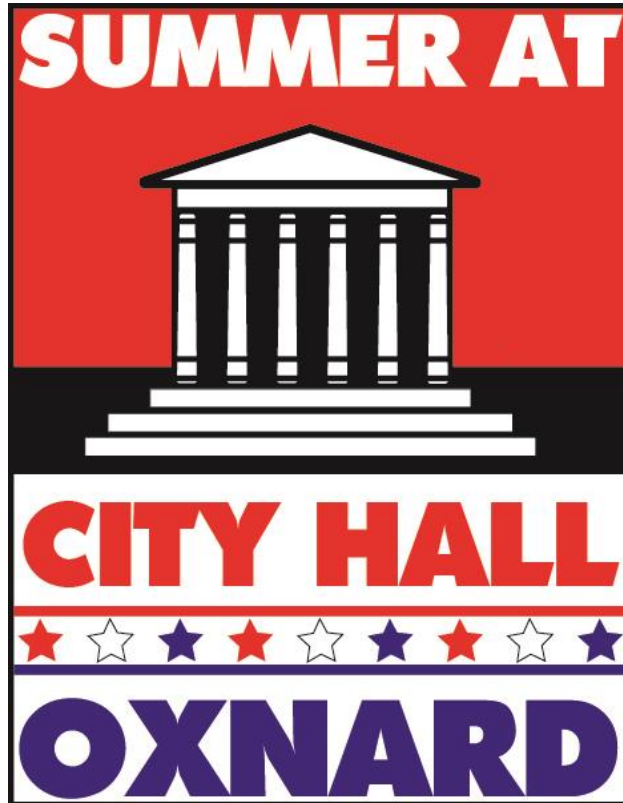
<https://youtu.be/HxDclZwSq3U>

- Summer @ City Hall Promotion Ceremony

<https://youtu.be/4rfPMZsPhMU>



Oxnard



Mary Anne Rooney
Project Director
Ventura County Civic
Alliance

Summer at City Hall

- Started program in 2016.
- Built upon the City Council Resolution passed in March 2015 declaring itself a Linked Learning City.
- Engaged City champion in project design.
- Developed curriculum and calendar in collaboration with District Learning Design Coach, Teacher, City Liaison and Business Intermediary.
- Identified a corporate sponsor to pay for stipend for students.

Program Components

- 13 students completed.
- 5 week program.
- Internships at 7 different departments within the city of Oxnard: Fire, Police, Performing Arts Center, Library, Development Services, Parks & Recreation, and Public Relations.
- Students received presentations by other public sector individuals including Mayor and Councilmembers, County Supervisor, County and City Clerk & Recorder, City and County CEO, County District Attorney.

| | | Monday, June 27th | Tuesday, June 28th | Wednesday, June 29th | Thursday, June 30th |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Week 1 | OHS Classroom | Organizational Structure of City | Skills development. Enthusiasm and Attitude | Career Exploration | Organization of Departments |
| | 1330-1430 hrs. | Welcome-CMO Representative | Work on | Tour of GREAT Facility | Work on |
| | 1430-1530 hrs | Presentation of City Structure | internship | and | internship |
| | 1530-1630 hrs | Introduction to Department | project | Water Reclamation | project |

| | | Monday, July 4th | Tuesday, July 5th | Wednesday, July 6th | Thursday, July 7th |
|--------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Week 2 | OHS Classroom | HOLIDAY-OFF | Debrief of first week | Team Building | Communications |
| | 1330-1430 hrs. | | Work on | Tour of County Clerk & Recorder | Meeting with PIO |
| | 1430-1530 hrs | HOLIDAY-OFF | internship | County CEO Office | Tour of City TV Station |
| | 1530-1630 hrs | | project | Hall of Administration | Cultural Activities Director |

| | | Monday, July 11th | Tuesday, July 12th | Wednesday, July 13th | Thursday, July 14th |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Week 3 | OHS Classroom | Skills development | Citizenship | Career Exploration | Rules of Law |
| | 1330-1430 hrs. | Work on | Presentation from City Clerk | Tour | Presentation of City Attorney |
| | 1430-1530 hrs | internship | Work on internship | Del Norte | District Attorney Office |
| | 1530-1630 hrs | project | project | Transfer Station | intern project |

| | | Monday, July 18th | Tuesday, July 19th | Wednesday, July 20th | Thursday, July 21st |
|--------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Week 4 | OHS Classroom | Consent of the Government | Equality Lesson | Career Exploration | Workplace rules/laws |
| | 1330-1430 hrs. | Talk from Mayor/City Council | Tour of Housing Department | Tour of | Discussion with |
| | 1430-1530 hrs | Work on internship | Diversity of Residents | Fire Station #8 and | HR Department |
| | 1530-1630 hrs | project | intern project | OPD Special Ops | intern project |

| | | Monday, July 25th | Tuesday, July 26th | Wednesday, July 27th | Thursday, July 28th |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Week 5 | OHS Classroom | Culminating project development | Culminating project development | Presentation of Culminating Project | Presentation of Culminating Project |
| | 1330-1430 hrs. | Work on | Work on | Tour of the | Presentation of |
| | 1430-1530 hrs | internship | internship | Channel Islands | Culminating Project |
| | 1530-1630 hrs | project | project | National Park | to Mentors |

Video

- <https://vimeo.com/180628566>

Moreno Valley



Summer at 
CITY HALL

Yxstian A. Gutierrez
Mayor
Moreno Valley

Summer at City Hall

- Mayor: Champion for project
- Joint Resolution: City of Moreno Valley and Val Verde Unified School District
- Purpose
 1. Provide more opportunities for youth to develop leadership and career ready skills;
 2. Foster interest in civic engagement; and
 3. Teach youth how to use their voice to advocate for themselves and others, by addressing real community issues.

Program Components

- 6 week program.
- 14 students selected, 13 completed.
- 8:00AM – Noon (class) Monday-Thursday.
- 1:00PM – 4:00PM (internship) Tuesday/Thursday.
- 5 high school credits.
- \$300 stipend.
- Curriculum:
 - Role and structure of local government
 - Financial literacy
 - Advocacy/voice
 - Soft skills/workplace etiquette
 - Leadership qualities

What Worked Well

- Student orientation.
- Use of Chromebooks (VVUSD)/ City Wi-Fi
- Guest speakers from both organizations as well as from leaders in the community.
- Workshops: Financial Literacy/ Public Speaking.
- Public facility tours.
- Each speaker and internship staff talked about their career pathways.
- Student Certificate Ceremony.

Challenges

- **Internship capacity at City Hall**
 - 23 interns with A.S.T.E.R.I.S.K. (MVUSD)
 - 13 interns with Summer at City Hall
- **Length of days for the students**
 - Internship days were long...especially for summertime
- **Late selection of Instructor**
 - Impacting daily planning and coordination
- **Low interest among male students**
 - Only 4 of 28 applications

Lesson Learned/Tips

- Start each process early.
- 6 weeks is too long.
- Introduce advocacy project earlier.
- Provide internship staff with an orientation.



Video

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHEaaPXe1CY



GEY Statewide Effort

- Toolkit
- Networking meetings for sites
- Seeking ways to engage leaders around the state about the value and opportunity of GEY
- Upcoming: Community of Practice, Clarifying Core Civic and 21st century competencies, Digital Badging
- Identifying models of GEY around the state
- Seeking new sites to implement tailored GEY program

ILG Resources/Contact

Governments Engaging Youth

www.ca-ilg.org/GovernmentsEngagingYouth

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