

Under the Umbrella of Hampton's Youth Civic Engagement



The Players...

Coalition for Youth	Planning Department	In Sync Partnerships	Parks & Recreation	Hmpt City Schools	Alternatives, Inc.
Started as a community-based coalition focused on creating a master plan for children, youth and families. Became a department of city government responsible to hold the 'youth agenda' of the city.	Oversees Hampton's Community Plan (a blending of the comprehensive, long range and strategic plans for the City).	A collaboration between Hampton City Schools and city government (based in the city's Neighborhood Office) to create partnerships that support young people in neighborhoods.	Oversees recreation and youth development activities out of neighborhood and community centers and city-wide events.	Supports a variety of youth development and YCE opportunities in the schools.	Non-profit youth development agency, specializes in YCE, training, and creativity. Receives funding from schools and city departments to provide YCE Services.
3 full-time staff 1 part-time staff 2 youth interns (1 hs & 1 college)	3 staff with youth issues as part of their overall responsibility (out of 20) 2 youth employees	1 full-time employee (shared between HCS and city) 3 full-time staff funded by City 4 grant-funded staff	15 PFT staff designated for youth recreation and development plus additional youth intern/employees	No specific designated staff	5.5 staff dedicated to YCE plus interns. 2 staff dedicated to training adults
Responsible for long-range and strategic planning for youth, convening people around youth issues. Keeps children, youth and families a priority in the city, generating support for positive youth development and YCE. Oversees the Youth Commission. Supports YCE in other departments.	Created and supports the youth planner initiative. Provides staff support to the youth commission and oversees the connection between the planners and the commission. Ensures a youth component in all city planning.	Coordinates all services related to 21 st Century Learning Centers – oversees afterschool programs in school, faith and neighborhood settings, and develops both financial and in-kind resources. Supports neighborhood-based YCE opportunities.	Creates advisory roles for youth within Parks & Recreation. Ensures a youth development and service approach in out-of-school time activities.	Conducts Project Citizen in all 8 th grade civics classes as introduction to service learning. Supports advisory roles in all secondary schools and with the Superintendent of Schools..	Conducts recruitment, training, placement, support for most YCE efforts in Hampton. Creates and operates YCE opportunities in neighborhoods and schools. Trains adults in youth/adult partnerships.



City of Hampton departments or divisions.

Hampton, VA Youth Civic Engagement

***Hampton's award-winning* approach
to positive youth development and community change***

- * Winner of 2005 Innovations in American Government Award**
- * Winner of the 2002 Jostens Our Town Award**

Hampton's **Youth Civic Engagement** model is based on a pyramid of opportunities that creates a comprehensive system of active, meaningful involvement for youth.

Pathway I — Service

Thousands of youth each year participate in COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND SERVICE-LEARNING. From neighborhood clean-ups to anti-violence campaigns, these short term opportunities serve as a great introduction to civic engagement or as meaningful involvement for a broad range of youth.

Pathway II — Influence

With increased time, commitment and training, hundreds of teens take advantage of a variety of ADVISORY ROLES. 'Speakouts' and focus groups are held regularly to seek youth input on neighborhood and city issues, and some city boards have ongoing advisory groups. The Superintendent of Schools and all secondary principals meet regularly with Student Advisory Teams. Youth input is expected before decisions are made that affect Hampton youth.

Pathway III — Shared Leadership

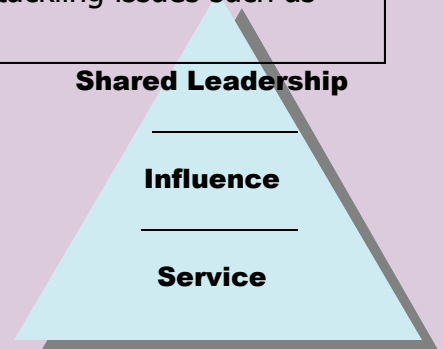
Opportunities abound for youth to SHARE LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING ROLES with adults. Teens serve as grant-makers awarding over \$40,000 per year through Hampton Youth Commission. Many city boards and commissions invite youth to serve as full voting members, or regularly engage them on committees. Two teens even work as city planners in the Planning Department, with responsibility for a youth component to the Hampton Community Plan, tackling issues such as youth-friendly space and transportation.

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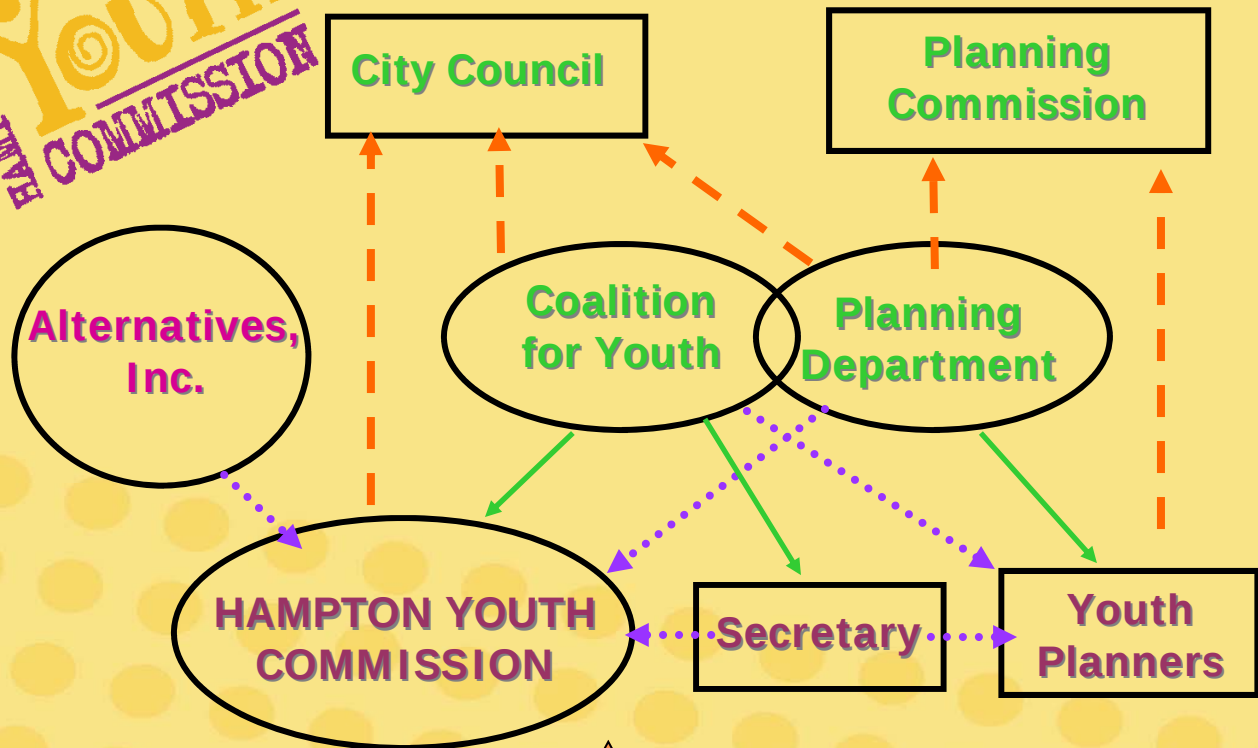
Shared Leadership

Influence

Service



Organizational Chart



Representation,
Partnerships
Potential grant
recipients



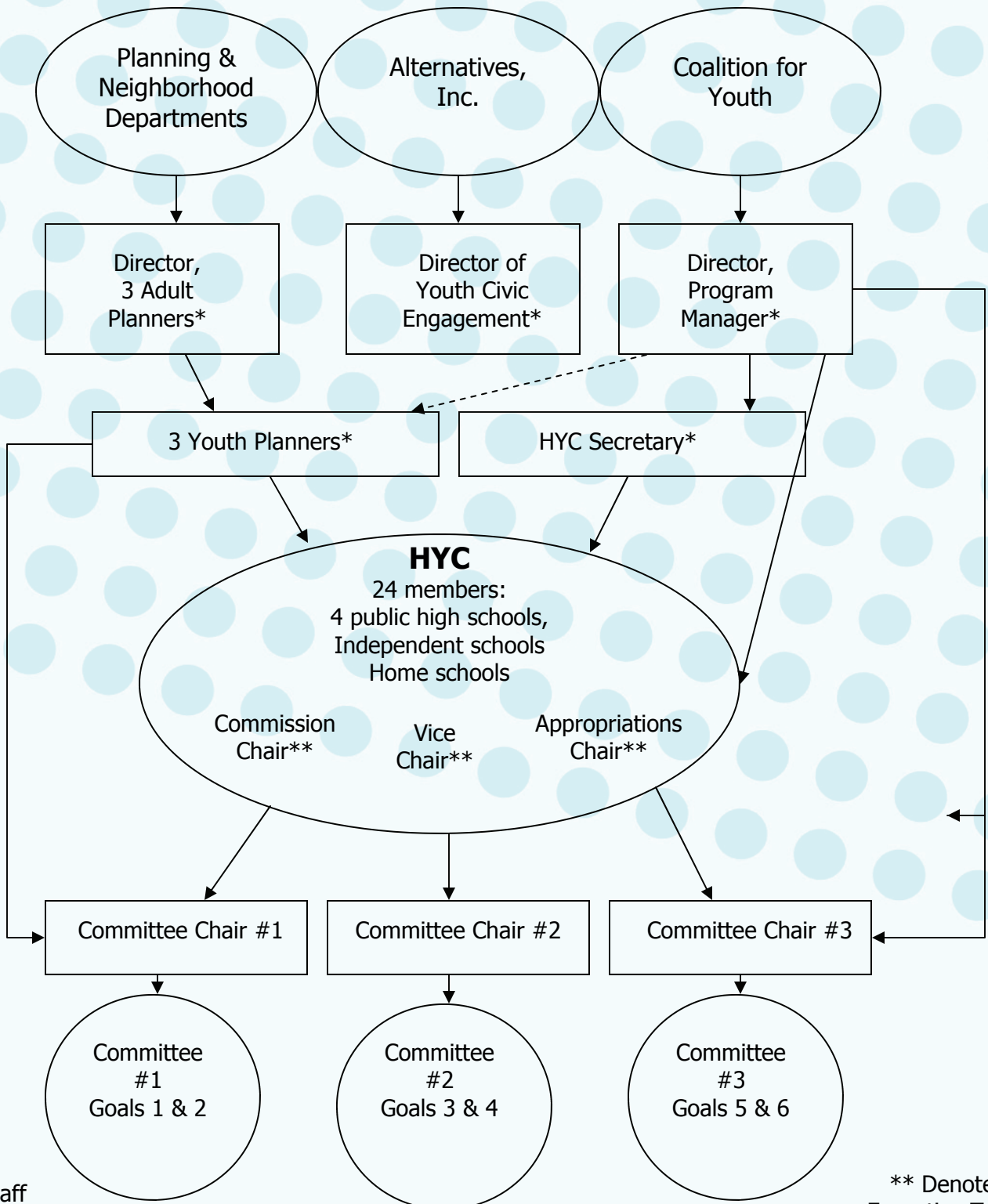
Reporting & representation

Funding and oversight

Partnership & support



HYC Organizational Structure



* Denotes staff

** Denotes Executive Team

Youth Planner Program Hampton, VA

The Youth Planner Program was created to ensure a positive community for Hampton's youngest citizens, with a permanent opportunity for youth to be involved in city decision-making. Since 1996, the Planning Department has hired two high school students as 15-hour-per-week employees. Recently, as workload and responsibilities have increased, the number was increased to three. These Youth Planners are given access to all the same resources as other city planners. At least one planner, the Senior Youth Planner, is a high school senior while another, the Junior Youth Planner, is a high school junior. As the senior graduates, a new youth planner is hired, and the Junior Planner moves up.

Youth Planners are responsible to:

- Collect, organize, and analyze a wide variety of data related to youth including surveys, census data, focus groups, community forums, etc.
- Support the Hampton Youth Commission, including providing staff support to the committees of the commission
- Facilitate their peers to generate creative, practical solutions to problems
- Create, update, and implement the *Youth Component of the City of Hampton's Community Plan*
- Make regular presentations to the Planning Commission and City Council
- Represent the City of Hampton in local, regional, and national conferences

Based on surveying and focus groups conducted by the first planners with hundreds of their peers, the strategic issues for Hampton youth were identified as:

Caring Relationships

Youth Share Leadership

Essential Life Skills

Career Preparation

Places to Go, Things to Do

Getting Around

Strategies to address these issues are created by the Planners and Hampton Youth Commission, and then adopted by Planning Commission and City Council as an official component to the city's Community Plan. Each year the HYC determines strategies to tackle for the year that address the strategic issues. Youth Planners, as staff to the Commission, carry out the support services necessary for successful implementation.

See also:

http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/15_2/15_2_12_YouthwithInfluence.pdf,

http://www.pps.org/tcb/youth_planners.htm, and www.areyouinthegame.org.

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