



1.0 - Introduction

Throughout the nation, municipalities are beginning to understand the importance of involving young people in short-term and long-term planning as well as the implementation and organization of certain city programs and initiatives. Involving young people in the City's planning process ensures that the needs and hopes of the next generation are addressed and considered. Our City's young people are major stakeholders in the future of this City. It is imperative that City government recognizes and is capable of responding to the opinions of this stakeholder group, which accounts for nearly a quarter of our entire population.

2.0 - Purpose

Alexandria Corps will help design recreation activity and the future of Alexandria as well as other initiatives working with the Youth Resources Coordinator and Master Plan Consultant in the creation of the Alexandria Youth Master Plan using three major pathways:

- Service** - Introduce civic engagement to a broad range of youth through short-term meaningful volunteer opportunities.
- Influence** - Encourage and train young people to participate in a variety of advisory roles and provide valuable input.
- Shared Leadership** - Enable youth to serve in positions of authority and as voting members on city boards and committees where they help to create policy.

3.0 - Scope

- **Employ short-term volunteer programs throughout the City in a number of different areas** (i.e. volunteering at the Zoo, improving neighborhoods - noting needs such as blight - and aid SafeAlex.)
- **Partner with organizations to identify additional short-term volunteer opportunities both locally and regionally** (i.e. Boy Scouts of America, the Red Cross, and the Hope House).
- **Engage young people in the planning and implementation of the citywide development plans and strategies.**

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- Conduct a series of youth-oriented community meetings to determine how young people would like to see Alexandria develop.
- Establish the Youth Commission to take on project-specific tasks.
- Help the City to research, write, and propose specific ordinances (i.e. bicycle safety).

4.0 - Objectives

4.1. Establish a Youth Commission - COA residents - 20 high school aged students

04 young adults between the ages of 20 & 30

02 adults - one School Board & one City Council

- Works with Youth Resources Coordinator and Master Plan Consultant to develop a Youth Master Plan.
- Focus Group of Young People to provide perspective and feedback on plans/projects.

4.2. Hold a series of meetings with young people, School Board officials, teachers, various stakeholders to assess present and future needs: Setting, Support, Structure, and Strategy.

4.3. Determine which neighborhoods are being under-served and which programs and facilities are under-utilized.

4.4. Facilitate the development of the Alexandria Youth and Family Plan through an open RFP process to conduct the process to allow city officials to be equal participants in planning, allow citizens to drive the process, and gain experienced insight. Continue open RFP processes as needed.

4.5. Develop and Implement Alexandria Youth Master Plan to effectively coordinate the services, supports, and opportunities that youth need to thrive and develop a shared framework that ensures their healthy development. Achieving these objectives reduces fragmentation among individual agencies and organizations that are addressing specific issues, helps cities and schools make choices in allocating resources among competing priorities, and establishes a sustainable long-term strategy for improving outcomes for children and youth.



4.5.1. Alexandria Youth Master Plan

The goals of the Youth Master Plan are youth driven and address the following areas:

Behavior & Social Skills
Education
Employment
Health & Wellness
Leadership & Communication
Recreation & Entertainment
Transportation & Mobility
Responsibility Through Volunteerism

Five key elements form the backbone of an effective youth and family master planning process. Each component is an integral part of the planning effort, and when neglected or ignored such efforts often falter.

a) Engage key stakeholders throughout the community.

Engage community members and stakeholders throughout the process and involve residents in a series of community forums.

b) Establish and promote a shared vision for youth.

Develop and promote a shared community vision for children and youth.

c) Assess needs and design comprehensive strategies.

Evaluate what's working (i.e., strengths/assets on which to build) and what is not (i.e., biggest problems and challenges).

d) Create a framework for shared accountability.

Monitor key stakeholders after strategies have been crafted to ensure that new programs and policies are effectively implemented.

e) Coordinate city, school, and other community efforts.

Establish coordinating body to sustain coalitions and keep critical partnerships on track.



5.0 - Implementation Strategy

Implementation should be focused on the following connective strategies:

- **Sustainability:** Ensure that programs and services can be sustained for the duration of their need.
- **Partnership:** Implementers should seek collaborators where possible to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of services.
- **Accessibility:** This includes communication to potential users, the economic resources of potential users, and transportation availability.
- **Skill Development:** Resources should be made available to enhance the skills of those responsible for implementing programs and for parents.

6.0 - Organizational Structure

