



Youth Leadership Program

2023

Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., 57th Assembly District

The Youth Leadership Program (YLP), hosted by the office of Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., aims to provide young adults with the opportunity to learn about the legislative process, engage in personal development workshops, connect with a mentor, and become active members of their communities. This year's program included ten high school juniors and seniors within the 57th Assembly District.

Over the course of nine months, students participated in monthly meetings where they were exposed to experiences that nurtured their leadership potential and helped to prepare them for their future. The Youth Leadership Program collaborated with USC Credit Union, ScholarShare 529, The Tree Yoga Cooperative, Reach LA, YO! Watts Youth Source Center, and CSAC Cash for College to equip the students with an understanding of the legislative process, college readiness, career exploration, financial empowerment, and mental wellness.



(YLP Students pictured in front of California State Capitol during trip to Sacramento)

Thanks to support from PepsiCo and the University of Southern California, in June, the Youth Leadership Program traveled to Sacramento, California, for a three-day trip where they explored the California State Government and Capitol. Our youth were able to learn more about the Golden State's history through touring the State Capitol Museum, embarking on the Underground Sacramento Tour and exploring the Crocker Art Museum. Program participants were also able to tour the capitol office for their district representative, gain insight from members of their Assemblymember's legislative staff, and engage in productive conversation directly with the Assemblymember. As an introduction to policy-making, the students attended the Reparations Task Force Hearing and the Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing to gauge how policies are voted on and discussed. Furthermore, they were able to decompress with their fellow program participants as they practiced



(YLP Members during their tour of the Crocker Art Museum)



(A conversation with the Assemblymember about the future of legislation in CA)

some essential tools for wellness and self-care while dorming at California State University of Sacramento. As the first trip hosted by the Youth Leadership Program, students were left with a more comprehensive understanding of the California State Government and an interest in public service.



(Members of the Skid Row community gathering resources during the passion project)

Cooperative, Studio 526, the Department of Mental Health, and support from Pepsi, the students were able to provide food, refreshments, sanitary products and clothes to the surrounding community. The resource fair consisted of various booths where members of the Skid Row Community could express themselves through art, practice mindfulness, and connect to city and state resources. Following the resource fair, students reflected on the highlights of the event, learned the importance of communication amongst one another and how to conduct outreach to organizations. They walked away empowered to speak up about the topics they are passionate about and feeling more confident in their abilities to spearhead their own passion project.

Moreover, our young leaders are asked to create a passion project of their choosing every year. This year, our students successfully created a mental health resource fair for the Skid Row Community where they coordinated with local organizations to offer an outlet for the community to feel heard and seen. Alongside Los Angeles Community Action Network, CORE, the Tree Yoga



(YLP student leading check-in Booth in front of LACAN)

The Youth Leadership Program represents the importance of encouraging young people to actively participate in public policy and gain leadership experience to solve issues that plan for the future of California.



(YLP and Volunteers pictured in LACAN during Passion Project)