

Youth Commission
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YOUTH COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Edwin M. Lee
Nicole Elliot, Mayor's Legislative Director and Commission & Board Liaison

CC: Hydra Mendoza, Mayor's Families & Children's Advisor
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: 2014-2015 Youth Commission

DATE: Thursday June 4, 2015

RE: Youth Commission Recommendations for Seats 1 and 2 on the Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee

Pursuant to Administrative Code Sec. 2A.233, seats 1 and 2 on the Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) are reserved for "[a] youth 19 years old or younger at the time of appointment for the term, recommended to the Mayor by the Youth Commission."

Following an outreach and application process in which youth commissioners reached out to youth-serving community organizations across San Francisco, youth commissioners invited OAC youth applicants to an in-person interview, and considered applications at their Wednesday, May 27, 2015 Executive committee and Monday, June 1, 2015 full commission meeting. Youth commissioners were in receipt of the City Attorney's Opinion No. 2014-1 [Summary of Legal Requirements for Appointment to Members to Boards and Commissions] and the Clerk of the Board's 2015 annual listing of Active Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces and Requirements for Membership in compliance with the Maddy Act, in order to inform their recommendations. Youth commissioners reviewed the OAC legislation (BOS File No. 141215) in detail, working carefully first to reach out to, and later select youth who they believe can provide valuable insight on the diverse experiences and challenges of young people in San Francisco, as well as bring a systems-informed and solution-oriented lens to the work of the OAC.

Youth commissioners are pleased to share their **recommendations for Vida Bonilla and Carmen Sosa for appointment to seats 1 and 2 on the OAC**. Youth commissioners found that Ms. Bonilla and Ms. Sosa are both well positioned to bring unique and important insights to the work of the OAC through their own experiences and challenges as young San Franciscans, as well as their involvement in and dedication toward community programs that serve young people in our City. Their full applications are attached for your review.

Carmen Sosa, 18, sits on the Board of Advising Youth at San Francisco Public Library, giving critical insight into the creation of the new Main Library Teen Center. Carmen sat on the DCYF Youth Advisory Council where she helped to run the City's annual Youth Advocacy Day. Carmen was a high school Explainer through a City-funded youth workforce program at the Exploratorium. She has volunteered with NERT and several Boys and Girls Clubs programs. Carmen was raised in a monolingual household, the daughter of Salvadoran and Venezuelan immigrants. During her interview with youth commissioners, she discussed challenges with language access, the incarceration of her parents, her mother's later disability, and her own experience in foster care as challenges that have informed her awareness of the importance of equity and access in public systems. Because of her outstanding achievements in public service and community involvement, as well as her commitment to supporting other youth from low-income immigrant families, and her long term leadership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Carmen was selected as the BGCSF Citywide Youth of the Year.

Vida Bonilla, 18, is a City College of San Francisco student raised in San Francisco. She has worked with the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, Project PULL, served as a youth board member for Enterprise for High School Students, and volunteers as a tutor and Homework Helper at the Excelsior Library. In her interview with youth commissioners, Vida discussed how her own experiences as a queer Chicana from a low-income background and as bilingual youth service provider have informed her commitments to ensuring youth inclusion in decision-making processes, as well as the representation of youth of color in positions of leadership.

As the ordinance establishing the Oversight and Advisory Committee (BOS File No. 141215) calls for the committee to commence meeting no later than July 1, 2015; and as it is youth commissioners' view that a committee charged with providing oversight and advising on the administration of the Children and Youth fund should have youth representation beginning at the time of its commencement, youth commissioners look forward to continuing to support the process of confirming appointments for seats 1 and 2, and hope you will inform our office if commissioners can be of further assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 554-7112 or adele.carpenter@sfgov.org if you have any questions. Thank you.