



San Francisco Youth Commission Agenda

Monday, May 7, 2018

5:15 pm-8:00 pm

City Hall, Room 416

1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

There will be public comment on each item.

Elsie Lipson, Lily Marshall-Fricker, Lisa Yu, Conna Chen, Arianna Nassiri, Mary Claire Amable, Kristen Tam, Paola Robles Desgarenes, Mampu Lona, Mike'l Gregory, Bahlam Vigil, Jarrett Mao, Jonathan Mesler, Chiara Lind, Felix Andam, Zak Franet, Owen Hoyt

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance**
- 2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**
- 3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)**
 - A. April 16, 2018
([Document A](#))
- 4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)**
- 5. Legislation Referred from the Board of Supervisors (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)**
- 6. Presentations (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)**
 - A. Presentation on Open Space and Pedestrian Safety in District 6
Presenters: Alexa Drapiza, Youth Organizer; PJ Eugenio, Youth Coordinator, South of Market Community Action Network's (SOMCAN) Youth Organizing Home and Neighborhood Action (YOHANA)
(Document B)
 - B. Presentation on Middle School Q Groups for LGBTQ Youth
Presenter: Jodi Schwartz, Executive Director of LYRIC
(Document C)
 - C. Presentation on Rank Choice Voting from Fair Vote California
Presenter: Sean Dugar, Consultant
- 7. Youth Commission Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)**



8. Committee Reports (Discussion Only)

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Housing, Environment and City Services Committee
- C. Justice and Employment Committee
- D. Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee
- E. Our Children Our Family Council

9. Staff Report (Discussion Only)

10. Announcements (This Includes Community Events)

11. Adjournment

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City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-6446, Fax: (415) 554-6140
Email: youthcom@sfgov.org
www.sfgov.org/yc

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE, please contact:

Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, Fax: (415) 554-5784
Email: soff@sfgov.org

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area are the 5, 5R, 6, 7, 7R, 7X, 9, 9R, 19, 21, 47, and 49. For more information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 701-4485.

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AVISO EN ESPAÑOL: La solicitud para un traductor debe recibirse antes de mediodía de el viernes anterior a la reunion. Llame a Derek Evans (415) 554-7702.

Paunawa: Ang mga kahilingan ay kailangang matanggap sa loob ng 48 oras bago mag miting upang matiyak na matutugunan ang mga hiling. Mangyaring tumawag kay Joy Lamug sa (415) 554-7712.

翻譯 必須在會議前最少四十八小時提出要求
請電 (415) 554-7719



San Francisco Youth Commission Minutes

Monday, April 16, 2018

5:15 pm-8:00 pm

City Hall, Room 278

1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

There will be public comment on each item.

Elsie Lipson, Lily Marshall-Fricker, Lisa Yu, Conna Chen, Arianna Nassiri, Mary Claire Amable, Kristen Tam, Paola Robles Desgarenes, Mampu Lona, Mike'l Gregory, Bahlam Vigil, Jarrett Mao, Jonathan Mesler, Chiara Lind, Felix Andam, Zak Franet, Owen Hoyt

1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 PM.

Commissioners present:, Conna Chen, Mary Claire Amable, Paola Robles Desgarenes, Mike'l Gregory, Jarrett Mao, Jonathan Mesler, Lisa Yu, Chiara Lind, and Arianna Nassiri.

Commissioners absent: Lily Marshall-Fricker, Zak Franet, Bahlam Vigil, Mampu Lona.

Commissioners tardy: Felix Andam

Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Mesler, motioned to approve the absences of Vigil, Marshall-Fricker, and Franet. The motion was approved by acclamation. There was no public comment.

Staff person: Kiely Hosmon

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Commissioner Yu, seconded by Commissioner Amable, motioned to approve the agenda with the edit that item 7A have the updated title from Document B. The motion was approved by acclamation. There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

- A. April 2, 2018
([Document A](#))

There was no public comment. Motion to approve the minutes by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Hoyt. Approved by a vote of acclamation.



4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)

None

5. Legislation Referred from the Board of Supervisors (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

None

6. Presentations (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

None

7. Youth Commission Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. [Third Reading] Resolution 1718-AL-10 [Resolution urging the Department of Children Youth and their Families to allocate \$270,000 for fee waivers for California IDs for Youth in San Francisco between the ages of 14-18]
Sponsor: Commissioner Felix Andam
(Document B)

Title should read: Resolution 1718-AL-10 [Resolution urging the Department of Children Youth and their Families to allocate \$60,000 for fee waivers for California IDs for Youth in San Francisco between the ages of 16-18]. Resolution was read into the record.

Commissioner Andam arrived at 5:24pm.

There was public comment from Calvin Quick, a representative of the Bay Area Student Activist Group (BASTA). BASTA is an organizing group that advocates for youth on issues that impact young people. This includes but is not limited to gun control. They are in support of the resolution presented because they are committed to increasing their rights in the civic process. They hope that we continue to follow through on this measure.

Commissioner Mesler motioned to approve with amendments, seconded by Commissioner Hoyt. Approved by vote of acclamation.

- C. [First Reading] Motion 1718-AL-12 [Motion honoring the life of Jesus Adolfo Delgado Duarte and offering condolences to his family and community]
Sponsor: Commissioner Paola Robles Desgarenes
(Document D)

This item called out of order. 11 community members in attendance. An interpreter was in attendance for the family.

Public comment-member of the public read Commissioner Roble Desgarenes' original first draft of the police reform resolution and is excited about it. Wishes that what happened to Adolfo never happens to the youth in this room. Our police force needs to be trained better and deal better with mental illness and communities of color. We



almost have to police ourselves in our own communities and tell the police 'we don't want you here' because we don't know who will be killed next by the police.

Jesus never had an encounter with the police, he made a mistake like any teenager, one mistake, and didn't deserve to die. So any way we can bring forward true reform, he has faith in the young people to do this. We need some real police reform and change. De-escalation has to be a must.

Jesus' father spoke- he was shot at 99 times, they hit the car and 25 of the bullets hit his son. His mistake did not deserve that punishment. I want to thank you for being in support of the family and it's not just my son who was murdered; my entire family died a little bit as well. That event also killed some of his friends on the inside and I want to thank you young people and hope that you never make the same mistake that my son made.

Victor-born and raised in the Mission a neighbor of Adolfo. Big supporter of the youth and fighter against police. Supports families who are impacted by police terror and brutality. Respects the youth on all reforms that we are working on. You have adults who are fighting on the frontlines for your future. We support all the youth and the movements that we are working on. Wants to hand the torch to you and the youth. You need to be able to protect yourselves. Gives all love and respect to you, and respect to all families of police murder.

Commissioner Andam-where is the original resolution and the timeframe? It's on hold to do more research and gather more information from the community. Commissioner Robles Desgarenes doesn't want to rush it and wants do everything possible to be productive and ready.

Jesus' family met with George Gascon and the police were saying they were scared of someone having an alleged gun; so now he sees how police react, especially to someone of color, and instead of trying to deescalate they already had their hands on their guns. This shouldn't be happening in SF. A lot of work has to be done and we have to take the lead on this issue.

Commissioner Tam motioned to pass the motion presented, and seconded by Commissioner Hoyt. Motioned passed by a vote of acclamation.

5 minute recess called at 5:53pm.

- D. [Second Reading] Youth Commission Budget & Policy Priorities for Fiscal Years 2018 – 2019 and 2019 – 2020
(Document C)

This item read out of order. Meeting called back to order at 6:01pm.

Staff gave background that she checked the word for word reading of BPPs into the record with the current, and previous, Clerk of the Board. As long as the supplemental document was provided to the public via the agenda and the website, all the Commissioners need to do is read the title and bullet points into the record, as well as provide an "executive summary" of the most important parts.



Commissioner Gregory motioned to suspend reading the Budget and Policy Priorities word-for-word into the record. Commissioner Amable seconded the motion. Approved by a vote of acclamation with Commissioner Andam in the dissent.

Table of contents read into the record.

Priority 1: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the document for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Amable motioned to approve the first priority with a second by Commissioner Yu. Approved by a vote of acclamation

Priority 2: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Gregory motioned to approve the priority, seconded by Commissioner Gregory. Approved by a vote of acclamation.

Priority 3: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Hoyt motioned to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Gregory. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Priority 4: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Amable motioned to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Hoyt. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Priority 5: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Mesler motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Yu. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Priority 6: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Tam motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Andam. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Priority 7: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Andam motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Desgarenes. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Priority 8: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Mao motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Andam. Approved by vote of acclamation

Priority 9: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Gregory motioned to approve, with a second by Commissioner Desgarenes. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Priority 10: No updates, TAY Housing plan during Newsom so complete certain amount of housing but didn't complete goal so want to recommit to a new plan and new goal. Keep it the same, background and recent updates, and use the same as last year. 2025 is new update/recommendation. Commissioner Andam motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Desgarenes. Approved by vote of acclamation.



Priority 11: Staff walked through edits that were written out on the google document version of the priority for Commissioners to update. Commissioner Tam motioned to approve, and Commissioner Desgarenes seconded the motion. Approved by vote of acclamation.

Commissioner Andam motioned to approve the entire document, and Commissioner Yu seconded. Approved by vote of acclamation.

The Budget and Policy Priority timeline is as follows: all edits must be completed by Wednesday, April 18th by midnight to allow staff can do one last edit process and accurate formatting.

Commissioners available for a 4 PM Budget and Finance Committee Budget and Policy Priority presentation: Commissioners Andam, Tam, and Amable. Additionally, Commissioners Mesler, Desgarenes, Lind, Chen, and Hoyt will check their availability.

Budget and Policy Priority presentation practice to take place between April 26th-May 2nd. Kiely has reached out to the legislative aide to confirm May 3rd in the afternoon and is waiting to hear back. Have verbal confirmation already.

8. Committee Reports (Discussion Only)

- A. Executive Committee: passed the full youth commission agenda, participated in an activity on incompatible activities, and discussed Leah's leave of absence.
- B. Housing, Environment and City Services Committee: hosted 2 presentations from the planning department and had approximately 20 youth representatives attend. Also, had a youth presentation on pedestrian and night safety.
- C. Justice and Employment Committee: worked on Budget and Policy Priorities, and discussed the upcoming meeting with the San Francisco police chief.
- D. Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee: had a San Francisco State University student join the meeting. They discussed resolutions and worked on the Budget and Policy Priorities.
- E. Our Children Our Family Council: Nothing to report yet.

9. Staff Report (Discussion Only)

- Staff person LaCroix is on leave of absence and won't be returning
- Sonoma County Junior Commission on Human Rights will visit the Youth Commission on Thursday, April 19th and Commissioner Amable is interested in attending.
- We are extending the Youth Commission application deadlines and:
 - Commissioner Andam, Nassiri, Mao, Tam, Hoyt, Amable, Mesler, Chen, Lind and Yu want to help in the interview process.
- Youth Commission staff interviews will be held May 16-18, and Commissioners who want to help are Andam, Hoyt, Amable, Yu, and Tam.



10. Announcements (This Includes Community Events)

- Commissioner Andam wants to play golf with folks. Commissioner's text Commissioner Andam for more information.
- San Francisco Rising wants to know if Youth Commission is interested in phone banking to call people of color between 18-25 regarding elections in June. Josh will connect with staff to send out more info in the weekly internal.

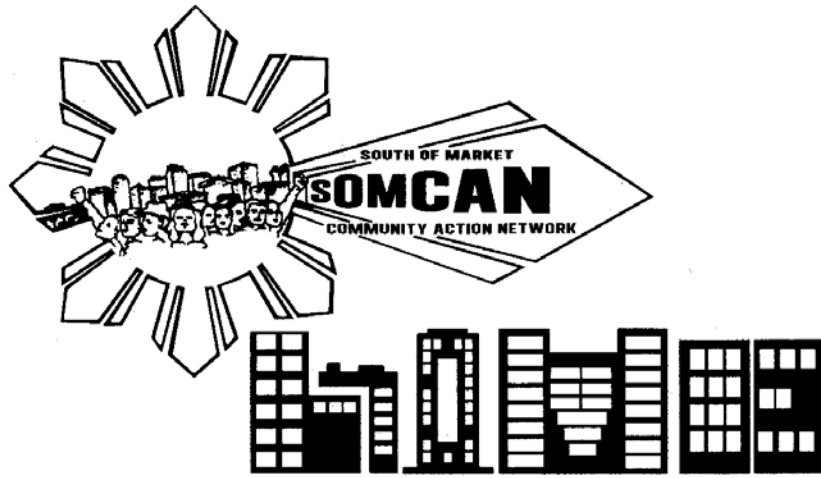
11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

PEDESTRIAN AND NIGHT SAFETY CAMPAIGN

South of Market Community Action
Network (SOMCAN)'s
Youth Organizing Home and
Neighborhood Action (YOHANA)





In 2000, SOMCAN was born as a response to the gentrification and displacement of SoMa residents, business & non-profits.





Combining Direct Service + Organizing

Direct Service

- United Families
- Workforce Program
- Tenant Rights Program
- Healthy Initiative Promoting Healthy Youth (HIPHY)

Organizing

- Workers Right
- Kapit Bahay
- Youth Organizing Home And Neighborhood Action (YOHANA)





Campaigns



- Pedestrian Safety
- Youth & Family Special Use District
- Central SoMa Plan
- Affordable Housing Policy and preserving buildings
- Transit Justice



Youth Organizing Home and Neighborhood Action (YOHANA) is a youth-led program that works within the neighborhood on issues that we face as a community. We come together because we love our neighborhood and city. It is important for the youth to have a voice in the change or issues in the SOMA.





YOHANA Campaigns/Events



- Free Clipper Card
- Free City College
- Ignite Open Mic

- Bike Program
- Pedestrian Safety
- Night Safety



Night Safety

(Part 1)



WHY ADVOCATE FOR SOMA STREETLIGHTS?





Types of Lights in San Francisco



**Pendant
Luminaire**



**Post Top
Luminaire**



LED Lights



Number of SF streetlights

- Total numbers of streetlights in the city: approx. 46,000
 - Only 13,000 of those streetlights are currently LEDs as of October, 2017 under SFPUC
- 13,000 of them are scattered across the city, including certain **alleyways of South of Market** and the commercial area of Castro Street.





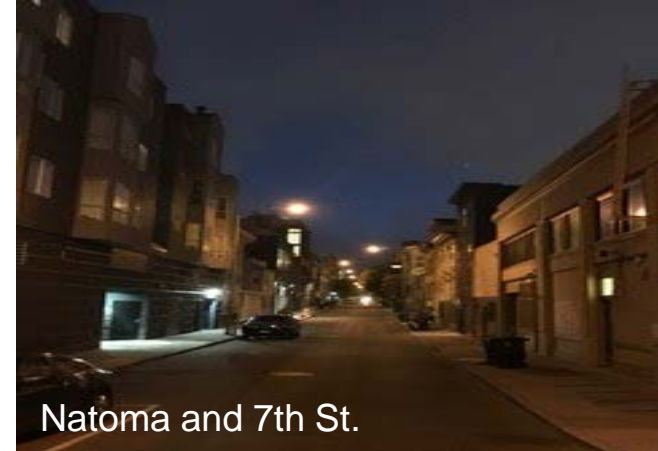
The changes of streetlights

San Francisco begins to change the streetlights from high pressure sodium to LED's, and also replacing old steel light posts with new aluminum versions. The new brighter LED lights enhance safety for pedestrians, while sharply curbing electrical usage and maintenance cost. They have an estimated life of 15-20 years compared to high pressure sodium bulbs which usually last 3-5 years.





Current SoMA Street Lights



SFPUC LED Conversion



- 65% of the streetlights in San Francisco are owned by SFPUC
- 5,500 are left to be converted by SFPUC
- Each LED costs \$135 to attached and tuned



Pedestrian Night Safety Issues





Cause: Bad/No Lights

The low quality street lighting from old and tinted light bulbs is a factor that causes pedestrian night safety to be an issue, especially in the SoMA district.





Effect: Loitering/Stalking

Loitering and stalking are two issues that are effects of lack of quality lighting, and they lead to darker and more dangerous streets.





Pedestrian Experiences





Streets In Need of Better Lighting

- *Natoma Street between 5th-8th
- *Minna Street between 5th-8th
- Howard Street between 5th-8th
- Russ Street between Folsom and Minna

Pedestrian Safety

(Part 2)



WHY ADVOCATE FOR WALKING?



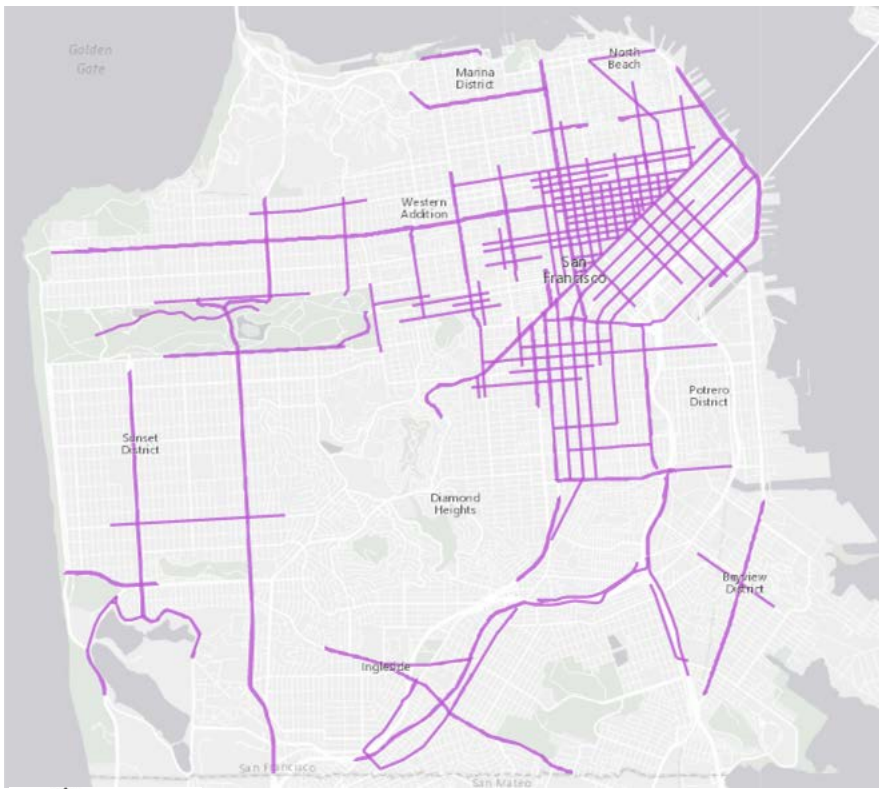


VISION ZERO: No loss of life is acceptable



- Ending all serious & fatal traffic injuries by 2024
- Using data to inform why people are getting injured or killed on our streets
- Focusing on what the CITY and large organizations can do to prevent those deaths







TOP 5 TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS:

NOT YIELDING
(crosswalk)

NOT YIELDING
(left turn)

SPEEDING

RUNNING STOP SIGNS

RUNNING LIGHTS



● If hit by a person driving at:

● Person Survives the Collision

● Results in a Fatality

20 MPH



30 MPH



40 MPH





HOW DO WE MAKE STREETS MORE SAFE?

- CRASHES ARE PREDICTABLE AND PREVENTABLE
- CRASHES ARE NOT RANDOM ACCIDENTS, WE KNOW THEY ARE HAPPENING BECAUSE OF:
 - **SPEEDING**, **RUNNING LIGHTS**, **NOT YIELDING**
(left turn), **RUNNING STOP SIGNS**, **NOT YIELDING** (crosswalk)
- STRATEGIES TO REACH VISION ZERO INCLUDE:
ENFORCEMENT, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION





PRESSING SAFETY NEEDS

Folsom and Howard streets are on San Francisco's High Injury Network, which represent the 12 percent of city streets that account for 70 percent of traffic collisions.

Between April 2011 and March 2016, 308 people were injured and 3 killed from **421** crashes on Folsom and Howard streets including:

- **1 Pedestrian fatality on Howard**
- **1 Bicyclist fatality on Folsom**
- **1 Bicyclist fatality on Howard (June 22, 2016)**
- **88 Pedestrian injuries**
- **72 Bicyclist injuries**

Every year, 30 people are killed and 200 more are seriously injured in San Francisco traffic crashes.

Our city's Vision Zero commitment is to end all traffic deaths by 2024.

Vision Zero High Injury Network Map



— High Injury Streets ● High Injury Intersections — Project Area

Sources:

- <http://www.potreroview.net/san-francisco-transitioning-street-lamps-to-led/>
- <http://sfpublicworks.org/project/mid-market-soma-alleyways-phase-2>
- <http://m.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/S-F-replacing-old-streetlights-with-cheaper-6043946.php#2>
- <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=1076>
- <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/The-South-of-Market-street-kept-in-the-dark-for-a-5991010.php#photo-7343018>
- <http://sfpublicworks.org/project/mid-market-soma-alleyways-phase-2>
- <http://www.sfbetterstreets.org/find-project-types/streetscape-elements/street-lighting/>



Contact: Jodi L. Schwartz, Executive Director
jodi@lyric.org / 415-793-3220 (cell)

“Mitch dreads going to school each and every day. At his middle school, he is made fun of and shunned because of his sexual orientation. Sometimes he skips school to avoid the bullying he is frequently subjected to. ‘I don’t understand why people look down on us. I am still the same person whether I am LGBT or not.’”

“LGBTQ youth participants in focus groups expressed that a safe learning environment free from harassment is something all young people should be able to rely on at school. LGBTQ youth are particularly vulnerable to bullying and harassment and need safe spaces to learn.”

[DCYF 2016 Community Needs Assessment Excerpts]

FUNDING REQUESTED: \$175,885 for Middle School Q Groups @ 10 Schools

LYRIC’s QGroup program successfully engages vulnerable LGBTQ youth in SFUSD middle schools (MS), especially those who are trans/gender non-conforming (TGNC)—a population LYRIC has been serving for ~30 years. In the 2015 SFUSD MS Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 4% (~367) students identified as LGB, 15% (~1469) were “questioning” their sexual orientation, and 1% (~97) identified as T.

Many LGBTQ youth have violent or harmful school experiences—70% of SFUSD MS students report hearing homophobic/transphobic slurs, 52% of LGBT MS students report being bullied at school, 43% of LGBT MS students have been in a physical fight.

In late FY1516/FY1617, LYRIC and SFUSD partnered to pilot a new format for LYRIC’s middle school engagement based on the success of the Q Group model in high schools. Adapted for the developmental needs of a younger population, Q Groups in middle schools were enthusiastically embraced by LGBTQ students and school site staff. **In 2016, 87% were students of color and 73% were TGNC. Pre-/post-test evaluations show impressive improvement in sense of safety at school (69% vs. 92%), closeness with people at school (69% vs. 100%), and LGBTQ identity pride (83% vs. 100%).** As a result, SFUSD asked that we expand from three middle schools to five middle schools in FY1718. Participation levels from FY1617 to FY1718 have more than doubled (to 34 enrolled students) and demand for new groups to be added has created a waiting list.¹ Of the 34 youth enrolled in Q Groups as of the mid-point FY1718, 100% are LGBTQ, 85% are students of color and 47% are trans/gender non-conforming.

LYRIC is the only QGroup provider in SFUSD MSs.

¹ While we were able to add a second group at Vis Valley MS, three of our other school sites have requested a second group with a combined list of 20 additional students interested in joining a Q Group as of January 2018, and an average of two new students asking to be enrolled each month.

QGroups are confidential, school-based social support groups that address barriers to positive identity formation and connection to supportive LGBTQQ peers/adults, and connect students to external resources to support their health & wellness. Groups increase awareness of cultural and gender diversity through topics such as coming out/healthy relationships/intersectional identity development. A QGroup student reported: “I liked being able to be open about myself and my identities.”

Trans/gender non-conforming middle school age students in particular are at a critical developmental point in their identity formation, and the intersectionality embedded in the identity formation of trans/gender non-conforming students of color demonstrate an even greater need for community connection and belonging. In addition to important connections made with LYRIC’s trans POC identified Q Group Coordinator and Q Group peers, Q Group participants take significant steps in sharing their true identities with key people in their lives. 100% of school social workers and counselors have fostered connections to Q Group participants, linking students to psychotherapy and gender affirmative health clinic services, and 50% of Q Group participants have come out to close friends and family after enrolling in a Q Group. Youth now enrolled in Q Groups had previously skipped school, but now are reconnecting specifically because they come to school to attend Q Group. **Without the Q Group, these students likely would have remained isolated and invisible to school staff, peers, and family, and started down a path of disconnection from school, family, and community.** In engaging with LGBTQQ youth across the age spectrum, we see the devastating effects of isolation and invisibility in our Disconnected LGBTQQ TAY who struggle through layers of trauma as we work to support their reconnection to school, work, and community. Funding the Middle School Q Groups would go a long way towards mitigating this form of trauma.

SFUSD provided LYRIC a Letter of Support for our Middle School Q Groups and has shared its excitement about expanding the Q Groups to more of SFUSD middle schools. When LYRIC shared with SFUSD staff that the Middle School Q Group proposal was not funded, staff from SFUSD’s School Health Programs/LGBTQQ Support Services were extremely disappointed, stating that no other community program exists to serve LGBTQQ middle school students.

LYRIC submitted for continued funding for MS Q Groups from DCYF, received a 96 point score including points for meeting DCYF’s “equity” definition, and statements that the proposal aligned with the DCYF strategy, demonstrated ability to reach target population, and that LYRIC experience and past performance indicates an ability to perform proposed services and has a “strong” fiscal rating. DCYF Director Maria Su agreed that LYRIC’s Q Group proposal was strong, our program working with LGBTQQ middle school students important yet DCYF did not have enough funding to cover all needs but is supportive of funding being used for this purpose if more funding could be secured through dialogue with the City leadership.

September 21, 2017

Maria Su, Psy.D
Executive Director
San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families
1390 Market St – Ste 900
San Francisco, CA



Re: RFP - DCYF 2018-2023 Funding Cycle

Dear Director Su:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my full support of **Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC)** in their application for **Identity Formation funding** to support the continuation of **Q Groups in SFUSD Middle Schools**.

School Health Programs of San Francisco Unified School District (SHP/SFUSD) has worked in partnership with LYRIC for over 25 years. The delivery of Q Groups in SFUSD middle schools began in FY1516 and developed out of a blend of two program models. One model is the middle school social justice course component of LYRIC's School-Based Initiative launched in January 2011. The second model is Q Groups in SFUSD High Schools supported through a SHP/SFUSD-CBO partnership, including LYRIC, launched in August 2013 as part of SFUSD's *Strategy 4 HIV Prevention* work in collaboration with the CDC.

Through our partnership with LYRIC, we have witnessed LYRIC's staff meaningful connections to San Francisco's diverse youth community and deep experience delivering curriculum centered on gender identity and sexuality. The positive experience that LGBTQ middle grade students have as a part of the Q Groups is demonstrated by the impressive >90% retention rate. This is particularly exciting given that 92% of Q Group participants are youth of color and 73% are transgender/gender-questioning.

We look forward to our continued partnership with LYRIC to deliver this critical support to middle grade LGBTQ students – youth who struggle with stigma, depression and academic and family challenges. SHP/SFUSD will support the partnership with LYRIC by: (1) identifying middle grade sites that are most in need, (2) ensuring school site readiness and implementation coordination, (3) ensuring that school site staff are prepared to support student selection and retention, and (4) leading evaluation efforts.

LYRIC is well-suited to lead the Q Group work in SFUSD middle grade schools. Due to LYRIC's long history serving vulnerable youth in San Francisco in school-based and community-based settings, its reputation as a leading service provider and community partner, we are confident that LYRIC's middle grade Q Group proposal will have a positive and lasting impact on SFSD LGBTQ students' academic success and sense of school belonging.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at gogin@sfusd.edu to further discuss my support of LYRIC and this proposal.

Sincerely,


Kevin R. Gogin
Director of Safety and Wellness
School Health Programs, SFCSD
San Francisco Unified School District