

Youth Action Network

Formalizing Youth Voice – City Liaison

Presented by: Malena Ronga, Community Impact Coordinator





ABOUT YAN

United Way's Santa Cruz County Youth Action Network (YAN) is a countywide **collaborative of youth and adults** working together to **promote youth well-being** by connecting young people to resources and opportunities to create **positive community change** and **elevating youth voices** in decision-making.

Children and Youth Bill of Rights

- Leadership Opportunities
- Career Building
- Access to Mentors
- Offering Stipends



ROLE OF JURISDICTIONAL REPS



Jurisdictional Representatives

Relationships between adult decision-makers and youth leaders increased this year with the introduction of Jurisdictional Representatives. YAN facilitates Meet and Greets with youth and adult decision makers that foster connections, leading to collaboration on the Leaders Unite 4 Youth workshop.

Capitola City: Yvette Brooks



Nick Merolla
City of Watsonville Parks
and Community Services



Allan Timms
Councilmember
Scotts Valley



Yvette Brooks
Councilmember
Capitola City



Gloria Carroll
Child Welfare Director of
Santa Cruz County



**Shebreh Kalantari-
Johnson**
Councilmember
Santa Cruz City

WORKSHOPS ON POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

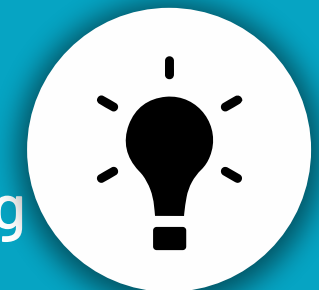


LEADERS UNITE 4 YOUTH

- The March 23rd Leaders Unite 4 Youth workshop engaged 18 youth & 12 adult leaders
- Youth learned about policy-making at a city, county, & statewide level
- Young people were also able to pre-register to vote

FEEDBACK

- Youth shared an increase in connections with adult leaders & understanding of decision-making processes
- Youth expressed interest in the Children & Youth Bill of Rights, particularly in employment opportunities & developing leadership skills
- Youth indicated that they wanted to have more experiences like this





YAN'S ROLE IN CONVERSATION

- Through YAN's networking opportunities, Capitola passed the Children and Youth Bill of Rights formalizing a youth liaison position
- YAN connects decision-makers directly with youth leaders, ensuring their voices influence decisions

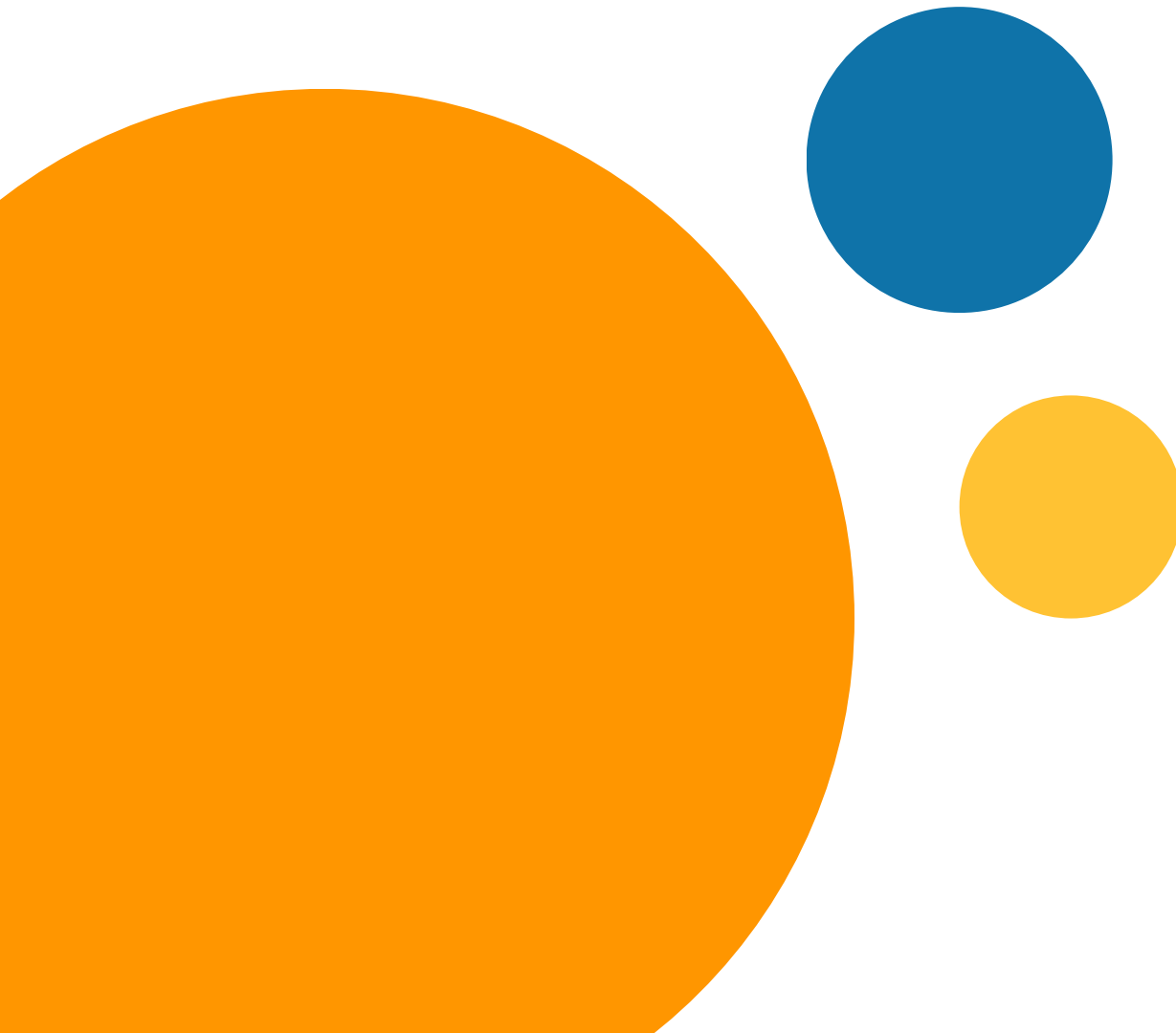
Formalizing Youth Voice

A youth liaison ensures that the City upholds the Children and Youth Bill of Rights by:

- Offering youth leadership opportunities
- Providing compensation for youth's time
- Fostering mentorship
- Building community



QUESTIONS?



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**United Way
of Santa Cruz County**