



City of East Palo Alto  
**Community Services Department/Recreation Division**

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### **East Palo Alto Youth Advisory Committee (EPA-YAC)**

The City of East Palo Alto values the ideas and opinions of its youth and under the direction of the Community Services Department launched a campaign that '***The Magic of change is in YOUTH***' in December of 2006. In keeping with that fundamental principle we have re-established the East Palo Alto Youth Advisory Council (EPA-YAC) in a new innovative format that draws from a more diverse group of teens and young adults within the community to work with city council, school officials and youth agencies which provides them a voice in decision making opportunities which concern their well being living in East Palo Alto; and that also allows for socialization opportunities among their schools through service learning projects and local youth initiatives to create a sense of community among them.

The East Palo Alto Youth Advisory Committee (EPA-YAC) is formed to foster greater involvement of youth in municipal government, specifically to resolve any problems, activities and concerns of youth relating to municipal policies, programs or projects of the City of East Palo Alto. The EPA-YAC conducts forums to involve youth in the governmental decision-making process makes recommendations to the City Council and to the Community Services Department on these issues.

#### **General**

**Meeting Dates:** There are two types of meetings:

**Town Hall Meetings are held 2nd Thursday of each month from 4:30-6:00pm:** These meetings are open to the public and held in the evenings at EPA-YAC Headquarters located at 550-B Bell Street behind the YMCA and/or City Hall Chambers.

**EPA-YAC School Site Meetings ([See flyer](#)):** Schools where EPA students are attending will either already have a fully EPA represented student council, such as Eastside College Preparatory School and East Palo Alto Academy High School or form their own EPA-YAC "Club", during the school day facilitated by EPA Youth and Young Adult Coordinators. Check with your local school for days and times for meetings or call the Community Services Department, (650) 853-5907, to start an EPA-YAC at your school.

**Application:** To join please complete the [EPA-YAC Application](#)

**City Liaisons:** Recreation Services Supervisor and two Youth/Young Adult Coordinators

#### **Number of**

**Youth Members:** EPA-YAC councils can have as members that wish to join them however only 2 representatives from each EPA-YAC will be part of a city-wide EPA-YAC consortium that meets monthly the 2nd Thursday of each month in Town Hall meetings in East Palo Alto and will be the representative who will work directly with City Council.

#### **Vision**

Believes the ***Magic of Change is in our YOUTH*** where every East Palo Alto resident can graduate from high school to qualify for college to live out their dreams.

#### **Youth Mission**

The Community Services Department's mission is to implement the City's vision of "**Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs.**" Within the framework of this mission:

- Give teens and young adults a VOICE in the transformation of East Palo Alto.
- Strengthen East Palo Alto's positive teen and young adult community image
- Provide them with a sense of place
- Implement youth development opportunities using the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets Principals
- Support their economic development and increase academic skills through community partnerships

Program runs September-June

**Goals** (Please Note: Bolded words are those used by East Palo Alto Teens and young adults in the 2006/07 school year EPA-YAC program. Goals are reviewed each year and amended per their directive.)

- Provide opportunities for **Planning** input/Examining **Facilities** in regards to teens and young adults leisure and recreation
- Improve Teen **Leadership**
- Focus on **Jobs/Employment** opportunities for teens and young adults
- Provide input on the **Education** system and how it could ensure the achievement of successful academic outcomes
- Supply business and financial experience as **Negotiators/\$\$\$**, or fundraisers to implement their objectives
- Provide a **Youth Court** system where its a peer on peer court that is recognized by the judicial system
- **Provide Volunteer** opportunities
- Provide **Entertainment** outlets for teens and young adults
- Seek ways to bring **Sports** into EPA for teens and young adults
- Create a Communication Network System to be used as the **Marketing** tool to promote their goals and objectives
- Implement programs and activities around **Health & Fitness** issues
- Be the congruent for Youth Advisory Council **Elections**
- Present a platform for **Awards and Celebrations** that acknowledge youth service credits each year.

**Upcoming 2009 events:**

March 22	Candle Light Memorial	St. Francis of Assisi Church
April 4	Sports Day 11:00-2:30pm	Costaño School
April 18	Al Julian track Meet	Cesar Chavez School
April 25	Global Youth Service Day	Location TBD
May 9, 2009	Jam Session & Talent Show	Eastside College Preparatory School
May 18, 2009	EPA-YAC Graduation Ceremony & Unite the Town Dance	Location TBD

**For More information regarding EPA-YAC please contact the program manager:**

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**EPA-YAC Youth and Young Adult Coordinators**

*(Coordinators are funded through match funds with [Public Allies](#))*

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