

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2018  
2019

PRETEND CITY  
YLC  
INFORMATION

29 HUBBLE  
IRVINE, CA  
92618

*Lead.  
Inspire.  
Change.*



**Julia Wang**  
Pretend City's YLC  
President  
2016-2018  
Orange County School  
of the Arts (OCSA)  
Senior, Fall 2018



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi friends!

Thank you for your interest in the Pretend City Youth Leadership Council! We are a group of empowered middle and high schoolers who are dedicated to building better brains in our community. We are looking for passionate and inspired individuals to help us further our mission of "building better brains," students who are willing to go the extra mile to serve their community.

My name is Julia, and I am a junior at the Orange County School of the Arts, where I play violin. I started volunteering at Pretend City the week after I turned 12, and ever since I donned my first purple volunteer shirt, in 4 years I haven't looked back." I have been exposed to countless opportunities in leadership, public-speaking, and networking, and I feel that my brain has been better built by my time volunteering at Pretend City. As the president of YLC, I personally encourage you to become a member of our council.

By becoming a member of the council, not only do you get to build your leadership skills and forge lasting friendships, but you get to use your own unique voice to make an impacting and lasting change in our community. Whether that be helping organize a drive at school, brainstorming fundraising opportunities, or writing grants. This year, the YLC organized a Lunar New Year celebration to promote diversity and educate children on Asian cultures and traditions. The YLC involved local community organizations and business in sharing their unique cultures by music and dance performances, karate demonstrations, and product sampling by Nongshim. Through this event the YLC was able to educate and further Pretend City's mission and discovering diversity program to the 800 guests in attendance.

In years past we focused on the healing power of music and the arts in our Super Sounds for Special Abilities program, which was funded in part by the Disney Friends for Change grant. Our program brought themed music and craft activities to Pretend City's monthly Autism Nights, where children on the spectrum could come into the museum free of charge, and could experience the museum at their own pace. We also organized and planned from scratch Pretend City Family Game Night, Pretend City Mini-Olympics, and a youth-directed Autism Awareness video, which was also funded by a large grant from Disney's Friends for Change.

Whether you are 17 or 12, a practiced leader or a passionate person looking for your voice, a seasoned volunteer or just starting your volunteer career, we would love to have you on our council. Remember that YLC is a learning experience, and your brain will be built as you build the brains of others. Together, we will be challenged, thrust into a group filled with people of different interests, passions, and perspectives. We will put our heads and hearts together to help a cause we all are passionate about. And after all of our hard work and planning, we only need to see one smile, one better brain, one life changed, to have fulfilled our role in their lives.

On behalf of the entire council, we cannot wait to read your submissions, and we look forward to what the future may hold.

Best, Julia Wang

## INTRO TO THE YLC

**Purpose Statement:** *The Youth Leadership Council are ambassadors for Pretend City, consisting of young people committed to furthering the mission of Pretend City Children's Museum while positively impacting their communities through leadership, philanthropy, education, and awareness.*

### “FROM PRETEND CITY TO THE REAL WORLD”

Consistent with the educational philosophy of Pretend City Children's Museum, the YLC provides an immersive experience for a multi-aged group of inspired youth to cultivate leadership skills through their direct participation on a youth board of directors.

### In the YLC, you get the chance to...

- Foster leadership skills through hands-on learning experiences
- Enhance skills appropriate for today's workplace such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, leading by influence, entrepreneurialism, effective communication, and responsibility.
- Mentor with community business leaders and museum staff
- Gain an understanding of the importance of philanthropy & how non-profits operate
- Organizing / leading events
- Attend a leadership retreat
- Engage in a unique leadership opportunity
- Access to educational seminars about the college experience
- Socialize with peers from other schools in a welcoming environment
- Gain a competitive edge over your peers for the college admissions process
- Fulfill volunteer service requirements

## WHAT IS PRETEND CITY?

### MISSION STATEMENT

Pretend City is a community which builds better brains through fun, whole body learning experiences and empowers children and their grown-ups to meaningfully connect with and expand their world.

Since Pretend City opened in August 2009, it has become a valued resource for families in Southern California. Designed as a small, interconnected city with a grocery store, farm, doctor's office, art studio, amphitheater, beach, and marina, it is a place to explore, learn, play, and be creative in a familiar environment. We have welcomed over 1.4 million visitors! We also host special events such as therapeutic play nights for children with Autism and Family Wellness Fairs, which provide free developmental, health, and dental screenings. Through our Pretend City Children's Museum Scholarship Program, children in underserved schools receive free admission to the museum and educational programming through special field trips.

### WE BELIEVE...

- young children learn best through their play
- families are our children's first and most important teachers
- in supporting healthy childhood development
- in nurturing a passion for learning through play
- diversity enriches children's lives
- in connecting families to each other and the community
- **PLAY CHANGES THE WORLD!**



**Pretend City**<sup>®</sup>  
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM







# STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

## MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Youth Leadership Council:

- are students of excellent character
- stand apart from the crowd in their actions and attitude
- go beyond the minimum effort and grade requirements in school
- exhibit positive leadership influence amongst peers
- are creative and innovative thinkers
- and are FUN!

## REQUIREMENTS

- Be going into grades 7-12 in the Fall of 2018
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA

## YLC MEETINGS

YLC meetings are held twice a month on **Mondays from 4:30-6:30** at Pretend City Children's

Museum Here are the meeting dates for the upcoming year (Dates are subject to change):

September 10	December 17	April 8
September 24	January 14	April 22
October 8	January 28	May 6
October 22	February 11	May 20
November 5	February 25	June 3
November 19	March 11	June 17
December 3	March 25	

Additionally, please plan to be available on **August 6** for our Annual YLC retreat. This is a local, daytime event.



## APPLICATION TIMELINE

**MAY 4 - YLC APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**MAY 7 - SELECT APPLICANTS NOTIFIED BACK FOR GROUP INTERVIEWS**

**MAY 21 - APPLICANT INTERVIEWS AT PRETEND CITY**

**JUNE 4 - NEW MEMBERS NOTIFIED**

**AUGUST 6 - YLC RETREAT (1ST YLC MEETING WITH ALL MEMBERS)**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME AND VISIT THE MUSEUM PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION, PLEASE SCHEDULE A TOUR WITH THE YLC COORDINATOR, SELENE VASQUEZ.

[SELENE.VASQUEZ@PRETENDCITY.ORG](mailto:SELENE.VASQUEZ@PRETENDCITY.ORG)

949.428.3900 Ext. 217

*Both weekday and weekend appointments are available.*

# REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

## **Document 1: Latest Report Card**

Please send verification of your most recent report card.

## **Document 2: Letter of Recommendation**

Please obtain one letter of recommendation. It can be from school, youth group, church, etc.

## **Document 3: Resume**

Please send current resume (include work and volunteer experience).

APPLY HERE (Click here)

For any additional questions, please email [ylc@pretendcity.org](mailto:ylc@pretendcity.org) or call our Youth Leadership Coordinator, Selene Vasquez at **949.428.3900 Ext. 217**.

# APPLY TODAY!



**@PretendCity**