

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2017
2018

PRETEND CITY
YLC
APPLICATION

29 HUBBLE
IRVINE, CA
92618

*Lead.
Inspire.
Change.*



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 sophomore 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 3 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.

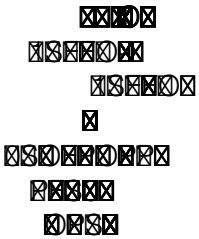
By becoming a member of the council, not only do you get to build your leadership skills and forge lasting friendships, but you get to use your own unique voice to make an impacting and lasting change in our community. Whether that be helping organize a drive at school, brainstorming fundraising opportunities, or writing grants. This year, the YLC partnered with Project Hope, and focused on serving the more than 26,000 children in Orange County that are currently struggling with homelessness, and are forced to worry about where they will sleep instead of what they will learn. We put Pretend City's mission in a box, the “Brain Box,” and with the help of over 50 volunteers from schools all over Orange County, helped instill a love for learning for those struggling with childhood homelessness.

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.

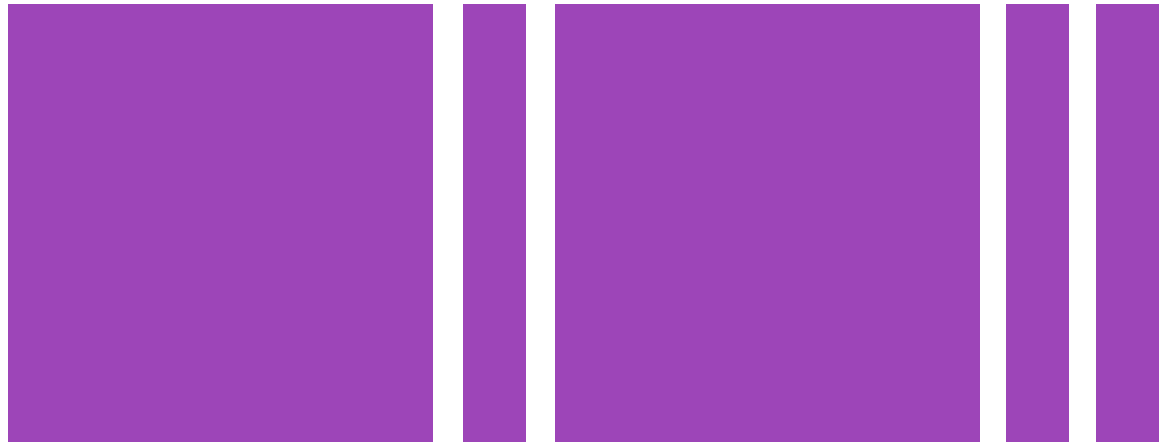
On behalf of the entire council, we cannot wait to read your submissions, and we look forward to what the future may hold.

Best, Julia Wang



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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...

- Attend a leadership retreat
- Engage in a unique leadership opportunity
- Gain a competitive edge over your peers for the college admissions process
- Access to special seminars about the college experience
- Fulfill volunteer service requirements
- Socialize with peers from other schools in a welcoming environment
- 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

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 seen nearly 900,000 visitors come through our doors and more than 6,000 families have purchased memberships. 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
- connecting families to each other and the community
- **PLAY CHANGES THE WORLD!**





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 FUN!

REQUIREMENTS

- Be going into grades 7-12 in the Fall of 2017
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA

YLC MEETINGS

YLC meetings are held bi-monthly 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 11	December 18	April 9
September 25	January 15	April 23
October 9	January 29	May 7
October 23	February 12	May 21
November 6	February 26	June 4
November 20	March 12	June 18
December 4	March 26	

Additionally, please plan to be available on **August 7** for our Annual YLC retreat. This is a local, daytime event.



APPLICATION

NAME _____

BIRTHDAY _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL _____

GRADE (IN FALL 2017) _____

Let us get to know you! Please answer the following questions. Feel free to retype or use a separate piece of paper. Try to make each answer roughly half a page.

- 1. DESCRIBE YOURSELF BY ANY MEANS (VIDEO, ESSAY, ARTWORK, ETC.) AND TELL US WHAT MAKES YOU A UNIQUE CANDIDATE FOR THE YLC.**
- 2. TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXTRACURRICULAR HOBBIES AND/OR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES. DID YOU PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE? IF SO, WHAT WERE YOUR DUTIES, VOLUNTEER HOURS, AND HOW LONG DID YOU PARTICIPATE?**
- 3. LET'S SAY YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A \$1,000 DOLLAR GRANT. WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? THE MORE SPECIFIC, THE BETTER.**
- 4. YOU'RE A NEW ADDITION TO A CRAYON BOX, WHAT COLOR WOULD YOU BE AN WHY?**





APPLICATION TIMELINE

JUNE 7 - YLC APPLICATION DEADLINE

JUNE 9 - SELECT APPLICANTS NOTIFIED BACK FOR GROUP INTERVIEWS

JUNE 12 - APPLICANT INTERVIEWS AT PRETEND CITY

JUNE 14 - NEW MEMBERS NOTIFIED

AUGUST 7 - 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

949.428.3900 Ext. 217

Both weekday and weekend appointments are available.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

PLEASE ATTACH THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION TO YOUR APPLICATION ANSWERS. SEND YOUR APPLICATION VIA MAIL, EMAIL, OR DROP-OFF.

Document 1: Latest Report Card

Please attach 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.

Attn: Youth Leadership Council
Pretend City Children's Museum
29 Hubble
Irvine, CA 92618

For any additional questions, please email or call our Youth Leadership Coordinator, Selene Vasquez at selene.vasquez@pretendcity.org or 949.428.3900 Ext. 217

APPLY TODAY!



@PretendCity