LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello!

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 students who are passionate, inspired, and willing to go the extra mile to serve their community to help us further our mission of “building better brains.”

My name is Josie, and I am a student in the Popular Music Conservatory at the Orange County School of the Arts. I first joined the Pretend City YLC in the summer before my eighth grade year, and have since been exposed to countless opportunities in leadership, public speaking, and networking since then. This council welcomed me with open arms and has continually taught me more and more important leadership skills and life skills. As the President of the YLC, I encourage you to become a member of our council!

By becoming a member of the council, you get to build your leadership skills, forge lasting friendships, and use your unique voice to make lasting and impactful change in our community; whether that be by organizing a drive at school, contacting local businesses for donations, writing grants, or creating educational programming.

Every year, the YLC comes together to fully organize and implement community outreach events in areas we are passionate about. This gives YLC members a chance to take the leadership skills they’ve learned and implement them immediately into something tangible, such as an event. It is an opportunity for students to try new things, test their limits, and practice working in groups.

This year, the YLC worked to bring potential careers to Pretend City children through “Career Day,” as well as teach cultural and STEM education through the lens of Disney and Marvel characters.

Other past events include:

• “Lunar New Year Celebration” brought Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese Lunar New Year customs to Pretend City kids and families
• “Brain Boxes” brought developmental milestone questionnaire kits to homeless families in Orange County to promote a lifetime of learning from a young age
• “S.T.E.A.M. City” exposed Pretend City kids to the many jobs and fields related to S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) that are becoming more and more important in today’s society
• Our European Culture Event brought traditional European customs to Pretend City kids and families
• Interactive book on different cultures and traditions • Online scavenger events

Whether you are 17 or 12, a seasoned leader or a passionate person looking for your voice, an experienced volunteer or someone just starting to look for opportunities, we would love to have you on our council. Remember that YLC is a learning experience, and your brain will grow as you build the brains of others. Together, we will be challenged as we are surrounded by 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 make everything we do worthwhile.

On behalf of the entire Youth Leadership Council, we cannot wait to see your application, and we look forward to what the future may hold.

Best,

Jocelyn Wang
INTRO TO THE YLC

*Purpose Statement:* The members of the Youth Leadership Council are ambassadors for Pretend City. The council consists 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
- Organize and lead community events
- Attend a leadership retreat
- Engage in a unique leadership opportunity
- Socialize with peers from other schools in an inclusive environment
- Gain a competitive edge over your peers for the college admissions process
ABOUT US

WHAT IS PRETEND CITY?

MISSION STATEMENT

Pretend City is a non-profit children’s museum 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!
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 2022
 • Have at least a 3.0 GPA

YLC MEETINGS

YLC meetings are held every other Monday from 5:00pm - 6:30pm at Pretend City Children’s Museum. Additionally, please plan to be available in August for our annual YLC retreat. This is a local, daytime event.
APPLICATION TIMELINE

APRIL 3RD 2022 - YLC APPLICATION DEADLINE

APRIL 6TH 2022 - SELECT APPLICANTS NOTIFIED BACK FOR GROUP INTERVIEWS

APRIL 11TH 2022 - APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

MAY 1ST 2022 - NEW MEMBERS NOTIFIED

AUGUST TBD - 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

mariesa.acosta@pretendcity.org
949.428.3900 Ext. 217

Both weekday and weekend appointments are available.
Document 1: Letter of Recommendation
Please obtain one letter of recommendation. It can be from a teacher, coach, advisor, supervisor, etc. (that are not related to you).

Document 2: Resume
Please send current resume with your current GPA (include work and volunteer experience).

For any additional questions, please email mariesa.acosta@pretendcity.org

APPLY TODAY!

@PretendCity