OUR MISSION:

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DYCD) INVESTS IN A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF POVERTY AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW YORKERS AND COMMUNITIES TO FLOURISH.

OUR VISION:

DYCD STRIVES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF NEW YORKERS BY COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INVESTING IN THE TALENTS AND ASSETS OF OUR COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEM DEVELOP, GROW AND THRIVE.
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Dear Fellow New Yorkers:

I am pleased to present the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development’s 2017 Annual Report.

Under the leadership and commitment of Mayor Bill de Blasio and the support of the New York City Council, DYCD’s budget has more than doubled since 2014—allowing us to do even more to fulfill our mission of investing in a network of community-based organizations, alleviating the effects of poverty, and providing opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to flourish.

We are proud that every middle schooler in New York City now has access to afterschool, the Beacon program has expanded to 91 locations with the first major funding increase in its 26-year history, and baselined funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) has provided jobs to more young people than at any time in recent memory. By 2019, over 750 beds will be available citywide for runaway and homeless youth—a nearly 200 percent increase from 2014.

These are just a few of the accomplishments that have made New York City a better place to live, work, and play for the communities we serve. I encourage you to continue reading this Annual Report to learn more about the other achievements, highlights, and events of the year gone by.

Sincerely,

Bill Chong
Commissioner
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development
DYCD 2017 Highlights

Beacon

Eleven new Beacons opened in 2017 (bringing the total citywide to 91), serving 13,000 additional young people and adults. The first major funding increase since the program started in 1991 brings the per-center funding to an all-time high of $550,000.

In celebration of former Mayor David Dinkins’ work in establishing the Beacon program more than 25 years ago, DYCD released a special tribute video featuring the Mayor, DYCD staff, and young people who have benefited from the initiative.

Middle school and high school students from Beacon programs participated in DYCD’s annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month Youth Mural Project. Fifty young people worked closely with professional artists from public art organization Groundswell to create murals and raise awareness about sexual assault and prevention.

DYCD celebrated Lights on Afterschool with the students and staff at PS 6 Norma Adams Clemons Academy in Brooklyn, one of 11 new Beacon sites. Joining in on the fun were Deputy Mayor Richard Buery, DYCD Commissioner Chong, Council Member Mathieu Eugene, and representatives from Medgar Evers/CUNY, which operates the Beacon.

Capacity Building

Commissioner Chong gave the welcome address at the Capacity Building Training for Council-funded Community Partners workshop at LaGuardia Community College organized by the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services (MOCS). The training was a free resource to the community, and is also a City Council requirement for small and mid-sized nonprofits that receive more than $10,000 in City Council funds.

More than 300 young people from the Cultivating Curiosity Summer 2017 initiative were paid a visit at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum by engineer and former NASA astronaut Michael Massimino. Using the City as a learning playground, Cultivating Curiosity helps youth discover their spark with hands-on interdisciplinary approaches to STEM, literacy, performance and visual arts, leadership, and service learning.

COMPASS Afterschool

In the 2016–17 school year, more than 116,000 young people were served by City-funded afterschool programs—double the number receiving services under the previous administration. Every middle schooler in New York City now has access to afterschool at no cost to them or their families.

In celebration of weekly and monthly observances, Commissioner Chong visited School’s Out New York City (SONYC) middle school programs, including the Lower East Side Girls Club SONYC Tech program (Women’s History Month in March); the New York Tibetan Service Center in Astoria (New York City Immigrant Heritage Week, April 17–April 21); and the NPS Girls program run by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island in Brooklyn (Jewish American History Month in May).

Commissioner Chong and former City Council Speaker Christine Quinn visited the SONYC program at the Women In Need (WIN) Homeless Shelter in Brooklyn. The program provides STEM, literacy, health, drama therapy, fitness, photography, sports, recreation and homework assistance. The Commissioner also joined Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) Commissioner David Hansell and Deputy Mayor Herminia Palacio at the Lineage Project SONYC afterschool program at Horizon Juvenile Justice Center in the Bronx. The Lineage Project works with vulnerable, homeless, and justice-involved youth through meditation and other programs.
DYCD 2017 Highlights

Community Development
For the first time ever, the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) included a youth survey and electronic submissions, and expanded from just one area of DYCD to an agency-wide commitment, collecting nearly 60,000 pages of surveys. The results were presented at a series of public gatherings across the City. These community conversations strengthen our efforts to address the effects of poverty in neighborhood development areas where poverty is high. (For more on Community Development, see Discretionary, Fatherhood, Immigrant Services, Literacy, and Neighborhood Advisory Board Liaison Unit sections).

Cornerstone Community Centers
Hundreds of New Yorkers stopped by their local Cornerstone Community Centers for one of six Spring into Health Fairs organized by DYCD and other City agencies and held in all five boroughs. The day of activities engaged local community-based organizations and other community partners and provided medical screenings, lifestyle information, physical activities, and health-related demonstrations.

DYCD, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) announced the start of programming at the new Brownsville Teen Lounge at the Brownsville Houses in Brooklyn. The center provides a dedicated safe space for young people, who otherwise have to travel to community centers in other public housing developments, because Brownsville is the only development in the area without a community center.

Discretionary
The Discretionary Unit increased the number of workshops offerings to assist community groups throughout the City in the discretionary process, including instruction on monitoring procedures and completing discretionary contract packages. More than 250 participants from community-based organizations attended and took advantage of the information. For FY17, the unit had 1,355 awards, totaling a funding amount of $58.6 million.

External Relations/Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC)
The ICC released Coming Home: Transitioning Back into the Community, a resource directory providing information on resources available to young people in New York City involved with the criminal or juvenile justice systems.

The External Relations staff participated in Patrol Borough Manhattan North’s annual Harmony Day Picnic in Central Park, where our agency’s informational resources were highlighted. The purpose of the event was to strengthen the relationship between members of the New York City Police Department and the children of northern Manhattan communities. Approximately 1,500 children, ranging in ages from 6 to 15, attended.

As part of Mental Health Month, the ICC screened You Are Not Alone, a documentary about black gay men breaking their silence on depression. Over 60 attendees were on hand for the event hosted by DYCD and were offered the opportunity to engage the filmmaker in a discussion after the film.

The ICC held its annual LGBTQ Competency Training for City Employees Who Serve Youth. Held at the Department of Cultural Affairs, the training featured Sara Mikhail from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center. Approximately 40 representatives of the ICC’s agency youth service agencies attended.

Fatherhood
DYCD hosted the 10th Annual Father’s Day event at NYCHA’s Sotomayor Center in the Soundview section of the Bronx. Hundreds of young people joined their dads, guardians, and father figures for indoor activities and games designed to encourage physical activity and bonding between dads and their children.

The 11th Annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day celebration was held at the Harlem YMCA, with a walk to nearby PS 175.

DYCD and its funded programs continue to support the growth of the City’s Responsible Fatherhood Coalition. In conjunction with Deputy Mayor Buery’s office and NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray’s Children’s Cabinet, baby showers were provided for expectant and new parents and caregivers throughout the City.
DYCD 2017 Highlights

(Fatherhood con’t.)

The Fatherhood Initiative invited dads from various DYCD-funded programs to attend a workshop focused on the issue of consent in observance of Denim Day during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year’s event included presentations by the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and provided an opportunity for over 30 fathers enrolled in DYCD’s funded programs to hear about services made available to victims of domestic violence, and participate in a discussion about sexual assault within intimate partner relationships and navigating healthy relationships.

A new Fatherhood model added new programs to assist dads in setting educational goals for their children, as well as providing co-parenting workshops and periodic meetings for program participants to network with custodial fathers. This new design will further assist dads’ growth, and promote community-wide discussions about responsible fatherhood. This new model aims to serve 1,400 fathers each year.

Immigrant Services

DYCD successfully launched the new and improved program, “Comprehensive Services for Immigrant Families.” The program has been expanded to include case management and provide a wide breadth of social services, workshops, and self-advocacy coaching for all family members in a household.

More than 3,351 NYC immigrants were served in basic ESOL/Civics, Families, and Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) programs. Sixty-four percent of participants enrolled in an Immigrant Services program achieved at least one positive outcome as defined by the respective program area.

For the first time, DYCD-branded materials have been translated into 11 prominent languages used in New York City: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, French, Russian, Polish, Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali.

Information Technology (IT)

As part of the largest upgrade to DYCD’s information and technology system in 20 years, our IT unit rolled out several new internal and external programs, including DYCD Connect and discoverDYCD, which was honored with a Best of New York Award for Best Application Serving the Public. The IT unit was also honored by the Center for Government Technology for providing excellent customer service.

Literacy

The City, once again, increased funding for adult literacy services by $12 million in FY17. DYCD invested about $7 million to expand and enhance adult literacy programming, providing services for an additional 5,000 individuals. Technical assistance to literacy providers has been expanded to include building capacity for the literacy community through an English language teacher training course, a series of trainings on instructional technology, and curriculum development.

Enhanced and enriched professional development offerings were provided to over 800 program staff at funded CBOs, covering topics like curriculum development and improvement, student behavior/socio-emotional needs, instructional technology, student persistence and retention, using arts, test preparation, and sharing of best practices. Student engagement and retention in the Young Adult Literacy Programs (YALP) were addressed through professional development sessions to train and coach program staff, and gatherings which attracted about 200 youth to take part in organized activities such as visiting a museum, and engaging in dialogues, and sharing of ideas.

Neighborhood Advisory Board Liaison Unit (NABLU)

Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NABs) represented and impacted their community by participating in the 2017 National Night Out Against Crime. The boards also, for the seventh year, hosted with DYCD the popular “Building Bridges” fundraising/grant writing workshops, one in each borough.

Staff and participants from the DYCD Young Adult Literacy Program
DYCD 2017 Highlights

The Community Action Board and NAB members joined DYCD staff and enhanced their community action leadership skills at the 11th annual New York State Community Action Association’s Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security in Albany, where anti-poverty organizations from across the state discussed such issues as strengthening families, financial support systems, and Medicaid and health security, among other topics.

Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs)

An expanded month-long campaign recognized programs that held Mother’s Day celebrations at their centers. There were 13 different events across the City, many open to the public. DYCD launched the #DYCDCommunityMoms social media campaign, which allowed New Yorkers to name outstanding mothers and mother-figures across the City.

DYCD held five meetings, one in each borough, on “Finding Support Services for Older Youth Programs.” The coordinated effort was in response to DYCD’s first-ever effort in 2016 to convene programs funded by DYCD that target opportunity youth.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)/LGBTQ Youth

City-funded RHY beds continue to open this year; by 2019, a total of 753 beds will be available citywide—a nearly 200 percent increase from 2014.

A new 24-hour drop-in center in Queens joins the Harlem center in providing services that specialize in the LGBTQ community.

First Lady Chirlane McCray and Commissioner Chong visited a DYCD-funded Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) residential program run by Project Hospitality on Staten Island. Mental health services are now available for young people in the program thanks to the First Lady’s ThriveNYC initiative.

DYCD hosted the LGBT Center’s Youth Treatment Empowerment, Youth, Engagement & Services Network (EYES) gathering. A presentation was offered to attendees on the multitude of services funded by DYCD for young people and the community.

First Lady Chirlane McCray announced the NYC Unity Project, an initiative to expand drop-in centers for LGBTQ youth.

Youth Connect

The Youth Connect 1-800-246-4646 call center fielded nearly 60,000 calls in 2017, and staff attended more than 250 community events to spread the word about DYCD-funded programs.

Youth Workforce Development

With baselined funding, the number of Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) jobs available to New York City young people is at its highest level in recent history (70,000+).

Deputy Mayor Buery and Commissioner Chong visited a Modell’s store in Long Island City that employs SYEP participants. Modell’s is one of the largest private sector retail worksites in SYEP. Since 2015, they have increased the number of youth hired each summer by 500 percent, with 570 young people working in all their stores in the summer of 2017.

Commissioner Chong joined Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-New York) and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Virginia), ranking member of the Committee on Education and Workforce, on a tour and round-table discussion at the Police Athletic League Center in Harlem, where they also met with SYEP participants. The intended goal of the day was to highlight the success of SYEP as a national model for other cities and states to follow.

The City announced the New York City Performance Partnership Pilot (NYCP3), which will integrate child care support and parent coaching into its services for young parents who are out of work and out of school. In addition to a four-year, $250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the City will invest an additional $316,000 in this new initiative, developed by the NYC Center for Youth Employment (CYE) in partnership with DYCD, the NYC Children’s Cabinet, and the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS).

Mayor de Blasio announced an ad campaign encouraging young people to apply for Ladders for Leaders, a program that offers high school and college students the opportunity to participate in paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies.
DYCD 2017 Highlights

DYCD’s workforce programs got the opportunity to explore the array of diverse opportunities within the NYPD (over 200 civil service positions) at NYPD Career Day in Whitestone, Queens. Youth networked with members of New York’s Finest, and took part in educational and engaging activities throughout the day with the Canine, Mounted, Counterterrorism, and Technology units.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) hosted a farewell lunch and recognition ceremony for Ladders for Leaders interns. Commissioner Chong met with the summer interns at the DNA Crime Lab and spoke with OCME senior leadership.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

RFPs issued in 2017 included: Beacon Standalone; Beacon with ACS Preventive Services; Capacity Building Organization Development; Capacity Building Cultural Sensitivity; Fiscal Agent; Summer Youth Employment Program School-based Model and Special Initiatives; and RHY Street Outreach, Drop-In Services and Residential Services.

Richard L. Murphy Award

On December 4, the inaugural Richard Murphy Leadership Awards presentation was made to former New York City Mayor David Dinkins. The event was hosted by the Partnership for After School Education (PASE). Murphy, who passed away in 2013, was appointed by Mayor Dinkins as the commissioner of Youth Services, a precursor to DYCD. One of the most prominent outcomes of the administration (1990–1993) was the creation of the Beacon program—school-based community centers serving adults and children aged six and older. For more on the initiative and accomplishments this year, visit the Beacon section in this report.
DYCD Events and Milestones

Young people from DYCD-funded programs visited the Fire Academy on Randall’s Island to learn firefighting skills from the FDNY, which is looking to recruit more diverse candidates from across the City. The event was designed to be both fun and to expose youth to careers in the fire department.

More than 600 young people took part in DYCD’s Chess Masters Tournament at the Police Athletic League’s Harlem Center. The gathering gave youth an opportunity to compete among their peers and sharpen their chess skills.

DYCD held its 12th annual Skate Day event, where more than 650 elementary, middle school, and high school participants from COMPASS afterschool programs ice skated to music at the LeFrak Center at Lakeside in Prospect Park.

The annual Recipe Rescue cooking competition featured celebrity judges from Hot 97, and participants modifying a family recipe and “rescuing” it by creating a healthier option. Recipes were evaluated by Cornell University Cooperative Extension to determine nutritional value, and participants were coached by the Institute of Culinary Education.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, Firefighter Jackie-Michelle Martinez spoke to a group of young women at the Grand Street Beacon program at Marte Valle High School in Manhattan about careers with the FDNY.

DYCD-funded programs sent more than 1,700 young people to attend WE Day at Radio City Music Hall. WE Day celebrates the power of every person to change the world.

More than 250 young people from DYCD-funded COMPASS/SONYC afterschool programs across all five boroughs spent a day at the Harlem Children’s Zone Armory for the “Battle of the Boroughs” Olympics.

DYCD Youth Services programs came together for a Young Citizens Conference culminating event to showcase community service and youth leadership activities as well as demonstrate skills learned implementing projects during the program year. Over 400 young people turned out with their enthusiasm for working to make a difference in their communities.

Students from DYCD-funded afterschool programs and community centers gathered with their friends and family at BRIC Arts Media House in Brooklyn for the second annual DYCD Heroes Project Youth Comic-Con. In collaboration with Darryl Makes Comics and The Comic Book Project, the literacy-focused comic book initiative challenges middle school students in all five boroughs to develop stories about heroes—real or imagined—in their own communities.

The Rise and Shine Youth Basketball Clinic at the ED Alliance Community Center on the Lower East Side featured basketball clinics and hours of fun for young people.

First Lady Chirlane McCray joined DYCD and the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC) for the fourth annual Healing the Hurt conference at the New York Law School’s Impact Center for Public Interest. The all-day event gathered nonprofit and agency leaders and professionals for a panel discussion and workshops to gain a greater understanding of trauma and to help communities apply new approaches to overcome trauma.

The 12th annual Fun on the Rock event brought together providers and young people from the Rockaways for a day of fun and games.

The SONYC Film Festival and competition celebrated the creative efforts of afterschool program participants by featuring 50 short films created by middle school filmmakers and shown on the big screen of the School of Visual Arts Theatre.
DYCD Events and Milestones

Young people from DYCD-funded programs took over the Bronx Zoo for the 11th straight summer. This year, more than 2,000 participants from Beacon, COMPASS, Cornerstone, Cornerstone Mentoring, and Fatherhood programs participated in the annual day of fun.

More than 4,000 young people from the Beacon, Cornerstone, and SONYC programs were engaged in DYCD Soccer for Success. At the end of the program year, the participants were invited to join soccer skills & drills and nutritional workshops.

The Beyond the Voice competition engaged youth across Beacon, Cornerstone, and SONYC programs with the goal of challenging them to write, create a beat, and sing a song about growing up in NYC. Seven acts performed in this year’s final concert, with prizes awarded for the top finishers.

The top 10 Step it Up NYC teams took over Harlem’s world famous Apollo Theater stage for the annual night of performances and calls to action. Throughout the competition, dance and step teams planned community service projects and developed citywide social campaigns to speak up about issues that impact their communities, including education, health, equality and opportunity, peace and tolerance, and safe communities. This year, nearly 100 teams and 1,000 young people auditioned for Step It Up NYC.

DYCD and Nike partnered for another year to provide structured recreational programs for middle school-aged youth at the Beacon, Cornerstone and SONYC programs. More than 1,500 young athletes participated in the DYCD/Nike Zoom Academy, and the Marathon Kids Running Program. DYCD, working in collaboration with the Marathon Kids Organization and Nike, was able to offer over 1,000 youth the health/nutrition and structured running program.

Youth soccer teams faced off in the annual Summer Play League powered by DYCD. The league offers a summer extension to the Soccer for Success free afterschool initiative offered in partnership with the US Soccer Foundation, which is currently serving 7,500 NYC youth.

DYCD partnered with Madison Square Garden (MSG) and the New York Liberty to host the Junior Liberty League, which invited hundreds of high school-aged girls from across the City to participate in skills, drills, and league play during July and August. During a kickoff event at the Johnson Community Center in East Harlem, participants received training from the Liberty staff, and also participated in an online campaign to put an end to bullying, both on and off the court. Former Liberty player Kym Hampton also joined in, working with the girls to share their stories and inspirational messages across their social networks. Junior Liberty teams were also invited to two Liberty games at MSG, participating in special on-court experiences. The league culminated with championship games in both the junior varsity and varsity divisions featuring Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and Liberty alum, Sue Wicks.

DYCD once again participated in the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s annual Teens Take the Met! The event encourages young people—many of whom are visiting the Met for the first time—to immerse themselves in hands-on experiences while exploring the Museum.

For Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month in November, DYCD hosted several events, including Open Mic, where more than 100 youth who reside in DYCD-funded RHY programs perform their original music, poetry, and theater based on their personal life journeys; the RHY Prevention Month Conference, during which RHY providers and collaborators learn and discuss issues facing runaway and homeless young people; and RHY Bowling Night.

Stronger Together: Nurturing Collaborative Leadership was a one-day conference targeted to small nonprofits of specific programs of larger organizations and featuring experts and experienced practitioners sharing strategies and tips on strong program collaboration, motivating staff, and much more.

www.dycdportal.nyc/discoverdycd
Drop-In Services and Residential Services

Model and Special Initiatives; and RHY Street Outreach, Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

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Michael Massimino. Using the City as a learning playground,

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The External Relations staff participated in Patrol Borough

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FY2017 DYCD FUNDING STREAMS • TOTAL = $747,624,044

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**ACRONYM KEY**

CEO/YMI Center for Economic Opportunity Programs/Young Men’s Initiative
NDA Neighborhood Development Area Programs
COMPASS–NYC The Comprehensive After School System of New York City
RHY Runaway and Homeless Youth Program
SYEP Summer Youth Employment Program
WLG Work, Learn & Grow Employment Program
WIOA Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

*Other Programs

Afterschool Food Program, Charter School Program, NYC Service Corps and other contractual services
DiscoverDYCD allows users to search for DYCD-funded providers by program type, borough, neighborhood or zip code, and provides contact information, lists of activities offered, and a mapping feature with navigation. Advanced search features also allow users to narrow results through keywords.