



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION'S
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (YEC)
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov>**

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (26-0465)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Land Acknowledgement. (26-0266)

Present: Chair Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, and Commissioner Clarissa Peña. Commissioner Mercedes Jackson and Commissioner Joseph Roa arrived later in the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes from the special meeting of November 20, 2025. (26-0270)

On motion of Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Clarissa Peña, and duly carried, the minutes from the Special Meeting of November 20, 2025 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 - Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez and Commissioner Clarissa

Absent: 2- Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, and
Commissioner Joseph Roa

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discussion and Recap of the Youth Engagement Committee's work in 2025.
(26-0283)

Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) Chair Sherrie Bradford opened the floor to discussion and recap of the YEC's work in 2025. She stated that she will go into 2026 being very "intentional" about her work. She then encouraged Commissioners to provide one word that will describe their work going forward in 2026.

Commissioner Clarissa Peña stated that she intends to "put her best foot forward" for 2026. Commissioner Amanda Hernandez intends for her work to remain "impactful". Commissioner Mercedes Jackson indicated that her focus for 2026 is "change," Commissioner Roa stated that his is striving for "diligence."

Commissioner Peña stressed the importance of continuing to build on the data obtained from the 2025 listening sessions and surveys. She reported that other agencies and departments have requested access to the data collected from the YEC surveys. Commissioner Amanda Hernandez stressed that it will be important to know how the YEC's data is being utilized by those other agencies/departments.

Commissioner Jackson inquired as to the timeline for the Strategic Planning Event and the End-Year Event (Events) and voiced her concern regarding the closeness of the dates for each event at the end of the year. Commissioner Amanda Hernandez reviewed and clarified the Commission's calendar. Commissioner Mercedes Jackson requested that other days be considered for the Events. YEC Chair Bradford stated that the calendar was approved by the whole Commission, however, she will bring up Commissioner Jackson's concerns to Executive Director, Tiara Summers.

Discussion ensued regarding the finalized Survey, and the focus on entertainment for youth, including utilizing nontraditional methods in addressing mental health. Also discussed were the five focus areas of mental health, education, employment, entertainment and housing.

YEC Chair Bradford closed the discussion by clarifying the focus of the Youth Engagement Committee and the coordination of listening sessions, outside events, collaboration with other entities and County departments in engaging youth, and the strategy for doing so.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Discussion on Exploring Strategic Partnerships.

- Faith-Based Organizations
- HIV Commission (26-0290)

YEC Chair Sherrie Bradford opened the floor to discussion on exploring strategic partnerships. She reported the following:

- The HIV Commission will partner with the Youth Commission (YC) in conducting a sexual health listening session. An event is currently scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The YC will also partner with UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy (BGSA), a nonprofit organization, that is a sub-set of UCLA and works directly with high school students. The site is pending.
- Commissioner Amanda Hernandez spoke about her direct connection to a foster youth, and discussion ensued. It was pointed out that the Commission is at full capacity regarding hosting events, however, it would be beneficial to be able to disseminate surveys at any outside events where youth participate.

YEC Chair Sherrie Bradford directed the discussion to Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs). During discussion the following points were made:

- Schedule representatives from FBOs to make a presentation to the YEC to discuss their outreach approaches and to define ways in which the YC can collaborate with them in a meaningful way. Connect with Bishop Ed Smith from the Nehemiah Project as an initial contact.
- Commissioner Joseph Roa discussed the transformative work of Victory Outreach and their intervention with formerly incarcerated youth, the work being done by Father Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries. He suggested providing a booklet of resources to FBOs for dissemination to youth in their jurisdiction.

Discussion ensued regarding methods in which the Commission can become involved in FBO initiatives. YEC Chair Bradford suggested creating a Charter that defines the partnership with FBOs. Commissioner Hernandez expanded on the types of resources that FBOs provide to the community and shared her experience watching her uncle who is a Pastor. The discussion closed with next steps including participating in the UCLA HIV sexual health listening session and meeting with Bishop Ed Smith and Dr. Patrice Taylor, from the Nehemiah Project regarding collaboration with FBOs and how it could be implemented. Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to staff if they are interested in participating.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

5. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) not on the agenda, that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (26-0296)

No members of the public addressed the Committee.

6. Adjournment. (26-0302)

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Roa, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.