



Civic
Youth
Internship

**Showcase
July 2024**

edmonton.ca/civicyouthinternship

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory.

We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dene, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples.

We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.

It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home.

Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

Since 2023, the City of Edmonton has been engaged in a community-based partnership to enhance opportunities for mentorship within municipal government. Each year, City Councillors and Executive Leaders express interest in mentoring youth from equity-deserving communities and are matched with a placement for ten weeks. The youth (18+) get the opportunity to learn more about municipal government, while advancing their skills and building relationships for future opportunities. Additionally interns work with their assigned offices to complete engagement and/or policy projects during their internship.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all of the Partner organizations that supported the 2024 Civic Youth Fellowship, without whom this youth initiative would not be possible. Specifically, we would like to thank:

- ★ [Africa Centre](#);
- ★ [ASSIST Community Services Centre](#);
- ★ [Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#);
- ★ [Islamic Family and Social Services Association](#);
- ★ [kihêw waciston - MacEwan University](#); and
- ★ The myriad [City of Edmonton](#) staff who supported this endeavour.

We would also like to thank the Councillors and Administrative Offices who opened their doors to welcome the interns this year and those that continued to be great supporters of the program. We are grateful for everyone's continued support for the youth of Edmonton.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of the interns, past and present, who have participated in the Civic Youth Fellowship program. Your motivation, spirit, resilience and integrity are reflected in Edmonton's bright future.



FOREWORD

from the City of Edmonton's Chief of Staff and Corporate Lead for the High Level Office of Reconciliation and Anti-racism



I am incredibly proud that the City of Edmonton, alongside our community partners, established the Civic Youth Fellowship. This program offers youth from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to gain experience in municipal government, develop leadership capabilities, and grow their networks. Not only does this program create those opportunities for youth, but also offers incredible learning opportunities for City staff and leadership to engage directly with the leaders of tomorrow. Programs such as these demonstrate the City's commitment towards becoming an anti-racist organization.

With the [Anti-racism Strategy](#) and the [Indigenous Framework](#) as our guides, the City is taking a number of actions both internally and externally, with the support from the community, to make sure Edmonton is a safe place for all.

As a result of these commitments, the Canadian Race Relations approached Edmonton as the second city in Canada to pilot a program like this. In its second year, the internship is supporting the City to fulfill many actions across the corporation, including the City's [Anti-Black Racism Action Plan](#) to increase youth participation.

It has been an absolute pleasure hosting this year's bright and ambitious interns, two of whom were in the City Manager's Office. I commend all the interns for their aptitude to learn in this fast and complex environment and for their contributions.

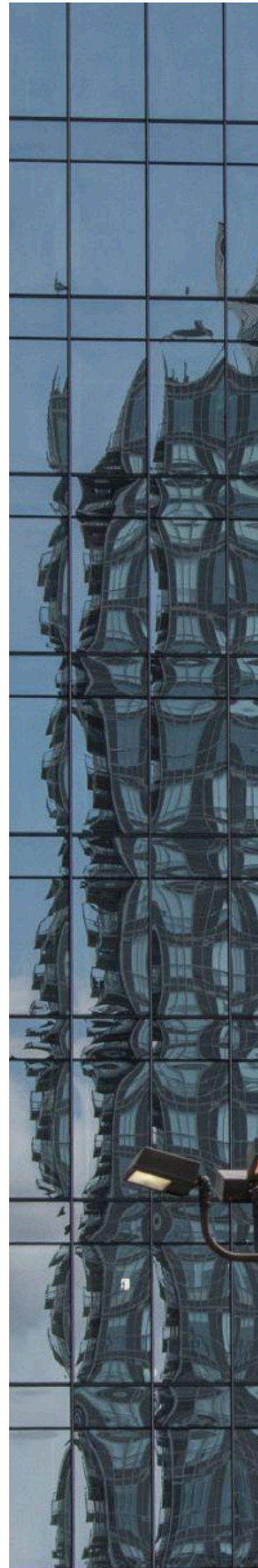
Congratulations to our 2024 cohort! As you go forth in your endeavors, continue to be bold and courageous. You leave us feeling inspired and energized to ensure generations to come feel welcomed and safe to live, work and play in this city we call home. The future is bright.



2024 Civic Youth Interns

The following highlights the 2024 Civic Youth Fellowship interns. Celebrating who they are, what they have learned during their time with the City and what they are looking forward to sharing with colleagues, friends and family at the 2024 Showcase.

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Mayor and Councillors' Offices

My Ten Weeks at the Mayor's Office

During my ten weeks at the Mayor's office, I had the opportunity to take on multiple tasks and small projects that exposed me to the work that is carried on by the team, such as: policy, stakeholder engagement, communications and administration.

At the showcase, I hope to demonstrate the things I did to contribute to the office.

About Daniela

I recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and will soon be starting a Master of Arts at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Waterloo University. I am interested in diplomacy, economic development and trade relations.

My time in the Mayor's office has made me appreciate the work that is carried out at the municipal level that affects the everyday lives of Edmontonians, such as transit, libraries and garbage removal.

During my free time, I enjoy painting, taking walks on the trails close to my house and exploring other parts of the world whenever possible.





Ali Ansari
Councillor Janz's Office

Edmonton

My Showcase Presentation

Concerns surrounding community safety are increasing, and our current solution surrounding policing isn't as effective as it costs.

My project looks into cheaper, more effective alternatives to safety than policing.

About Ali

I am a 21 year old, third year political science student at the University of Alberta.

I'm an activist, and spend most of my days doing grassroots activism, if I'm not hanging out with my wife or my two cats.





An Intern's Perspective: Gaurav's Ten-Week Journey Enhancing Transit Connectivity

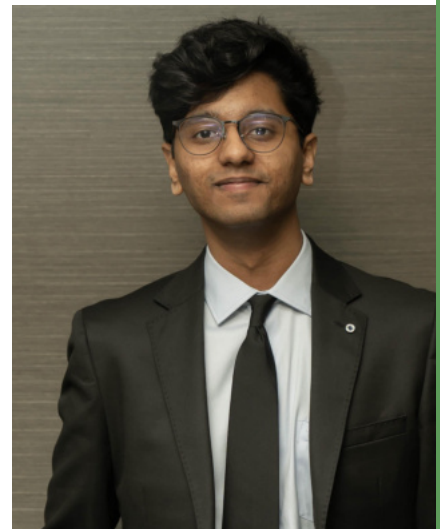
I completed two projects while working in Councillor Principe's office. My policy-based project focused on increasing transit connectivity by examining availability, affordability and accessibility of transit across Ward tastawiyiniwak, Edmonton. The focus of this project was to analyze the existing services, such as On Demand Transit, Rapid Transit and ParaTransit, to better integrate them and increase connectivity across the ward.

My second project helped increase administrative efficiency across our office, specializing in social media outreach and community engagement through events. I drafted social media templates and newsletters, participating in over ten events to increase awareness about our work.

About Gaurav

I am driven, with a strong aspiration for Law. Pursuing a BCom program with a major in Business Economics and Law, I am dedicated to bridging the gap between the business and legal realms.

I feel blessed and privileged to have had the opportunity to work with the office of Councillor Karen Principe in my ten week fellowship and to learn about the intricacies of municipal governance. I am beyond excited to create a positive impact in society.





Angela Hinojosa-Deza
Councillor Knack's Office

Edmonton

Gender and Sexual Based Violence In the City

For my project on gender and sexual violence, I evaluated, analyzed and made recommendations on the current workplace harassment policies in the City of Edmonton. My research highlighted the inadequacy of existing policies in addressing sexual and gender violence as distinct cultural issues within each workplace, rather than merely categorizing them under general violence policies.

About Angela

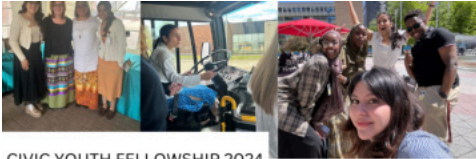
I am going into my third year at University of Alberta, completing my Bachelor's in political science. I am passionate about understanding dialogues of politics and culture.

Through my studies, what has interested me the most has been global politics, the global supply chain, as well as the intersections of colonization, race, gender and class, within the current structure of international organizations.

Currently, I am most interested in understanding different narratives around who can control the global supply chain, and what that means for the countries left behind.

What motivates me the most is the bittersweet nature of community work: that through understanding each problem, you realize that each solution may not fit everyone and it is the duty of representatives, advocates and activists to ensure that people are not left behind and forgotten. I hope to get my Master's in foreign affairs and pursue a career in law.





CIVIC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP 2024



Building Bridges: Enhancing Civic Engagement and Community Support through Project SPIRIT

Project SPIRIT (Strengthening Partnership with Interfaith Religious Institutions Together) aimed to enhance connections between the Councillor's office and the Sikh community, by fostering regular communication and organizing community forums, as well as by developing a comprehensive resource kit. This resource kit, translated for the South Asian population, includes essential information on government services, community support programs and guides to navigating local governance, ensuring better accessibility and support for the community.

About Jasmine

I am driven by a deep-seated commitment to advocacy, with a fervent belief in the power of social justice and youth empowerment to effect meaningful change. Currently pursuing a degree in nursing at the University of Alberta, I am dedicated to leveraging my education and experiences to make a tangible difference in both local and global communities. My advocacy journey began in high school, where I initiated courageous conversations about social issues and led various initiatives to address pressing societal needs. Through proactive leadership and unwavering determination, I have learned that true success is measured by our capacity to uplift those around us. I am committed to fostering peace, equity, and justice, recognizing that meaningful change begins with each of us.



Ian Kamenwa
Councillor Stevenson's Office

Edmonton

From Issues to Impact: Bridging Community Concerns with Practical Solutions

I hope to share my experience viewing and participating in the problem solving work conducted in my office.

During my time, I was able to watch and contribute to how Councillor Stevenson and her office received input from constituents and actively sought out solutions.

About Ian

I am going into my fourth year at MacEwan University for political science. In October of last year, I was elected by my peers to serve as their representative on MacEwan's Student Council.

I consistently seek roles that allow me to ensure optimal functionality and efficiency within my environment.





Mohammad Talal
Councillor Paquette's Office

Edmonton



Informational Podcast

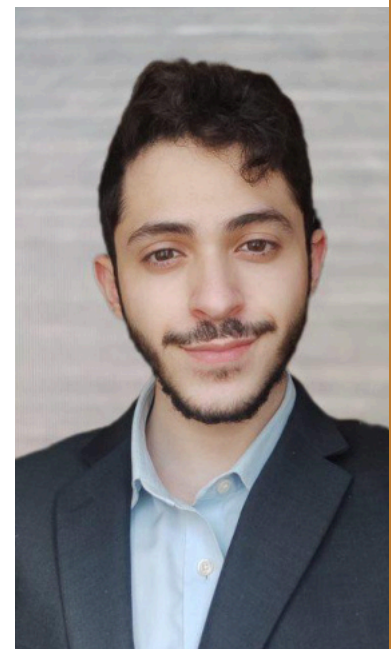
My project was a podcast between Councillor Paquette and I, about the City structure and how it operates. We also discussed relevant topics that may come up in the news.

In addition to my project, I'm trying to understand where there is miscommunication between the levels of government and why we do not see more collaboration in vulnerable and vital sectors.

About Mohammad

I came to Edmonton three years ago. I'm originally from Syria. I study economics at the University of Alberta.

I'm truly glad to be in this great internship because we got to learn a lot about the structure of this amazing city and how it operates on a day-to-day basis.





Your Voice Matters And Here's How You Can Fund It

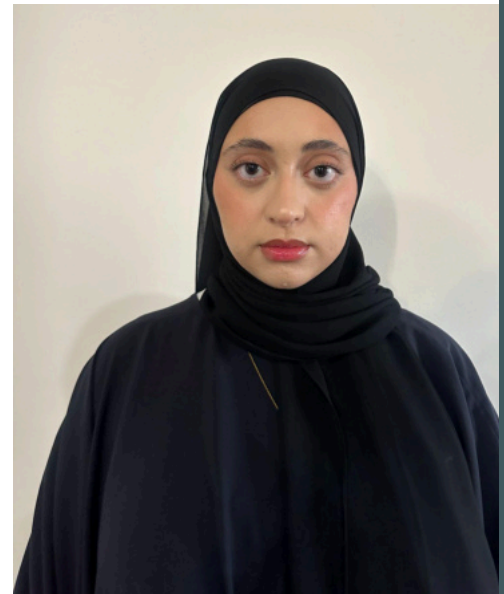
With the things I've learned from EAC, there are a lot of grant options available to fund many types of art-related projects. I don't see a lot of Arab and Muslim community members being aware of them.

I think Muslim and Arab people have a lot to say when it comes to society, life and love, and they should be given the means to do so in an artistic manner.

About Eve

I am half Syrian and half Egyptian, born and raised in Canada. I am finishing up my last semester at MacEwan University as a Psychology major.

I also write poetry, which is where a lot of my art advocacy comes from. :)

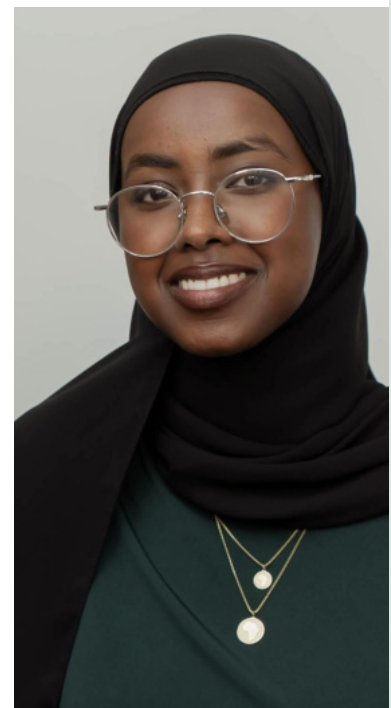


Addressing the Housing Crisis

The main research project Yusra worked on in Councillor Rutherford's Office was on the housing crisis. Engaging in research activities, she assisted with creating a brief on innovative ideas and examples of addressing the housing crisis both locally, nationally and internationally. This is for the purpose of assisting Councillor Rutherford as the Council representative on the Mayor's Community Mobilization Task Force for addressing housing and houselessness. She also assisted with communications and engagement in the office on topics such as Neighbourhood Renewal, as well as supporting the compilation of resources for seniors.

About Yusra

A dedicated and versatile professional, I am deeply passionate about creative problem-solving and thrive in dynamic, collaborative environments. I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to your esteemed organization, leveraging my ability to adapt swiftly and work effectively within a team. I am committed to continuous learning and growth, with a strong desire to acquire new skills that will positively impact the organization's success.





**Executive Leadership
Team's Offices**



Nasreen Azimi
Chief of Staff and City Manager's Offices

Edmonton

International Student Housing

During my time engaged in the Civic Youth Fellowship program within the City Manager's Office, I undertook a project focused on international student housing. My aim was to craft a one-page informational brochure document that encompasses various pertinent aspects of housing, including affordable housing options, tenant services and transportation accessibility, as well as a comprehensive checklist to support off-campus housing searches. Through this endeavor, I aspire to consolidate available support resources within the City and beyond, intending to disseminate the document widely among universities to benefit a broad spectrum of students.



About Nasreen

I am an undergraduate student enrolled in Political Science at the University of Alberta. I was born and raised in Afghanistan. When I was 12 years old, I moved to India to pursue higher education, where I graduated from the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad (IB) school. I have always been interested in politics and how it shapes our lives. In my experience, most people think that politics is just for politicians, without realizing how much it affects them; I would therefore like to learn more about the various levels of politics and their impacts on people.





Moneek Sandhu
Chief of Staff and City Manager's Offices

Edmonton

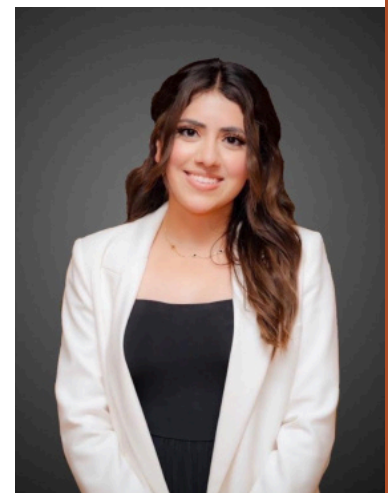
Intercultural Learning within Reconciliation

Throughout my tenure at the High Level Office of Reconciliation and Anti-Racism, I have been privy to a number of learning experiences immersed in local Indigenous communities and Indigenous knowledge. I collaborated with the Boyle Street Education Centre and formulated an event that aimed to explore intercultural learning and what that entails in the context of reconciliation. The event was spent in learning circles and roundtables with Elder Jo Wood. This allowed the other fellows to partake in a smudging ceremony, learn from a knowledge keeper and also created a safe space for attendees to delve into their individual experiences as racialized persons. This event highlighted that, in any form of policy creation, there needs to be an intentional and meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities to ensure community needs are being accounted for and vulnerable populations are met where they are.



About Moneek

I am currently a Bachelor of Science student at the University of Alberta with an interest in policy in the realm of public health. Mental health, and the availability of culturally competent resources and services and varied outlooks in marginalized communities, has unequivocally shaped my growth and experiences. Volunteering and community work allow me to tackle issues I have lived experience with, such as: youth empowerment and engagement, raising mental health awareness amongst youth and breaking the stigma around mental health across cultures. I am also an advocate for social change and creating a space for women, whilst empowering women within the Sikh and South Asian communities.





The Power of the Badge

Having had the privilege of carrying a badge, my journey has been a tapestry woven with diverse experiences and newfound connections. Each picture I share tells a story of growth and learning, illustrating how these encounters have enriched my career path and expanded my knowledge horizon. Among the many highlights, I had the opportunity to engage deeply in three impactful projects.

First, delving into “Climate Change and Transit Adaptations” I explored the intricate interplay between environmental concerns and transit systems' CO2 emissions. This experience underscored the critical need for adaptive strategies in public transportation. Second, the project on “Climate Change and Bus Structures” allowed me to understand structural dynamics within the transit framework. It was eye-opening to see how innovation in bus design could contribute to mitigating environmental impact.

Third, investigating “Women Operators and Perception of Safety” shed light on crucial gender dynamics in transit operations. This project emphasized the importance of inclusivity and safety in public transportation settings.

My badge not only granted me access to these invaluable experiences but also immersed me in the expansive realm of transit programs tailored for diverse user needs. Reflecting on these experiences, I not only contributed my insights but also absorbed profound lessons that continue to shape my professional journey.





Hannah Liu
Financial and Corporate Services Office

Edmonton

Lighthouse: Database Expansion and Mural Proposal

I undertook two projects relating to *Lighthouse*, a technology solution developed by the City of Edmonton to address the proliferation of hate symbols across the city. I researched and identified different hate symbol databases for potential collaboration and actively worked on developing partnerships.

In addition, I leveraged the data collected by *Lighthouse* to pinpoint locations and types of public art/murals that would counter the presence of historic hate symbols in public spaces within the City of Edmonton.

About Hannah

I am a student at the University of Alberta studying Business, Economics and Law, with a minor in Biology. I am the President of the Stollery for Youth Committee at the UofA, an active youth mentor at my church, and the co-founder of a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing music lessons to children and youth who are unable to afford them.

I love playing volleyball and checking out coffee shops around Edmonton in my free time!





Rovena Caster
Chief People's Officer & City Solicitor's Office

Edmonton



Rovena's Civic Youth Fellowship Journey

Through my showcase, I would like to share my memories, learnings and work throughout this internship.

I want to highlight my experiences with the Civic Youth Fellows, Cultural Commitment Awards, Talent Diversity and Inclusion, disability research, as well as the amazing relationships I made along the way!

About Rovena

I am a fourth year BSc Integrative Physiology student at the University of Alberta. Along with my passion for science, I am also highly passionate about racial justice, mental health, education and my Tamil heritage.

I express my passions through my roles as co-founder of Step Up Anti-Racist Association, President of the Edmonton Tamil Cultural Association Youth Council and as a founding member of South Asians United for Mental Health. During my free time, I like playing with my bunnies, dog and parrot!



Chinatown Vibrancy

As someone who has worked in the space of Chinatown Revitalization prior to the internship, it was my goal to learn more about what I can do from the perspective of policy. Thus, my work comprised various facets and experiences, such as creating the Chinatown Vibrancy Fund evaluation plan, application evaluation form, evaluating projects myself, creating the updated Chinatown Strategy logic model and presenting exciting new ways of activating Chinatown, like the Story City app.

By participating in meetings, engaging with the community from a different side, and completing these various projects, I have grown as a youth leader for my community.

About Jaden

I am a youth leader, activist and advocate for Chinatown Revitalization and Asian anti-hate. My Asian heritage has always been a vital factor in shaping who I am, pushing me to combat Asian hate however I can, from creating large-scale events promoting Asian anti-hate to speaking at national policy forums as a representative of youth.

Having done both engagement and policy-based work, my goal is to continue finding whatever avenues I can to create systemic change for my community, especially in Edmonton's Chinatown.





Accessibility as a Non-Negotiable

City Administration needs to have the systems, processes and intake measures in place to ensure accessibility for all those looking to use our services. Accessibility as a Non-Negotiable means looking at accessibility, not as something external to City processes, but rather something that needs to be entrenched within them.

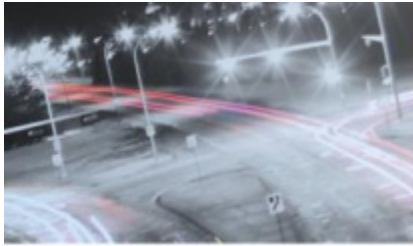
My work these past ten weeks has been assisting in planning what accessibility in the City can look like, moving forward.

About Zaid

I am a student at MacEwan University, completing a Bachelor of Commerce. As a Palestinian, the representation of marginalized groups in privileged institutions is something I've always been passionate about.

I hope what I've learned these past ten weeks can be used to break down further barriers, and lead to a more equitable society.





Sidra Ahmed

Chief Communications Officer's Office

Edmonton

Sidra in the City

The Edmonton Insight Community (EIC) is an online survey panel and the most reliable channel of feedback for the City of Edmonton. However, of the 18,000 members, only 2.8 per cent of those are youth between the ages 15 and 24 years.

My time at the City has centered on one main idea: engaging youth with the EIC!

About Sidra

I am completing my undergraduate studies with a double major in Psychology and Economics at the University of Alberta, where I am also President of the University Chapter of Islamic Relief Canada, a most trusted non-profit that currently serves over 40 countries and 3.4 million people regardless of demographic differences.

In my spare time, I enjoy adventurous activities like hiking or skiing; I also carve out time in my day for quiet and reflection, usually explored through Islamic calligraphy.





Snapshots of Us

This research project highlighted the lived experiences of City of Edmonton internal employees in relation to themes of belonging and identity, with the aim of functioning as a learning tool to support the City of Edmonton's meaningful journey towards becoming a more anti-racist organization.

About Feven

I am in my final year at the University of Alberta, double majoring in English Literature and Sociology with an Applied Social Sciences Research Certificate.

I am interested in conducting qualitative research, storytelling and communication, community engagement and policy work.



To the 2024 Cohort, thank you!

