



# Introduction

**On August 1 in 2024, the City of Port Phillip hosted its first-ever Youth Summit at St Kilda Town Hall.**

The event was attended by 70 young leaders, aged 15-25 years from 6 local high schools and education centres including Albert Park College, Elwood College, Mac Robertson Girls' High School, St Michael's Grammar, Wesley College, Hester Hornbrook Academy and Youth 2 Industry College. The process of planning and delivering this event was guided by Council's Youth Advisory Committee to ensure the needs and interests of young people remained at the forefront.

The 5 topics of the day were selected from a series of youth surveys. The attendees were assigned to a topic group based off their preference, which they discussed in workshops on the day with their peers and Council Officers, before proposing a set of recommendations to Council. The following report includes the raw recommendations presented at the Summit, and provides a snapshot into the priorities of young people in the City of Port Phillip. It is important to note that some of these are more tangible than others from a Council perspective, but also that none necessarily have priority over others.



# Recommendations from Young People

## Arts and Culture



### Employment for young artists

- Improve paid work opportunities in the creative industry (internships, residencies, and artist commissions)
- Partner with businesses to offer work experiences
- Hire young artists for council and community events
- Negotiate with event organisers to include young artists
- Collaborate with galleries, industry experts and local artists

### Interschool events & community connections

- An interschool arts and cultural event, funded and promoted through council
- Build a connected interschool artist community
- Advertise opportunities through school portals
- Host local art competitions

### Spaces for artmaking & showcasing

- Secure laneways and inclusive spaces for graffiti, murals and music performances
- Create free spaces for young people to showcase art
- Promote awareness through council and local media
- Provide hands-on experience with Q&A sessions and workshops outside school



# Climate Change



## Repurpose old clothing items

- Collect unusable fabrics for school textile programs
- Set up collection bins for usable clothing to donate to charities.
- Organise monthly sorting by resident volunteers
- Raise awareness through posters, social media ads, and council-wide campaigns

## Reduce litter pollution through incentives

- Provide incentives for cleaning beaches and parks, focusing on all types of rubbish, not just containers
- Engage brands as sponsors to support cleanup efforts
- Install sanitiser and bin stations at cleanup sites
- Spread the initiative to other councils to encourage widespread cleaner environments

## Food waste education and strategies

- Promote awareness of FOGO bins and food waste reduction habits
- Develop digital menus that inform on portion sizes and waste management tips
- Create an app to help users plan weekly meals, track food waste, and set gamified goals
- Empower teens to share food wastage knowledge with family and friends



# Inclusive Communities



## Equitable & accessible spaces

- Develop more multi-purpose green spaces for all demographics
- Create designated spaces for young people, like study rooms and communal hangout areas to collaborate and work together
- Use surveys to guide park and communal space improvements to ensure inclusivity for diverse needs (e.g., add fencing around playgrounds to balance use between families and dog owners)

## Safe spaces for self-expression

- Council-endorsed digital platforms for people to share lived experiences and generate open or anonymous discussions
- In-person feedback forums with council representatives
- Safe live-listener platforms for individuals to discuss challenges with trained community volunteers
- Promote these platforms through success stories and advocacy campaigns to encourage participation

## Hear from authentic experiences

- Invite diverse guest speakers with lived experiences to share their stories at council and school events
- Create interactive and audience-targeted panels to foster empathy and understanding
  - Implement follow-up programs to reflect on lessons learnt and encourage commitments to inclusive practices



# Health and Wellbeing



## Accessible and affordable food

- Limit junk food advertising, especially by athletes
- Incentivise healthy eating and promote affordable local nutritious food
- Reduce accessibility of junk food by increasing its cost and encouraging healthier restaurant quotas
- Raise awareness through campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles

## Accessible sporting facilities

- Develop and fund more sports facilities and clubs
- Conduct surveys and interviews to understand local needs and preferences around the need for sporting facilities
- Advertise these opportunities through social media, TV ads, and posters

## Opportunities to engage

- Create more events like the Youth Summit, offering diverse topics and engaging communities
- Establish a youth hub with a welcoming space for programs, social connection, and wellbeing support
- Ensure the hub is accessible after school and on weekends



# Health and Wellbeing

## Essential life education

- Partner with schools to educate young people on essential health and wellbeing topics like substance abuse, vaping, sexual health, and mental care
- Organise panel discussions featuring individuals with lived experiences to share advice
- Ensure programs are accessible to all young people, both in and out of school

## Skill building and career development

- Provide life skills programs covering topics like taxes, job interviews, and transitioning to university
- Include Q&A sessions with industry professionals and practical activities to prepare young people for adulthood
- Regularly check in with young people to ensure programs address their needs and interests



# Environment & Transport



## Accessible, affordable & safe public transport

- Affordable Myki fares for young people
- Revise timetables to increase buses during peak school times and ensure more frequent services
- 24/7 PT availability to reduce reliance on private vehicles
- Eco-friendly PT routes to minimise environmental impact
- Build shelters for bus and tram stops
- Reduce private car usage in the city grid
- Enforce passenger capacity rules on buses for improved safety
- Advocate for more drivers to reduce overcrowding
- Implement shuttle buses from schools to nearby train stations

## Advocacy to meet youth needs

- Promote school-led advocacy by amplifying their voices through council support
- Increase public awareness around PT information
- Encourage council to advocate for lower PTV fares in collaboration with other councils
- Research and adopt successful fare models from other cities, such as weekly passes or school concessions

## Sustainable alternatives to public transport

- Expand access to Lime bikes and other shared bike options throughout Melbourne
- Encourage electric vehicles for ride-sharing services like Uber
- Develop more sustainable infrastructure (e.g., bike paths)





# YOUTH SUMMIT

## RECOMMENDATIONS



EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG ARTISTS



EVENTS, WORK EXPERIENCE & WORKSHOPS



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS

INTER-SCHOOL ARTS

SPACES AND SHARE ART. PARTNER IN-INDUSTRY



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE FOOD & FACILITIES

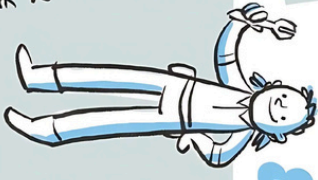


HEALTHY LIFESTYLE ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE FOOD & FACILITIES

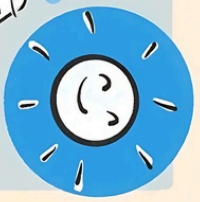
OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND ENGAGE

SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT



DOING MY TAX...



LIFE SKILLS

SKILL BUILDING



SECOND LIFE FOR CLOTHING



INCENTIVISE RUBBISH PICKUP IN PUBLIC SPACES FOOD WASTE EDUCATION & STRATEGIES



DONATE REUSE COLLECTION BINS



FACILITIES AND SPACES EQUITABLE & ACCESSIBLE



SAFE SPACES



TO EXPRESS OURSELVES & SEEK HELP.



COMMUNITY IT'S CREATED ISN'T CONSUMED

HEAR FROM AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

LOWER MYKI FARES

NORMALISE ADVOCACY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

BIKE SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE



REVISE TIMETABLE FOR SCHOOL STOPS



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# Feedback

I felt very supported to participate in this event, I feel accepted and safe to express my opinions

Increased knowledge about community and council responsibility

My biggest takeaway was that the council is interested in hearing the opinions of young people

It encouraged me to do more!



The City of Port Phillip's Youth Advisory Committee

# Next Steps

Middle Years & Youth Services are now collaborating with Council teams involved on the day to come up with agreed actions that can be taken in response to the set of recommendations. These actions will then be shared with the community. Later this year Middle Years & Youth Services will hold a 'Report Card' event, inviting all the Summit participants back to present the actions that resulted from their recommendations and to celebrate their advocacy.

This report serves as an insight to what is important to young people. It will be shared widely within Council and the community to help inform and build key strategic documents such as the Council Plan.

