Youth Plan 2020
A plan to embrace our young potential
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A plan to embrace our young potential

Mayor’s message

Ours is a young city, we have energy and drive, a spirit that is young at heart. In delivering this plan we will embrace promise, we’ll work with partners to deliver services and programs and create a network of support and encouragement that meets your needs. I want to continue to create new opportunities for you as you grow into young adults. With a sound economy and unrivalled lifestyle, our city will become the best place in Australia to live, learn and earn for people of all ages. I have never been more excited about the opportunities ahead. There is nothing more important than leaving a great legacy for you our future leaders.

You have unlimited potential, imagination and creativity. With your energy and enthusiasm we can make the Gold Coast’s future even more vibrant. With a plan in place we’ll know where we are heading, and what it will look like when we get there. Together we can imagine, create and deliver a prosperous city you will be proud to call home.

Tom Tate
Mayor

Junior Mayor’s (2015) message

In 2050 I’ll be 51. Today’s 12 year olds will be 47 and there will be 1.2 million people on the Gold Coast. What the City of Gold Coast plans for today will shape my future. As part of Junior Council, we found out what was important to our young people. The things I and other young people value aren’t that different to what’s important to everyone, no matter their age. Like other young people my family, my friends, my health, my career are very important parts of my life.

Our city is on the verge of some exciting projects. The unfolding Cultural Precinct is just one of the opportunities that I’d like my peers involved in for the future of our city. Junior Council is just one way to find out more, have your say and foster a sense of pride for the Gold Coast. I’d love to see the ideas in this plan become a reality. Having a plan today means the City is on its way to making this happen well before 2050.

As a young person I love the Gold Coast because it provides so many opportunities and support that enable you to do what you want to do and to turn those dreams and passions into a reality.

Zuzana Hamaniakova
Junior Mayor (2015)
City of Gold Coast

The Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020 will promote and guide the City of Gold Coast's (City) work with young people. Our City works in partnership with other levels of government and our community to:

• respond to the needs and aspirations of our young people
• provide safe and accessible parks and open spaces
• provide sport and recreation opportunities, community and youth centres, and libraries
• facilitate the connection between young people and their community
• reduce barriers to young people’s participation in community life
• promote the achievements and contribution of young people
• provide opportunities for our young people to participate in civic activities
• support opportunities for education and employment
• support government agencies and other organisations working with our young people.

The City works closely with private and public high schools and a youth network of more than 200 not-for-profit, voluntary, community and private organisations. These organisations deliver specialised counselling services, accommodation, alternative education, training, life skills development and support for young people. We acknowledge the critical role they play in the lives of our young people.

All of the City’s work is informed by best practice processes for engaging and working with young people, the Queensland Family and Child Commission Act 2014, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000, and associated risk management guidelines and other relevant legislation and standards.
City Vision and Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020

Our City Vision, ‘Inspired by lifestyle. Driven by opportunity.’ has three themes – place, prosperity, and people.

**City Vision**
Inspired by lifestyle. Driven by opportunity.

**Gold Coast 2020**

**Place**
- Our city provides a choice of liveable places
- We live in balance with nature
- We have sustainable solid and liquid waste disposal
- We have fast, frequent and reliable public transport
- We are an active digital city
- Our modern centres create vibrant communities
- Everyone can enjoy a beach experience
- Our city benefits from a great Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™

**Prosperity**
- Our city is innovative and grows successful businesses
- We have a thriving cultural economy
- We have infrastructure that supports productivity and growth
- We are a city with a strong and globally competitive business environment
- We are a globally recognised tourism destination
- We are an emerging world-class business destination

**People**
- Our city is safe
- We are proud of our city
- Our community is inclusive and supportive
- Our city embraces culture every day
- We are a highly skilled community
- We are an active community

Supporting the delivery of Gold Coast 2020
- We plan for the future of the city
- We manage the city responsibly
The Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020 is structured around these themes and identifies what we will continue to provide for young people and our new initiatives.

City Vision
Inspired by lifestyle.
Driven by opportunity.

Place
A city of accessible and well-connected places where young people can be active and enjoy the coast, hinterland and sunshine.

People
A safe, inclusive and vibrant community for all young people with a strong sense of identity and pride.

Prosperity
A city of skilled, smart and savvy young people.

Listening to our young people

Our city’s young people were involved in the development of the Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020 through Junior Council, youth week activities, and city-wide engagement with youth service providers. Continuing to develop ways to listen, hear and include young people’s ideas and thoughts in City initiatives is a key part of this plan.

We asked young people what they’re interested in, concerned about, and their plans for the future. Some young Gold Coasters said they were interested in communicating through social media, playing sport, music and being with friends and family. They’re worried about the future (work/career/opportunity), coping with stress and school/study problems, drugs and alcohol, the environment, self-image, bullying, discrimination, and getting to where they want to go. Access to safe, affordable accommodation was also identified as a key concern for some young people. Many young people liked the beach, parks, theatre, theme parks, festivals, shopping centres, markets and our culture.

More than half of the students asked want to spread their wings after school, travelling to other cities and parts of the world and just under half think it’s perfect here, and they see their future on the Gold Coast. This reflects national trends. A significant number of young people nationally also see family responsibilities and physical or mental health as potential barriers to achieving their study/work goals.
The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ (GC2018) is a once-in-a-generation opportunity and will deliver the following benefits for young people and the wider Gold Coast community:

- a $2 billion economic injection
- $200 million in new sporting and community infrastructure
- up to 30,000 full-time equivalent jobs
- global exposure to a television audience of one billion+
- major tourism boost with 100,000+ visitors during GC2018 and $270 million+ to state/local economy (based on figures from the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games)
- attraction of other major sporting events
- national and international sports training camps
- public domain improvements, upgrades to Southport and Broadbeach Malls, tree planting, street-scaping, road and footpath upgrades, community health and safety initiatives
- volunteering opportunities.

GC2018 is more than a spectacular sporting event. It is an opportunity to secure positive and lasting benefits. In 2013 the City of Gold Coast, with the Queensland Government, asked the community what lasting benefits they wanted from GC2018. The feedback received from community groups, sporting organisations, businesses, the tourism industry, and the general public contributed to the development of the GC2018 legacy strategy.

**Embracing our Games legacy**

Queensland’s legacy for the GC2018 was officially launched in 2014.

The Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020 supports the GC2018 legacy strategy. There are a number of initiatives listed in this plan that promote increased participation by young people in GC2018 which will contribute to ensuring GC2018 has lasting benefits for young people on the Gold Coast.
Who are our young people?

Youth population

In 2014 there were 106,197 young people aged 10 to 24 years living on the Gold Coast, representing almost 20 per cent of the total population. The areas with the highest numbers of young residents aged 10 to 24 years are Southport (7001), Upper Coomera-Willow Vale (6345), and Robina (4782).\(^1\)

In the next 20 years, the number of young people on the Gold Coast is expected to grow to 169,612. By 2036, it is projected that areas within the northern Gold Coast will have the highest number of young people: Coomera will have 18,646 residents aged 10 to 24 years, followed by Southport (13,194) and Upper Coomera-Willow Vale (11,300).\(^2\)

There is a diverse community of young people living on the Gold Coast as demonstrated by the following key statistics:\(^3\)

- 2 per cent identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 22.1 per cent were born overseas
- almost 7000 speak a language other than English at home. The main languages are Mandarin, Japanese and Korean
- 10,000 young people aged 15-24 are volunteers
- one in five people who are homeless on the Gold Coast are aged 10 to 25 years\(^4\)
- 1448 young people need assistance in their day to day lives due to a disability.\(^5\)

Education and employment

In 2011, around 55% of young people were attending an educational institution with 14.6% attending university.\(^6\)

Today our students have a choice of three universities, Griffith University, Bond University, and Southern Cross University.

In addition, almost 5% of young people were attending a technical and further education institution.

In 2016 there were approximately 50,600 young people aged 15-24 employed on the Gold Coast and the unemployment rate was 12.6 per cent.\(^7\)

Technology


Generation Y and Generation Z are tech savvy with young people aged 18-24 checking their phone more than 50 times a day.\(^8\)

\(\frac{3}{4}\) of young people reach for their smartphone within 15 minutes of waking up.\(^9\)

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1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2014 (Cat. no. 3235.0)
5. Communities of Interest – 12-25 yrs prepared by .id using ABS Census 2011
6. Communities of Interest – 12-25 yrs prepared by .id using ABS Census 2011
7. ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey – Main Indicators by Age and Region 2016
Place

A city of accessible and well-connected places where young people can be active and enjoy the coast, hinterland and sunshine.

Gold Coast is a place known for its lifestyle. Our subtropical climate brings us approximately 260 days of sunshine each year. With more than 42 kilometres of oceanways and 57 kilometres of sandy beaches in our linear city, we’re living in one of the most bio-diverse and beautiful cities in Australia.

As our city grows it is important that young people continue to have access to a variety of places so they can enjoy and participate in the Gold Coast lifestyle. These places include facilities that provide recreation activities, and the natural environment. For young people to utilise these places throughout the city, they need to be accessible, well-connected and safe. Given the value of our beaches and hinterland, it is also important to provide opportunities for young people to help preserve our natural environment.

“I really love the variety of experiences the coast brings with the hinterland, sunshine and the coast. Being in the sun every day, being able to get out of the house and be active and have that active lifestyle.” – Peta

Places to be active and engaged

Parks and recreation facilities

The City of Gold Coast has an extensive network of parks for people of all ages to use. In total we have 2200 parks across our city. Many of these parks have sport and recreation facilities, and there are 200 sports fields located across the city. Over the next 10 years the City will be investing significant funds into projects that improve our parks and facilities including new sport and recreational fields in the northern Gold Coast, sporting venues for GC2018, and parkour facilities that will provide active recreation opportunities for young people.

Young people are also able to access 13 skateparks and 12 BMX tracks which cater for the beginner right through to advanced riders. These are delivered in 17 locations across the city, including the world-renowned Pizzey Park bowl, the Nerang Skate Park under lights every night, and the Upper Coomera Adventure Parklands. In addition to these facilities, the City also conducts skate competitions and BMX workshops for young people through its Active and Healthy Program and School Holiday Activity Program (up to 18 years).

The City of Gold Coast has agreements with over 400 clubs to use local sports fields and recreation facilities across the city. Our young people can join these clubs with many hosting both organised and social competitions throughout the year. The City continues to work in partnership with the local community to help establish and build strong sport and recreation clubs and organisations. This commitment plays a vital role in improving the health and wellbeing of Gold Coast young people.

Physical activity programs

We are committed to encouraging people to enjoy a more active lifestyle. An objective in the Gold Coast Sport Plan 2013-2033 is to grow participation in sport and recreation within the city and lead the way in becoming Australia’s most active and healthy, sport and lifestyle city. Under this objective, the City has committed to expand, deliver and promote youth programs and youth activation plans to reduce barriers and encourage increased participation in sport and recreation for our young residents and visitors.10

New initiative – parks and recreation facilities

Investigate options for Co-Design Youth Programs that enable young people to participate in the design of the spaces they will ultimately inherit.

Opportunities to enjoy our beaches and hinterland

Our beaches and hinterland are central to the Gold Coast lifestyle and the City has various strategies to ensure young people have opportunities to enjoy the natural environment.

Surfing

Surfing is a popular recreational activity for young people and part of our Gold Coast lifestyle. The Gold Coast Surf Management Plan recognises that surfing is a key part of the Gold Coast economy and culture. It is envisaged that the implementation of this plan will allow surfers of all ages to enjoy the city’s remarkable surf and beaches now and into the future, and allow surfers to make educated and informed choices about where they surf to maximise their enjoyment.  

11. www.pcyc.org.au/AboutUs
Accessible, well-connected places

It is important that all of the places that young people use throughout the city are well-connected and easily accessible. The Gold Coast City Transport Strategy 2031 is the City’s blueprint for the transport network over the next 20 years, with a focus on the years leading up to the GC2018. This strategy will guide transport policy and future investment decisions. It will ensure transport funding is allocated to deliver maximum benefits for our city, protect our lifestyle and keep our economy strong. There are many key outcomes in this strategy, particularly in relation to public transport and active transport that will benefit young people on the Gold Coast into the future.14

For example, the city is committed to improving the quality of the public transport system so it provides an attractive alternative to the car. By 2031, we aim to have 80 per cent of Gold Coast residents within a 10 minute walk of frequent, all-day services. As key users of public transport, this will enable young people to easily move around our city using a city-wide, multimodal, high-frequency public transport network.

This strategy also encourages all Gold Coast residents and visitors to choose walking, cycling and public transport to reduce congestion, improve air quality and be healthier. To achieve this change in travel behaviour amongst young people, we are targeting primary schools, high schools and workplaces that have high numbers of young people.

The Gold Coast’s Accessible and Inclusive City Action Plan 2014-201915 contains a number of key actions that will contribute to ensuring that local areas are accessible and well-connected for young people with a disability. One of the outcomes of the plan is that our community facilities and buildings are inclusive and accessible. This means that young people with a disability can access the same facilities as others, for example our youth programs held at the Upper Coomera Centre, or Homework Club at the Southport Library. Our swimming pools have accessible features so that people with a disability can enjoy our pools. We will continue to improve access to our buildings and facilities to make them accessible for all.

Opportunities to preserve our natural environment

To ensure our local places can be enjoyed by future generations, we need to live in balance with nature and look after the future of the city’s rainforest, bushland, waterways and open space.

There are many opportunities for young people to volunteer and get involved in environmental education, rehabilitation and conservation activities in order to preserve our valuable natural places across the city. Some of these opportunities are outlined below.

Green Army

The City partners with the Federal Government to deliver various Green Army projects which provide environmental and conservation workplace training. The Green Army is open to school leavers, gap year students, graduates, and job seekers aged between 17 and 24 who are interested in gaining practical training and experience while being paid to work in the local environment. Some of the projects young people have assisted with through this program include the planting of 12,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses at Robina City Parklands adjacent to Mudgeeraba Creek, restoration and native tree planting at the Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area, and the development of an Aboriginal story garden at the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.

Healthy Waterways

The City is a member of the Healthy Waterways organisation which works to protect and improve South East Queensland’s waterways. Through this organisation we are working on projects across the city to improve and maintain waterway health. Our young people are involved in a number of these initiatives. For example, Griffith University on the Gold Coast is trialling Water on Tap – the first vending machine in Australia to dispense both reusable water bottles and free chilled water in response to the issue of plastic pollution and to protect the future of the city’s waterways.16

CoastEd

The City sponsors Griffith University’s CoastEd program which is provided by the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management. Through this program, Gold Coast young people participate in education sessions covering a wide range of topics that relate to the Gold Coast coastal zone. All sessions are facilitated by experts in the field of coastal management, marine science and environmental education.17

Catchment Management

The City’s Catchment Management Unit (CMU) provides in-kind support to the Gold Coast Catchment Association (GCCA) and its volunteer groups which are involved in a range of activities including tree planting, weed management, citizen science and various other educational initiatives. Specifically, events such as the Gold Coast’s Biggest Tree Planting Day, Catchment Crawl and Clean Up the Pin have previously recorded numerous participants aged under 25 years. CMU also manages the WaterWatch Contract, a community service that engages with early learning centres, primary schools, high schools, universities and community groups to educate participants on our catchments and the importance of healthy waterways. This is conducted via the investigation of biological indicators and physical-chemical parameters of waterways within Gold Coast catchment areas.

16. healthywaterways.org/waterontap
Beaches to Bushland Landcare Program

The City provides a platform for young people to foster a connection with our natural environment through the hands on Beaches to Bushland Landcare program. The program encourages active community involvement and ownership of our natural assets through volunteer tree planting and environmental weed control sessions. The program also support schools, universities and junior Landcare events aimed at connecting youth.

NaturallyGC

The City partners with and supports a range of organisations that provide environment based activities and education sessions for young people through the NaturallyGC program. Young people can be involved in a number of activities from nature based recreation, tree planting, kids nature play, wildlife encounters and more.

Koala conservation

Young people can also participate in initiatives under the City’s Koala Conservation Plans for our important koala populations across the city. These plans include programs and actions to help inform the community about threats to our local koala population and engage local residents in conservation efforts. A Koala Conservation Education program has also been developed for the City’s Koala Conservation Plans. The program aims to provide opportunity for local school students to develop their knowledge and understanding of koalas and their habitat as well as the current threats and conservation measures affecting the species.

Prosperity

A city of skilled, smart and savvy young people.

The future of the Gold Coast is in our young people and we support them to be lifelong learners. Lifelong learning is at the core of our economic development objectives for the city.

Globalisation, rapid technological and social changes have had major impacts on business and the economy. Skills and knowledge must continually be upgraded in order to face the challenges of the future.

To achieve this it is important that young people can access the training they need to reach their potential. We need to ensure there are pathways on the Gold Coast for young people to choose a diversity of employment opportunities.

Opportunities to be lifelong learners

The City’s 13 branch libraries are hubs that provide a number of programs that allow young people to engage in lifelong learning. We have workshops and collaborative projects in the digital media lab at Helensvale Library that offer young people the opportunity to learn exciting tech skills such as 3D design and print, coding, sound and film editing.

Regular workshops to assist with job seeking and independent living are also offered at libraries across the City. These include sessions such as job seeking, resume writing, dressing for success, cooking for one on a budget, and babysitting courses.

The 11th Avenue Creative at Palm Beach Library and Community Lounge, and the Helensvale Library Media Lab offers space and resources for not-for-profit groups or individual artists, crafters, artisans, coders, mind crafters, botgeeks and film makers. They are places to learn, create, collaborate and share your ideas and experience.

Our community and youth centres also provide a range of programs and activities to support young people to reach their potential. We have delivered start up 101 workshops for young people to support them with the tools and steps to make their ideas a business reality.

Co-working spaces

The City provides support for early stage technology companies through acceleration and incubation based programs. We have also supported a growing network of co-working spaces that provide a premise for start-ups and an opportunity to collaborate and share ideas and knowledge. For example, Cospaces is a shared office network operating from two locations in Southport: One of the Gold Coast’s first ambulance stations that was built in 1922, and at the current Telstra Exchange Building. With its central location, the Cospaces network has a strong professional member base, including architects, advertising agencies, engineering firms, property and construction consultants and accountants.

Employment pathways using innovation and technology

Innovation and technology are key economic drivers for the Gold Coast into the future. By supporting innovative local businesses and early stage technology companies, the City is creating employment pathways for young people. Our Economic Development Strategy 2013-2023 details how the City is working towards becoming a smart, skilled city where young people can reach their potential through innovation and technology.

STEAM Program

Another key initiative of our Economic Development Strategy 2013-2023 is to deliver a STEAM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) to develop local skills and raise higher education aspirations to meet the demand of related industry and business within the city. City Libraries offer a broad range of STEAM programs in the areas of: Programming coding, robotics, design and construction, 3D design and printing, film and digital design. We support Study Gold Coast to hold events during National Science Week which encourages our young people to participate in various festival events while learning about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). Study Gold Coast is the peak education and training body for the Gold Coast promoting the Gold Coast as the ideal destination for education on a domestic and international scale.20

Digital City Program

The Digital City Program is a ‘signature transformational project’ from our Economic Development Strategy 2013-2023. This program will support the delivery of infrastructure, and create partnerships for the development of new goods and services needed to drive economic, social and environmental outcomes for the city. The program will include opportunities for young people to identify issues affecting their lives, and work with the City and industry partners to develop solutions.


New initiative – innovation and technology

Establish a Youth Enterprise Hub and Cultural Incubator Space at Helensvale to be a feeder to the Cultural Precinct. It will provide a space and support for mentoring, the development of cultural activities, ideas, and emerging businesses; A co-working space for young people.

Mayor’s Telstra Tech Awards

Each year we deliver the Mayor’s Telstra Tech Awards, which provides an opportunity for students to showcase their next big technological idea, their creativity, and benefit from a mentoring program provided by Bond University. The first prize winner from 2015 was the Varsity College: Social Bar project which was a safe social network for 8 to 17 year olds that prevents social predators from following young children and teenagers online through the use of Student IDs.
Access to further education and training opportunities

It is important for Gold Coast young people to have access to local, high quality further education and training opportunities. The City of Gold Coast partners with Study Gold Coast and education institutions to promote the city as a premium location for education and employment. The Gold Coast is home to three universities: Bond University, Griffith University and Southern Cross University. We also have Gold Coast TAFE and a range of vocational education and training providers.

An outcome of the City’s Economic Development Strategy 2013-2023 is to increase study and training in the city and ensure it leads to real job opportunities to grow our skills base, increase employment options and meet the city’s business needs into the future. The City is developing student employability and workforce development programs to promote access to jobs and encourage retention of local tertiary graduates in the city. To achieve this, one of our key projects is the Bridging Business and Universities program. The aim of this program is to establish and grow partnership programs between the city’s universities and local business.

The City also recognises the importance of attracting and nurturing young people by offering a student placement program. We provide opportunities for students currently studying at a University/TAFE to gain real world skills to complement their study. Similarly, the City offers apprenticeship opportunities across a number of trades such as mechanical, painting, sign writing, plumbing, boiler making and fitting and turning. In partnership with other levels of Government, the City also provides opportunities for young people through short term traineeships to gain skills and confidence in the workplace.
People

A safe, inclusive and vibrant community for all young people with a strong sense of identity and pride.

The Gold Coast community is inclusive and supportive. Our young people are part of a diverse community where everyone is welcome, families thrive, and people know their neighbours.

In the future young people on the Gold Coast will continue to have a sense of well being and actively participate as part of the Gold Coast community. In order to achieve this, we need to ensure our young people are safe and have a strong sense of belonging, identity and pride.

It is also important that young people continue to have opportunities to engage in the vibrant and distinct culture of the Gold Coast through participation in arts and cultural activities and programs.

New initiative – community safety

Develop an education program for school students to support disaster preparedness based on the City disaster management website: goldcoast.qld.gov.au/council/disastermanagement-120.html

A safe city

Community safety

The City of Gold Coast will continue to enhance the safety of our public spaces and entertainment precincts for young people through safety audits, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), graffiti management and education, and the Safety Camera (CCTV) Network. Safety audits are regularly carried out in areas of concern to our local community. Young people are invited to participate in these to provide input about design improvements that would make them feel safer and more likely to utilise local spaces and facilities.

The City also works closely with State and Federal government agencies to improve safety in our city’s entertainment precincts and on public transport. Recent commitments by the City include a safety improvement program at key skate parks across the Gold Coast. CCTV cameras are being installed and linked to the City’s Safety Camera Network to improve safety for young people using these facilities, along with additional lighting. Through its graffiti management program, the City has developed curriculum based resources for each school year level, teaching young people about community pride and the consequences of undertaking graffiti. Opportunities are also provided for young people to participate in urban art projects to improve amenity and reduce graffiti.

It is also important for our young people to be prepared for natural disasters. Living in one of the most beautiful parts of the world can also bring its hazards. Severe floods, storms, bushfires, cyclones and heat waves are the kinds of major natural incidents our city can face every year. As a community, our best protection against any natural disaster is to be prepared, and to plan our city to be resilient to natural disasters.

“I couldn’t be more proud to be a Gold Coaster. The fact that I’m able to actively be engaged and involved, just allows me to feel like I know I’m contributing and I’m a part of this great city.”

– Evange Epa (Past Gold Coast Junior Mayor)

“What I love about the Gold Coast culture is it’s growing and it’s so much fun.”

– Keegan
A city that values young people

National Youth Week

A key program of work in the City’s Gold Coast 2020 Corporate Plan is to develop and implement a National Youth Week (NYW) program.

NYW is the largest celebration of young people in Australia. Each year, thousands of young people aged 12 to 25 from across the country get involved. In 2016 over 40 free or low cost events were held across the City during National Youth Week. Events included workshops in horror makeup, tie dye and comic creation, sessions on stand up paddle board and yoga, and talks on the film industry and being a gold medal Olympian. Some highlights of the week included, the opening event at Thrower House Palm Beach: YOLO (You Only Live Once), Shout Out at Upper Coomera, and the inaugural Burleigh to Bundall: a mash up of bikes, beats, bowls and brilliance delivered across four city locations.

During National Youth Week 2016, STAMP (Stand Tall and Move Paradigms) was launched by The Arts Centre Gold Coast. This initiative celebrating young people offered a smorgasbord of fantastic activities including slam poetry, films, markets and exhibitions. STAMP culminated in a free festival afternoon on the lake at Evandale. The City of Gold Coast will continue to coordinate, support and deliver NYW activities.

Youth engagement

The City values input from our young people through its consultation and community engagement activities. The City’s Have Your Say program facilitates and encourages public participation. It generates ideas and feedback that informs good decision making to help shape our city’s future. In mid-2016, a youth specific engagement occurred. In mid-2016, a youth specific engagement will occur through this program with the aim of increasing our young people’s participation in all of our community engagement activities so that their views and ideas are heard. We also seek the ideas and input from our young people through Junior Council, and informally at our Skate Jams, YOLO, Youth Week activities, and other community events throughout the year.

Road safety

Our road safety program targets all ages and encourages safety on our roads. However, within our population, those aged 17-24 are involved in 27 per cent of serious crashes while only accounting for 11 per cent of the city’s population. To reduce serious injury and death we are implementing local programs targeting our young drivers. For example, we are going to investigate youth road safety issues and identify the best practice interventions and approaches targeting young adults. Furthermore, in line with the findings and recommendations of the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015-2020, we plan to:

- implement road safety education and awareness programs for local high schools;
- modify the Active School Travel program content to include arising road safety issues relevant for the age group e.g. walker and/or driver distraction; and
- investigate options to partner with education providers, community and youth groups to improve access to young driver training initiatives.

GC2018

The City of Gold Coast is committed to promote opportunities for young people’s participation in GC2018 preparation and initiatives. For example, the City has commenced a Young Leaders Embracing 2018 initiative. This reference group aims to create awareness of, participate in, and promote opportunities relating to GC2018 and its legacy outcomes. It is through this initiative that the City will provide opportunities for young people to contribute to the delivery of its signature action as outlined in its Gold Coast 2020 Corporate Plan: Ensuring that Commonwealth Games live sites are developed to improve open space activities for youth.

New initiatives – Youth engagement

Deliver iFest in 2016-17 which will be an ideas festival to capture the imagination, knowledge and inventive ideas of our young people.

Develop a multicultural stories program to engage with young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to enhance cultural understanding and promote inclusiveness across the city.

Engage with young people to seek their views on how technology will shape their future on the Gold Coast.

Investigate alternative ways to engage with young people through the City’s Have your say program.

Young people are connected

It is important that young people in our city have access to information about services, support, counselling, clubs, activities and programs. City of Gold Coast currently provides information about what the City provides through its youth webpage. In addition, the City provides an online community directory that has over 100 listings of youth related community organisations, services and clubs.

New initiative – Youth directory

Develop a specific Gold Coast Youth Services Directory that can be downloaded and printed so that young people can quickly and easily find services and facilities.

Investigate how the local tech industry can be engaged to develop an app so that young people can quickly and easily find information, programs, activities and what’s on.
Opportunities to participate in civic leadership

Junior Council

Another key program of work in the City’s Gold Coast 2020 Corporate Plan is to deliver the Junior Council program. The City’s Junior Council program provides opportunities for young people to participate in civic leadership. The program:

• connects young people with our local government elected members, staff, and the community
• provides key consultation opportunities for young people to inform the city’s decision making processes
• develops a sense of community and pride in our city.

We currently have over 100 students from 29 high schools involved in our Junior Council program.

New initiative – Junior Council

Create a Junior Council alumni program for those who want to stay involved with the City of Gold Coast, keep in touch with former members, and grow their professional networks.

Expand and complement the Junior Council program by holding a Junior Leaders Day in October 2016. The Junior Leaders Day will offer students an opportunity to attend a day of inspiration and mentoring with a civic focus.
Opportunities to participate in Gold Coast culture

Cultural activities and events

The City’s Culture Strategy 2023 steers us toward a future where culture is central to our community wellbeing, our city’s reputation, liveability and our economic growth. We plan to support young artists through the delivery of the Culture Strategy 2023 by:

• embedding professional artists into community venues to develop projects of excellence with our city’s children and young people
• building strong relationships with national and international education, youth arts and advocacy organisations
• mentoring young artists through programs such as the Circus and Physical Theatre Incubator.

We currently deliver the Bleach* Festival, which is a world-class arts and cultural experience for young people. We also deliver workshops, programs, funding, panel discussions and professional development opportunities to our local community. For example, we partner with a local youth theatre group to deliver workshops and projects through our community centre network across the city.

Gold Coast young people have also been able to enjoy a city that has a long history of nurturing contemporary music talent. Local emerging bands and musicians have performed at major events since 2004, including the Big Day Out, Schoolies Festival, Parklife, Surfers Paradise Festival, Bleach* Festival, Gold Coast Suns, Quiksilver and Roxy Pro surfing championships and A La Carte in the Park. The City is currently developing a Contemporary Music Plan, with the aim of building capacity within the live music industry.

Young people are also able to access the Gold Coast Arts Centre which is the key cultural facility for the city. The complex houses the Arts Theatre, Gold Coast City Gallery, two cinemas and The Space; a small venue focused on supporting local and small productions. The Gold Coast Arts Centre will be the home of the new Gold Coast Cultural Precinct.

Heritage

Young people are able to access a variety of unique local museums, heritage walks, heritage buildings and National Trust Heritage Festival activities across the city. Through the Culture Strategy 2023 there is also a focus on engaging young people in the role of custodians of our city’s heritage.

New initiative – heritage

Investigate the development of a program that supports the involvement of young people in local museums and encourages ownership of the City’s heritage.
Delivering the Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020

Each year we will review the implementation of the plan when preparing the City budget. This will ensure that the plan continues to inform the development and implementation of city projects and initiatives for young people. The City will also seek feedback from the Junior Council and Young Leaders group annually about the City’s progress in delivering on the activities and new initiatives detailed in this plan.

The City is currently developing a framework for working with young people. The framework will establish best practice guidelines for working with young people and will be implemented throughout the organisation. The framework will be used in conjunction with the Gold Coast Youth Plan 2020 to ensure a coordinated and city wide approach to our work with young people.
For more information

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