



August 2026

The Youth Bulletin

San Diego, A City Where Children and Youth Thrive

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Office of Child and Youth Success

The Office of Child & Youth Success (OCYS) serves as a navigation and connection point for residents seeking supportive services and programming for youth ages 24 and below.

Vision

All of San Diego's children and youth thrive, are empowered, and feel successful. They are supported by a coordinated network of City and community partners with a shared framework to provide high-impact and equitable programs, services, resources, and opportunities.

LEARN MORE



Mission

The Office of Child and Youth Success is dedicated to prioritizing San Diego's youngest community by ensuring access to resources, services, and high-quality programs to support positive social, health, and educational outcomes for all children and youth.

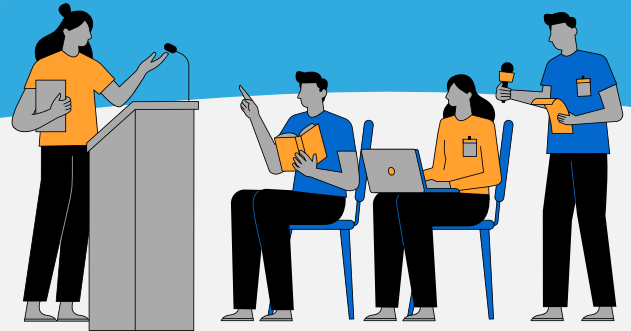
Creators

Each of our monthly newsletters are supported by Brilly Gonzalez Corea and created by OCYS interns Ayleth Cruz, Frida J Cienega, and Ruth Pineda.



San Diego Youth Commission

F.A.Qs Sheet



What's my role as a Youth Commissioner?

- Engage in youth advocacy
- Provide input about your community
- Identify critical issues & present findings & recommendations to City leadership
- Commit to no less than 4 meetings a year with fellow Youth Commissioners

Where can I find the YC Meeting Schedule?

All scheduled meetings and locations can be found on the San Diego Youth Commission meetings web page (<https://www.sandiego.gov/youth-commission/meetings>).

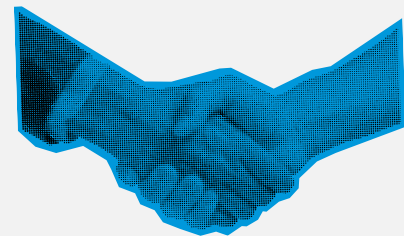


Can I still join a YC Meeting if I am not a part of the committee?

Yes! Youth Commissioner meetings are public and we encourage public comments and input during meetings.

If I need help with my application, whom can I contact?

If you need assistance, you can contact the Office of Child and Youth Success at ocys@sandiego.gov



I submitted my application, what do I do next?

If you submitted an application, please remain patient, a member of the Office of Boards & Commissions will process your application and notify your council district office to review your application. If you have additional questions, contact OCYS at ocys@sandiego.gov



LEARN MORE



APPLY





OCYS Update

As of July 1st, the Office of Child and Youth Success has moved to the Mayor's Office. We continue to partner closely with the Library Department and are grateful for the leadership and collaboration shared with us during our time as part of the team!

Tara Ryan will continue to lead the work of OCYS as part of the Mayor's policy team. This change offers new opportunities to align more closely with the City's overall priorities and strengthen collaboration with other departments to carry out the City of San Diego Child & Youth Plan.

But it's a bittersweet change as we say goodbye to staff members that have been integral to our work over the past 18 months. Brilly Gonzalez and Denise Amavizca will both be moving on to other departments. Their commitment and quality of work will be missed, but wish them well and look forward to ongoing partnership!



Please stay connected and stay tuned for more updates, events, and resources! Reach out anytime to ocys@sandiego.gov.



Office of Child
and Youth Success



O C Y S i N T E R N S

4

Favorite memory in San Diego?

Ayleth

Going to my first concert in 2022 at Humphreys by the Bay!

Frida

Going to Spicy House in Convoy with my dear friend, Christine.

Ruth

Working WWE: Survivor Series last november! I met so many of my favorite wrestlers!

Favorite place in San Diego ?

Ocean Beach!
Great spot to walk and good eats!

My favorite place in San Diego is La Jolla Cove.

Convoy!
I absolutely love trying new food spots in the area!



Office of Child and Youth Success

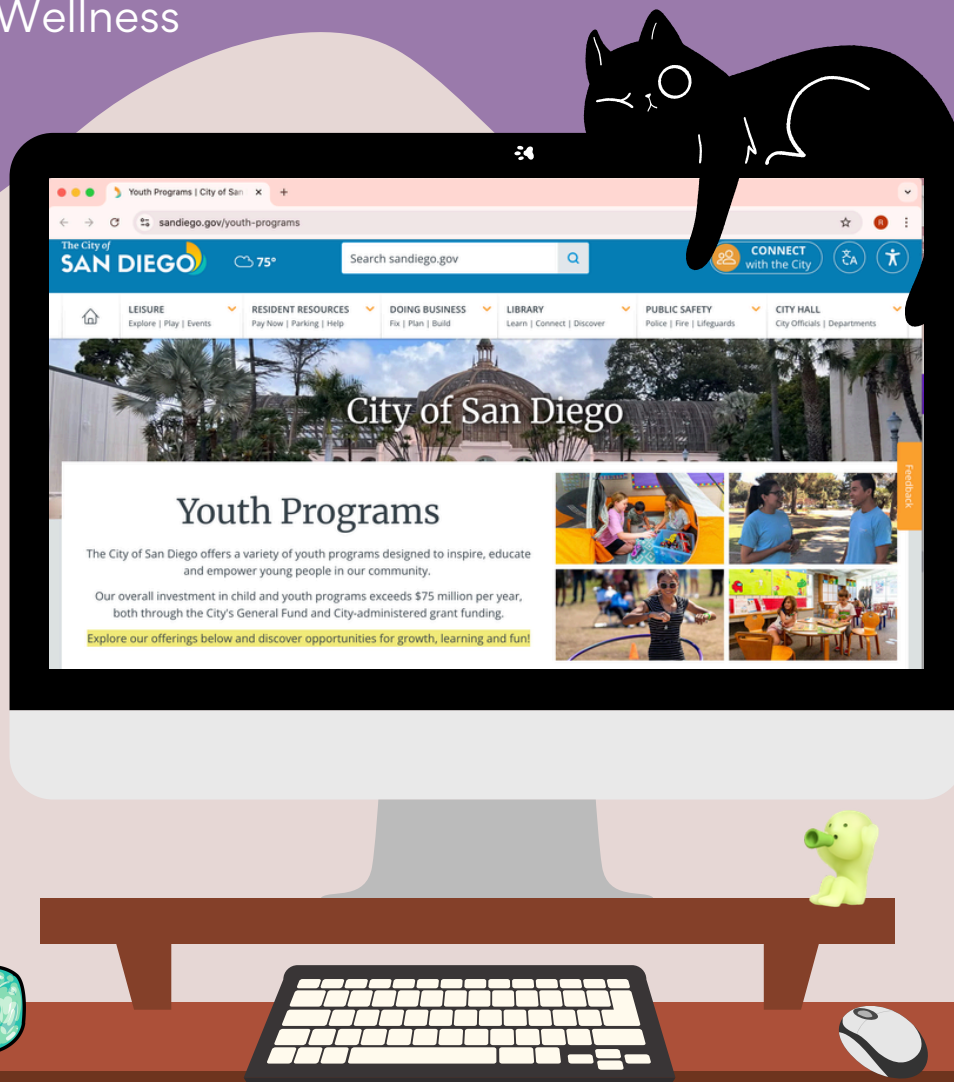


CHECK OUT THE CITY'S NEW...

YOUTH PROGRAMMING WEBPAGE

EXPLORE THE VARIETY OF YOUTH PROGRAMS & DISCOVER
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, LEARNING, AND FUN!

- ★ After-School Enrichment
- ★ Educational Programs
- ★ Summer Programs
- ★ Safety & Wellness
- ★ Career Development
- ★ Volunteer Opportunities
- ★ Physical Fitness



BACK TO SCHOOL DONATION DRIVES



Are you in need of school supplies?

Check out these Back to School Drives in San Diego!

**AUG
01**

**TASHA BOERNER
RESOURCE FAIR**

330 Park Blv., San Diego, CA 92101

**AUG
08**

**BLACK PEARL BACK TO
SCHOOL HAIRCUTS**

*free haircuts for kids ages 5–17 (School ID required)

2589 Imperial Ave, San Diego, CA 92105

**AUG
09**

**DR. AKILAH WEBER FAMILY
RESOURCE FAIR**

6130 Skyline Dr, San Diego, CA 92114

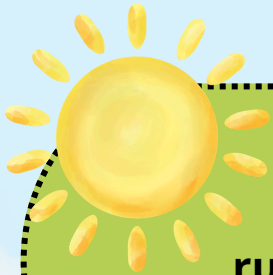
**AUG
15**

**CHICANO FEDERATION
DONATION DRIVE**

2196 Newton Ave, San Diego, CA 92113

click the donation drives for more information

Hiking Trails in San Diego



Mission Trails

8,000 acre open space
rugged canyons, hills, valleys, and open areas

Trail Map

Visitor Center Loop Trl, Navajo, CA

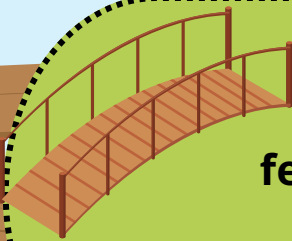


Point Loma Native Plant Garden

3-acre community managed garden
featuring rare and endangered native plants

Trail Map

2275 Mendocino Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107



Seven bridge walk

5-mile urban hike
featuring 7 bridges in central San Diego

Trail Map

can start at any bridge, most start in Balboa Park, click link for more
info

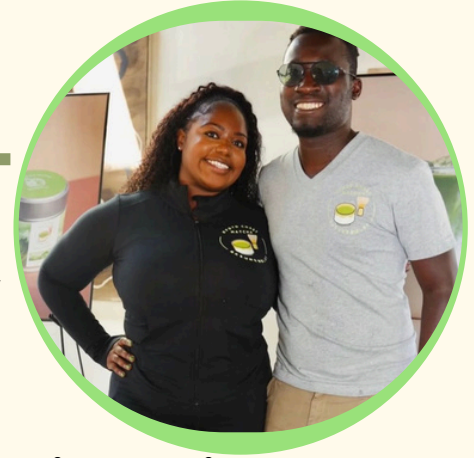


Black Business Month

Highlighting Black Owned Businesses in San Diego!!

Kyoto Coast Matcha – Little Italy

A matcha shop in Little Italy serving up unique flavors such as a Blue Sky Cloud matcha. The owners behind this beautiful spot, Brittany Kikamaze and Shem Kikamaze, not only do they sell delicious drinks they also sell their own matcha powder imported from Japan!



Royal Creations – University Ave

A hair company and beauty salon that strives to sell affordable beauty products. Renee White, owner of Royal Creations Hair, started her business back in 2013, searching for ways to make extra income as a college student. From a side job to a beautiful shop, Renee has allowed many people to feel confident in themselves.

Savage Bee Ches – Old Town

Kemi Pavlocak, founder of San Diego's only Honey boutique, invests in the people and places around it not only through native bee education and environmental outreach, but through active support of the underserved communities that form the backbone of San Diego. The people who feed this city, build it, clean it, and show up for it every day deserve the same care and advocacy we extend to the ecosystems they live in.



Flavors of East Africa – Multiple Locations

One of the only places to get Kenyan food in San Diego. Owned by Alvin June Owino a native Kenyan. From selling delicious food at farmers markets (and still) to opening two locations in San Diego. Owino shares that food is more than flavor but cultural learning and a way to build community.



Women's Equality Day

Since 1971, Women's Equality Day has been celebrated annually on August 26. The celebration falls on the anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote.

Women owned businesses in San Diego!!!

El Cholos Kid - Chula Vista

A gift shop that specializes in Japanese collectibles alongside other items such as handwoven bags made from recycled plastic a shop full of nostalgia and happiness!



Holy Matcha - North Park

Geraldine Ridaura was inspired to open Holy Matcha after traveling to Japan and discovering the vibrant green tea. In awe and amazement of all the benefits of matcha, in 2016 Geraldine set forth on a journey to introduce it to her community by opening San Diego's first matcha cafe.



 Office of Child and Youth Success

In 1971, Representative Bella Abzug introduced a successful bill designating August 26th of each year as Women's Equality Day. Part of the bill reads that Women's Equality Day is a symbol of women's continued fight for equal rights and that the United States commends and supports them.

ARTIST

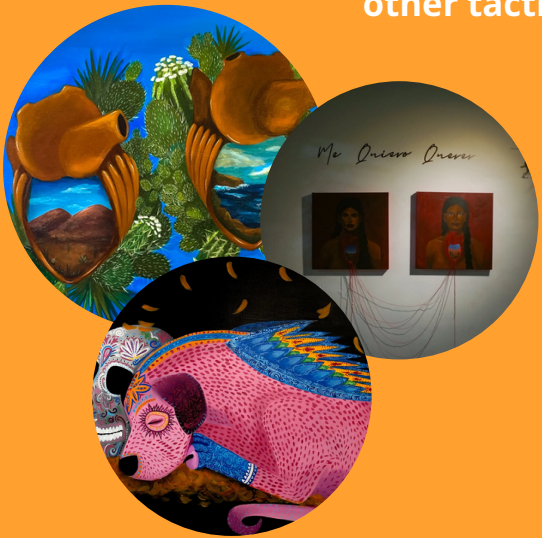
Appreciation

MONTH

• yemayá / yem (they/them)

multi-disciplinary artist based in southern california . Yem is currently a tattoo artist and freelance artist .

Mediums they enjoy working with include but are not limited to: printmaking, ceramics, digital illustration, photography, paint pens, writing (creative, personal, research), crafting & other tactile things.



• Nana (they/them)

27 year old queer mexican-american artist who lives in San Diego. They are a full time artist. Turning their digital art into hair clips, tote bags and clothing. They sell their work at art focused markets!

• Ale Ruiz Tostado

Ale Ruiz Tostado is a multidisciplinary, self-taught artist born and raised in the South Bay/Border region of San Diego. Her work pulls from childhood nostalgia, memory and the multifaceted experience of growing up Mexican-American and later self-proclaiming Chicana as part of her identity. Her practice also encapsulates the importance of self-worth and love, becoming a form of healing from the inward hurt.



• San Diego artists! •



The San Diego Promise Program aims to eliminate financial barriers to community college education. Qualified students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, including those transitioning from the College of Continuing Education, can access a free education.

PROMISE PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHTS

Join us via Zoom to learn more about the admission requirements and benefits of San Diego Promise Program.

RSVP Today!

FALL SEMESTER START:
AUGUST 24, 2026



APPLY FOR FALL 2026!



Website:
sdccd.edu/students/student-promise

For more information on Admissions
<https://www.sdccd.edu/students/admissions>

For more information on Continuing Education
<https://sdcce.edu/academics/index.html>





Get a Jumpstart on Senior Year: Set SMART Goals for Success

Why Get a Jumpstart?

The students who experience the smoothest senior year aren't necessarily the smartest—they're the ones who prepare early. By taking action before deadlines arrive, you'll have more time to write stronger essays, apply for scholarships, visit colleges, and make thoughtful decisions about your future.

Getting ahead also allows you to:

- Stay on top of important deadlines.
- Reduce last-minute stress.
- Improve the quality of your college and scholarship applications.
- Balance academics, extracurricular activities, work, and personal life.
- Build confidence as you work toward graduation.

Reality Changers prepares youth to become first-generation college graduates and agents of change in their communities.

As summer unfolds, many students look forward to relaxation, vacations, and spending time with family and friends. While taking time to recharge is important, July is also one of the most valuable months for students to prepare for a successful school year and take meaningful steps toward their college and career goals.

What Are SMART Goals?

SMART goals are a proven strategy for turning big dreams into achievable action steps. Every goal should be:

Specific – Clearly define what you want to accomplish.

Measurable – Know how you'll track your progress.

Achievable – Set realistic goals that challenge you without overwhelming you.

Relevant – Make sure your goals support your future plans.

Time-Bound – Give yourself a deadline.

Financial Aid & Scholarships Updates

- [Lenny's \\$2,999 "The Future Is Now" Scholarship](#) ~ Deadline: September 28, 2026
- [\\$10,000 No-Essay Ascent Summer Scholarship](#) ~ Deadline: September 30, 2026
- [The Gates Scholarship](#) ~ Deadline: July 15–Sept. 15, '26

College & Career Resource Spotlight

The upcoming academic school year is a great time to get a jumpstart. Start your academic and educational journey off right by planning ahead. Here are a few resources that can support students with starting their new academic year off right, by starting and establishing SMART goals.

Contests and Competitions

- [New York Times Editorial Contests](#) - [Writing] | August 14, 2026
- [Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Awards](#) - [Journalism] | August 31, 2026
- [Breakthrough Junior Challenge](#) - [STEM] | September 15, 2026
- [Scholastic Journalism Week Poster Contest](#) - [Journalism] | September 15, 2026
- [National Youth Cyber Defense Competition](#) - [Computer Science] | October 1, 2026
- [Quill and Scroll Awards \(Yearbook\)](#) - [Writing] | October 1, 2026

Internships

- [Tech Flex Leaders](#) - August 17, 2026 The
- [New York Historical Student Historian Internship Program](#) - August 23, 2026

Campus events

- [Have-A-Look at Haverford - Fly-In Program](#) - August 17, 2026
- [Campus Visit Dates By Institution](#) - [Click here](#)

Standardized Testing

- [August SAT](#) - Registration Deadline: August 7, 2026
- [September ACT](#) - Registration Deadline: August 14, 2026
- [September SAT](#) - Registration Deadline: August 28, 2026
- [August SAT Score Release](#) - September 4, 2026
- [Oxford Admissions Tests](#) - Registration Deadline: September 28, 2026



Career Spotlight

Calling ALL aspiring Marine Biologists, Wildlife Biologists, Zoologists, and Massage Therapist!!!

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook 2025:

Videos: [Marine Biologist \(Wildlife Biologist/Zoologist\)](#)
[Massage Therapist \(Massage Therapy\)](#)

2024 Median Pay
(Per Year)
(Per Hour)

Marine Biologist/Wildlife Biologist

\$72,860 per yr. | \$35.03 per hr.

Massage Therapist

\$57,950 per yr. | \$27.86 per hr.

Typical Entry-Level Advertising, Promotions and Marketing Special Effects Artists/Animators	→	Bachelor's Degree Postsecondary non-degree award
Work Experience in <u>Occupation</u>	→	None None
On-the-job Training	→	None None
Number of Jobs, 2024	→	18,200 168,000
Job Outlook, 2024-34	→	2% (Slower than average) 15% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2024-34	→	300 25,900

UC San Diego



[Research Internships /](#)
[Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#)

Videos with further information:

- [5 Types of Marine Biologists](#)
- [Coolest Jobs In Marine Biology](#)

Discover

AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

ALL PROGRAMS FREE OF CHARGE

CAREER PREP

Career Personality Quest

Pacific Highlands Ranch Library
08/20/2026 | 4:00PM - 5:00PM

COLLEGE PREP

SAT Test Prep

Pacific Highlands Ranch Library
Saturdays 08/08/2026 - 09/05/2026
10:00AM - 12:00PM

Community College Connect

Balboa Library
08/08/2026 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Financial Aid & Scholarships for Transfer Students

Logan Heights Library
08/18/2026 | 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Navigating the College Application Process

Allied Gardens/Benjamin Library
08/29/2026 | 2:00PM - 3:00PM

UC Application Process

Logan Heights Library
08/29/2026 | 3:00PM - 4:00PM

LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Little Bites, Big Growth: Nutritious Snacks

Paradise Hills Library
08/08/2026 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Cooking For Teens

Central Library - Teen Center
08/13/2026 | 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Healthy Cooking: 5 Ingredients or Less

Allied Gardens/Benjamin Library
08/15/2026 | 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Mental Health: Understanding Emotions & Thoughts

Paradise Hills Library
08/27/2026 | 3:30PM - 4:30PM

Summer Energy: Food for Active Lives

Paradise Hills Library
08/29/2026 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM



mysdpl.org/discoverU

These programs are funded in full or in part by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, formerly Carnegie Corporation of New York, national Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy Program.



Public
Library

Andrew Carnegie
FOUNDATION

This information and program content can be made available in alternative formats upon request. For disability-related modifications or accommodations, please email Richard Cooper RACooper@sandiego.gov. For language access needs such as translation services please email Ady Huertas Ahuertas@sandiego.gov.

Discover



FREE PROGRAMS AT THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

DiscoverU is an initiative for youth ages 8-25 to explore their STEAM interests, prepare for the future, and achieve career goals.



Learn how to pay for your future! This session unpacks grants, scholarships, FAFSA, and other financial aid options. This interactive workshop explores options and matches interests and aspirations, highlighting self-discovery, opportunity awareness, and planning next steps with confidence.

Show Me the

\$ Money \$

Tuesday, August 11

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Community Room

REGISTER NOW



Explore financial aid options
and plan your education
funding!

Registration Encouraged.
For Ages 14+ & Parents Welcomed

Carmel Mountain Ranch Library
12095 World Trade Drive
San Diego, CA 92128 (858) 538-8181

These programs are funded in full or in part by Carnegie Corporation of New York's national Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy Program.

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UC Application Process



Get the scoop on the UC application process! Understand the UC system's college application requirements, deadlines, and what to expect when filling it out. Get all your questions answered by UC representatives.

**Saturday,
September 5
4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Carmel Mountain
Ranch Library**

Registration is encouraged.
Sign-up starts July 29 at
midnight.

**For ages 14-18. Parents
and guardians are
welcome.**

Discover U

SD Public
Library

Carnegie
CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK

REGISTER HERE



DO YOU NEED SERVICE HOURS? WANT TO LEND A HELPING HAND?

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



HOPE FOR SAN DIEGO BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

San Diego Refugee Tutoring is hosting a Back to School Bash for their students on Saturday August 8th!

Volunteer Roles include:

- manage craft stations
- handing out lunch
- face painting
- manage inflatable obstacle course

[click the logo to sign up or for more info](#)



SAN DIEGO FOOTBALL CLUB OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

Operation Clean Sweep will bring people together to remove trash and debris from the San Diego Bay and its surrounding water front on Saturday, August 22nd!

San Diego FC will host a clean-up in Barrio Logan as part of this regional effort.

[click the logo to sign up or for more info](#)

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.



Check out the Surfrider Foundation Volunteer Page to see how you can contribute to their mission!

SERVING SENIORS

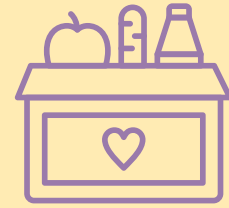


Serving Seniors is a nonprofit organization serving low-income/homeless senior citizens. Support includes providing meals, housing, health and social services, and lifelong learning.

Check out the Serving Seniors Volunteer Page to see how you can make a difference in someones life!



SUMMER FOOD RESOURCES



STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED

FOOD BANK SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM

Through the San Diego Food Bank ten meal sites across the region are offering free food distributions to any San Diego youth aged 0 to 18, beginning June 3 through Aug. 27.

To learn more, visit the [City of San Diego Free Summer Lunch webpage](#).



WORKREADY HUB

211 San Diego provides a one stop shop for connections to resources to help you meet the new requirements for CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Access the WorkReady Hub by calling 2-1-1 or visiting [WorkReady Hub webpage](#)

SAN DIEGO FOOD RESOURCES

- [CalFresh](#) - Apply for benefits
- [Feeding San Diego](#)
Search food distribution sites
- [San Diego Hunger Coalition](#)
Search for food assistance and resources
- [College Student CalFresh Toolkit](#)
Food assistance for college students
- [Food Assistance Resource Flyer](#)
- [Grandma LuLu's Table](#)
Saturdays at various locations



Free Upcoming Events!



NewSchool of Architecture & Design: Open House for Working Professionals

August 4, 2026 ~ 6PM - 8PM

600 B Street

#STE 600-800, San Diego, CA 92101

An opportunity to advance your career through networking and education guidance for working professional, alumni, and more.

Barrio Art Crawl Mrkt

August 8, 2026 ~ 12PM - 6PM

Mercado Del Barrio Plaza 1101 Chicano

Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92113

Community fun through art, music, vintage finds, handmade treasures, and more



CityFest

August 9, 2026 ~ 12PM - 11PM

University Ave & 5th Ave,

San Diego, CA

Hillcrest Street party for music lovers with live performances, local vendors, food, and much more.

Book Fair at the North Park Sustainable Market

August 8, 2026 ~ 12PM - 4PM

North Park Mini Park, San Diego, CA

Dive into a curated pick of rare and used books from local sellers and out-of-print titles. Music, food, and games are included!



Beautify the Block

August 8, 2026 ~ 8:30AM - 1PM

Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park,

San Diego, CA

A day of excitement for beautification of community through storefront refinements, litter pick up, utility box painting, planter and trash can upgrades.

BRILLY'S FAREWELL



My name is Brilly (Breejy) Gonzalez Corea. I have been the Community Development Specialist 2 for OCYS since December 2024.



In Dec. 2025, I had the opportunity and pleasure to represent OCYS at a Youth Ambassador workshop hosted by the Office of Youth Opportunity in the City of Charlotte, NC. We received special recognition for the Youth Bulletin and were used as a model by the Office of Youth Opportunity to develop its own youth-led newsletter. Learn more [here](#).

I want to acknowledge and give thanks to all the lovely people who supported our office, internally and externally.

Big thank you to my small but mighty team, Tara, Denise, Ayleth, Ruth, Frida, and our former interns (Tessa, Amy, Ti, and Kwincy), who helped make my time memorable. Without your support, we would not have been able to accomplish all that we did.



One of my favorite initiatives was increasing civic engagement among youth. In collaboration with Youth Will, we delivered the Your City, Your Voice workshop at schools and community recreational centers. Youth learned that they have the power to create lasting change in their communities.



The Youth Summit was a successful yet challenging and meaningful project for our small team. Thank you to our amazing co-hosts and partners for helping make it possible. I hope the Summit continues to be an annual opportunity for youth in San Diego to participate in.

Denise's Farewell



My name is Denise Amavizca, and I was the Associate Management Analyst for the Office of Child and Youth Success since November 2024. I have been serving residents of the City of San Diego for over 10 years.

One of my biggest accomplishments in this department was helping city employees achieve assistance through the municipal childcare pilot program. There were and are a lot of barriers, but working together as a team made it all possible to help provide great relief to the families serving the public.

A special thank you to my team, Tara, Brilly, Ruth, Ayleth, and Frida. And with gratitude for our former interns, Amy, Kwincy, Ti, and Tessa, for making my time with OCYS memorable.