

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Enabling teens to lead successful lives and build strong communities.



Contents

2	Mayors Office, City Council & Office of Recreation
3	Mission, Vision and Objectives
4	Letter from the Programming Team
5	Timeline
6	2012 - 2013 Partners
7	ATL Sites and Staff and Job Description
8 - 9	Highlights
10 -11	Providing Programs
12	Finances
13	Outcomes

Cover photo courtesy of the Office of Recreation Programming Team at the Mayor's 2012 Volunteer Day



DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION

Atlanta City Council **Kasim Reed, Mayor**

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Aaron Watson, Post 2 At Large

H. Lamar Willis, Post 3 At-Large

Department of Parks & Recreation
George Dusenbury, Commissioner

Office of Recreation & Youth Development
Annika S. Holder, Executive Director

Management:

LaChandra Butler - Burks, *Community Engagement Director*

Corliss R. Davenport, *Recreation Program Supervisor*

Administration:

Michael Gay, *Coordinator and Partner Liason*

Samantha - Nicole Terry, *Out - of - School Time Program Director*

VISION

The vision of the Office of Recreation is to provide excellent facilities, programs and customer service that satisfy the needs of the local communities and the City of Atlanta.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide quality professional recreational services and programs to all citizens of Atlanta through balanced, enjoyable and affordable activities. Our vision is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through nationally acclaimed recreation programs and activities.

ATLANTA TEEN LEADERS OBJECTIVES

- To create a safe environment for Teens
 - To engage teens
- To assist with Service Learning Hours accumulation and help teens understand the concept and their role as Community Stakeholders
- To help students formulate goals and identify career objectives through career analysis, internships/apprenticeships and Career Technical Education programs.
- To create incentives through the development of student projects such as college credits, and financial rewards (stipends).
- To assist in overall achievement/impact of course exams; high stakes test/state test; and college entrance exams



Dear Friends :

We believe every young person, regardless of circumstance, deserves the opportunity to flourish in life, work and learning. Your support during the 2012 - 2013 school year demonstrates that you do, too. Thank you as your kindness, your time and your influence are our greatest assets. Without you, this work would be impossible. Your commitment to youth and their communities is reflected in the achievements we were able to accomplish.

This past year, with our pilot program, we began to see substantial growth in the number of teens we served. We are learning as we expand, that programming means more than “Homework Help” or “Computer Lab Drop In’s”. Today, we see our role in three domains: **to provide quality, valuable programs; to replicate those programs citywide to impact the lives of as many teens as possible in a responsibly fiscal manner; to advocate for teen community involvement and awareness and to implement solutions to the high school drop out crisis.**

In providing services and shaping partnerships in the City of Atlanta, we continue to build a foundation for the teens in the community. Teens in the City of Atlanta are seeing impressive outcomes including post graduation options, positive relationships with peers, and engagement with their community.

In partnership with **Public Broadcast Atlanta, Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta Workforce Development Agency, Strategic Service Learning Collaborative, Put Up Your Dukes Foundation, Soccer In the Streets, West Care Atlanta, Floral Project, United States Tennis Association (USTA) , DMAC (Digital Millennium Arts Club), Project Connect, Young Audiences / Woodruff Arts Center: Digital Story Telling, National Youth Leadership Council** and **Families First**, the “**Atlanta Teen Leaders**” program is seeing **City of Atlanta** teens want to excel and stay involved in school be actively involved in the community.

We hope to continually seek and build new partnerships to shape programming offerings, meet the needs of teens with expert experience and to ensure our young people are surrounded by the support needed for success.

In **2013 - 2014** and beyond we strive to never stop learning and adapting to address the needs of young people who need us most. Together, we can provide proven programs, build broader partnerships, and advocate for policies and resources that will improve teens’ lives and communities for the long-term.

For the future leaders,

The Office of Recreation & Youth Development
Programming Team

December 2011 – July 2012

Planning Meetings : Beginning in January of 2011, the Programming Team members (Corliss Davenport and Samantha Terry)began meeting with stake holders and partners to plan for the “NEW” Atlanta Teen Leaders program launch for the 2012 - 2013 school year.

The “Steering Committee” consisted of the following participants:

(APS) Dr. Eric Rosser, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction;

(APS) Joyce G. Lewis, Student Support Specialist;

(APS) Denise Revels, Coordinator of Social Work Services;

(APS) LaChandra Butler - Burks, Board Member;

(APS) Dihanne Hayes, Program Manager;

(APS) Joyce Lewis, Coordinator;

(PBA) Bernice Mclean Williams, Director of Education;

(APS/PBA) Luana Slaughter, Telecommunications Specialist;

(SLSC) Yolanda Reid, Co - Founder;

(SLSC) Cornelia King, Co - Founder;

(AWDA) JoAnne Paschall, In School Youth Development Manager;

(AWDA) Tammy Lipsey, Youth Development Manager;

(PUYDF) Jamie Dukes, Founder;

(PUYDF) Kennice Cannon, President;

(Phoenix Global) Alicia Ivey, CEO;

March 2011 – ATL Ambassador Search : The board decided that 8 teens (2 per facility) would be selected to serve as “Ambassadors” of the Teen Program and speak to the model. These 8 would attend the National Youth Leadership Council Training in Minneapolis, Minnesota with 2 representatives from COA , APS and SLSC.

April 2011 - National Service Learning Training of Ambassadors and Program Staff in Minneapolis, Minnesota at National Conference. Teens took part in meaningful service-learning projects, both at the conference and around the Twin Cities area. Each day while there, youth and chaperones met at the end of sessions to collaborate on what they learned and work place summaries of workshops for project implementation at the sites.

May 2011 – NYSL Training conducted by Strategic Service Learning Collaborative for Teens in Summer of Service Learning Camps

June 2011 – July 2011 : Summer of Service Learning Camp for 154 teens. Over 15 successful service learning projects effecting the community , state, nation and world.

August 13, 2012 - ATL Atlanta Teen Leaders launch. The program kicked off at Collier Park, Bessie Branham, James Orange, Ben Hill and Rosel Fann.

November 2012 - Due to little to no teens visiting the James Orange site, we removed that location and made it strictly K - 5th grade.

May 2013 - Program pilot complete with 4 sites.



2012 - 2013 Partnerships

Atlanta Atlanta Public Schools - School district based in Atlanta, Georgia. Coordinated transportation routes for bus drop off of teens at sites.

Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (Mayor's Youth Program) - The Mayor's Youth Program - College Unit is a post-secondary education program dedicated to providing Atlanta youth with support, mentorship, work experience and financial aid for successful post secondary life.

Digital Media Arts Club (dMAC) - Exposes youth to media arts, technology, career opportunities, healthy eating habits, wellness, community awareness and teamwork. They provided workshops once a week at all 4 sites.

Digital Storytelling - Young Audiences, Woodruff Arts Center (YA) - Offers FREE digital arts workshops to teens of veterans! During these workshops, teens will have the opportunity to reflect on their personal experience of a family member being called to serve our country, create a 2-3 minute digital story rooted in personal experience, and have their digital screened during a culminating event at the Woodruff Arts Center. They provided services at Rosel Fann, Collier Park and Ben Hill once a week.

Families First - Families First has been delivering empowering solutions in metro Atlanta for over 120 years, including adoption and foster care services which help give every child in Georgia a chance for a permanent home and hopeful future. They provided (in collaboration with PBA) the family workshops once a quarter for all 4 sites.

the **Floral Project** - The Floral Project is a 501(c) 3 organization that focuses on teenage pregnancy prevention, health, education and self-empowerment through youth development programs. They provided workshops at 2 of the 4 teen sites.

National Youth Leadership Council - or NYLC is a national nonprofit organization that promotes service learning in schools, and communities across the nation. NYLC sponsored 2 ATL ambassadors registration fees for the 2012 conference.

Project Connect - A grant-funded, eight week session adolescent tobacco cessation and reduction program to meet the unique needs of adolescents. They provided one workshop a week at the Ben Hill and Rosel Fann location.

Public Broadcast Atlanta - WABE 90.1 FM and PBA 30, brings NPR News, music, the arts and PBS programming to hundreds of thousands of listeners and viewers each year. PBA provided funding (\$100,000.00) for dMAC, tutors, summer training for teen camp and the parent meetings hosted at all 4 sites.

Put Up Your Dukes Foundation - The Put Up Your Dukes Foundation was founded by Jamie & Angela Dukes with the express purpose of eradicating the Disease of Excess Weight. They provided Chachersize training once a week at all 4 sites.

Soccer In the Streets - Soccer in the Streets empowers underserved youth through soccer, character development, mentoring, and employability programs. They provided training once a week at all 4 sites.

Strategic Service Learning Collaborative - Southeastern division of the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), a non—profit organization that promotes service learning in schools and communities across the US. They provided in depth training once a week on service learning at all 4 sites.

West Care Georgia - West Care Georgia provides a wide spectrum of health and human services in both residential and outpatient environments. Our services include a juvenile justice treatment program, outpatient substance abuse and addiction treatment, children in crisis and HIV/AIDS educational programs. They provided workshops once a week at all 4 sites.



Ben Hill Recreation Center

William Walker, Community Facility Manager
Valerie White, Recreation Operation Assistant
Sainabou Njie, Teen Coordinator

Bessie Branham Recreation Center

Lakiesha Walker / Michael Huffstetler, Community Facility Managers
Erica Knox, Recreation Operation Assistant
Darius Bigby, Teen Coordinator

Collier Park Recreation Center

Jared McGrady, Community Facility Manager
Chapin Payne / Bruce Griggs, Recreation Operation Assistants
Courtney Irby, Teen Coordinator

Rosel Fann Recreation Center

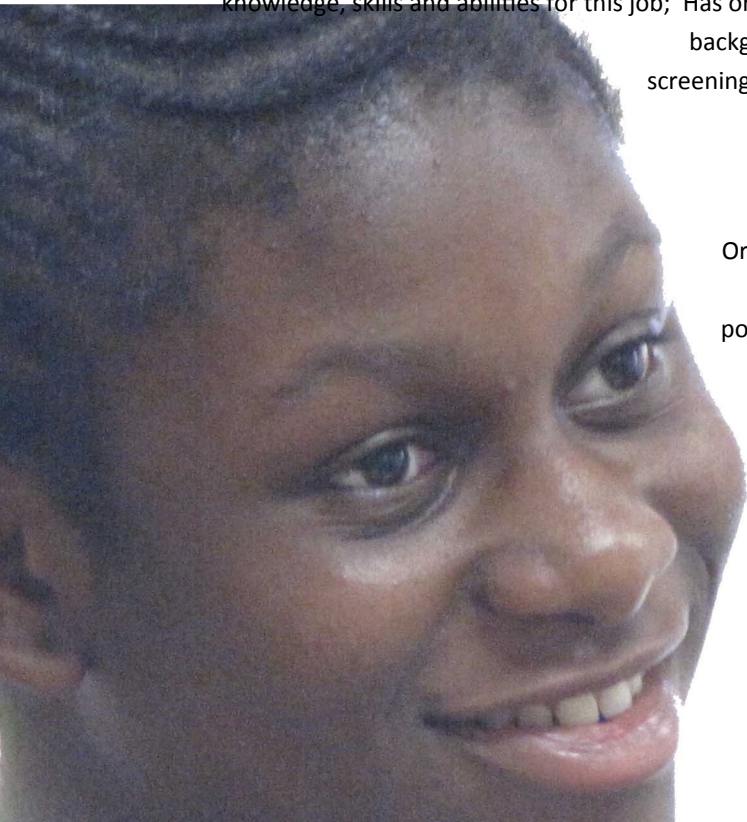
Sonia Wimbish, Community Facility Manager
Jermaine Sheppard, Recreation Operation Assistant
Jason Allen, Teen Coordinator

Hiring Process:

From June - July position bulletins were advertised for Teen Coordinators. The minimum requirements for this position were: Degree in Education, Recreation or a related field highly desired. Two years of youth services experience in an academic, social, recreation, teen or youth program; or any equivalent of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job; Has or is able to attain a valid CPR and First Aid certification; Authorization for background check for criminal and child protective findings; Must pass a drug screening. The position was \$20.00 per hour for 4 (four) hours a day, 5 (five) days a week.

Job Duties:

Organizing, teaching or conducting activities that is in accordance with the Quad Point Program. Assist with recruitment and detainment of teen populations at assigned sites.. Organizes Atlanta Youth Advisory Council at site, from member to officer selection. Ensures and helps Council plan and implement on site community activities including Atlanta Teen Leadership Conference and Teen Summit (Teen Week). Monitor and coordinate partner programming and scheduling ensuring all programs in modules meet the Quad Point Program standards. Schedules Teens sessions based on identified academic needs; coordinates with APS personnel to determine and track needs and accomplishments. Plans, organizes and promotes academics and recreational teen programs.

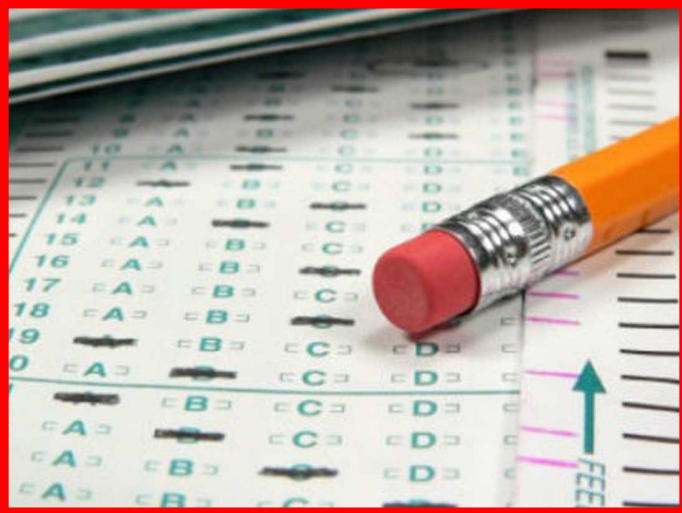


**"I THINK THE TEEN CLUB AT ROSEL FANN IS ONE OF THE BEST!
WE LOVE COMING NOT JUST TO HAVE FUN BUT TO LEARN—
IN A DIFFERENT WAY!"**

- Tia Hall

Rosel Fann Atlanta Teen Leaders President

Program Highlights



Rosel Fann Teen Club: All students enrolled (28) passed the CRCT! All Crawford Long Middle students exceeded in Math and English / Language Arts (ELA); Six (6) exceeded in Science and Social Studies. All pre-teens exceeded in Math and seven (7) exceeded in ELA and Science.



Atlanta Teen Leaders participated in October's Breast Cancer Awareness month. In honor of those who survived breast cancer, teens created messages and delivered them to tenants of the Sadie G. Mays Rehabilitation Center.



Chachersize is an innovative Line Dance exercise program that combines exercise with the "Cha Cha", an urban line dance familiar to most African Americans nationally. On average, 100 teens participated in this weekly workout participating in the "Billion Pound Challenge". Parents even participated!



In February 2013, students at Rosel Fann Recreation Center participated in creating two public service announcements that were entered in the American Graduate Student Film Festival. Middle school students from were given the opportunity to work together to create the PSAs.

Program Highlights



Atlanta Teen Leaders were selected from the Governor's Office of Children and Family Services to perform at the "Y.O.L.O.: You Only Live Once...Set the Standard" summit in Macon, Georgia. Teens from all three sites traveled down at no costs and enjoyed Macon as the guests of Governor Deal.



Ben Hill Atlanta Teen Leaders as part of an intergenerational project, interview senior citizens about what they want in the community and how they will work with teens to achieve it.



Local college students volunteered throughout the program serving as mentors and tutors. They also helped the teens of Ben Hill and Rosel Fann during National Recovery Month and the Pittsburgh Community Canvas project. The program strives to have positive examples and leaders leading the way.



Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Atlanta Teen Leaders from all four sites joined Mayor Kasim Reed to perform service projects in the Adamsville community. The teens pictured are painting a mural that can be found on M.L.K. Jr. Drive.

"ATL IS THE SAME PROGRAM THAT INTRODUCED ME TO COMMUNITY AND INVOLVEMENT. I LEARNED SO MUCH AS A MEMBER, I WANT THE SAME FOR THE NEXT GENERATION!"

**- Samantha - Nicole Terry
OST Program Director**



Providing Programs

The City of Atlanta, Office of Recreation & Youth Development provides teens from the community ages 11 - 17 with quality, effective programs that enable them to act as contributing students, family members, employees and citizens. Building a foundation for well rounded citizens. Atlanta Teen Leaders programs offers teens the opportunity to become involved in their community while receiving leadership training throughout the school year. We want our program to serve as the forefront of educating, empowering, and equipping young people to set extraordinary personal goals, operate with high moral and ethical standards, and perform with unprecedented professional excellence.

The core of our programs are our QUAD Initiatives:

Community Awareness and Involvement:

Community Awareness in its widest sense is an educational process whereby individuals explore and come to understand the influences which can affect their lives and the lives of others. The service is committed to actively developing this area of work with both adults and young people.

Module I: Conflict Resolution Training /Gang Resistance Education & Training

Module II: Development and Implementation of
Community Service Learning Projects

Economic Development: National economic trends; such as the big gap between wealth and poverty, are the basis for our economic development programs. We strive to bridge the gap through education, training and the creation of opportunities.

Module III: Financial Literacy

Educational Development: The City of Atlanta wants youth to continue learning when they leave their school doors and enter ours; ranging from subject tutorials, ALEK, standardized and state test preparation, college preparatory workshops, seminars and college tours.

Module IV: Academic Support

Physical/Mental Health and Personal Development: This point is committed to the development of strategies within health education and health promotion initiatives that can be delivered in youth settings. The service works to enable young people and develop their skills and knowledge to make informed choices about health related issues.

Module V: Health & Wellness

Providing Programs

Weekly Participation Average*: 90

6th - 8th Grade Participants Average 56

9th - 12th Grade Participants Average 34

*Cumulative average for all 4 sites enrollment weekly.

Quad Point Program Workshops (Partner* or Teen Coordinator Implemented)

Educational Development

Homework Help / Tutorial* | My Top Colleges and Universities | Workshop Naming Our Goals Workshop | Digital Media Arts Club* | Reading | Developmental Phonics | GACollege411 | Khan Academy

Community Awareness and Involvement

Teen Advisory Council (TAC) | How Can you Lean on Me? Workshop | Strategic Service Learning* | Digital Millennium Arts Club* | How Can We Make a Difference Workshop | The Importance of Community Workshop | National Recovery Day Preparation | Operation Correct Start Workshops I and II | Gang Resistance Workshop | PEACE Non – Violence Week | Cancer Awareness Day | Red Ribbon Week Hands on Atlanta Day | Teen Violence Summit | Pittsburgh Community Canvas | Urban Camp Out | MLK Jr. Beautification Project | Nonviolent Exposure Week | Hands on Atlanta Day | Light the Night: Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness | Toiletries for Homeless Drive | MLK Jr. Rally and March Woodruff Arts Digital Storytelling

Physical and Mental Health Awareness

Floral Project* | West Care Atlanta * | Chachersize (Put Up Your Dukes)* | Project Connect* | Tennis (USTA)* | Soccer in the Streets* | Organized recreational games

Economic Development

Soccer in the Streets* | Atlanta Workforce Development* Registration |

Finances

Cost of Teen Coordinators	\$39,662.50*
Collier	\$9500.00
Bessie Branham	\$8000.00
Ben Hill	\$9500.00
Rosel Fann	\$12,662.50

**4 Coordinators at \$20.00 per hour for 4 (four) hours per day; 5 days a week: Average \$10,000 per site, for the year*

Cost of Vendors	\$10,000.00
Public Broadcast Atlanta	\$0.00
Atlanta Public Schools	\$0.00
Atlanta Workforce Development Agency	\$0.00
Strategic Service Learning Collaborative	\$10,000.00
Put Up Your Dukes Foundation	\$0.00
Soccer In the Streets	\$0.00
West Care Atlanta	\$0.00
Floral Project	\$0.00
United States Tennis Association (USTA)	\$0.00
DMAC (Digital Millennium Arts Club)	\$0.00
Project Connect	\$0.00
Young Audiences: Digital Story Telling	\$0.00
National Youth Leadership Council	\$0.00
Families First	\$0.00

Cost of Snacks / Materials	\$10,095.20
Materials	\$2570.35
Snacks / Meals	\$7524.85

Total for 2012 - 2013 School Year **\$59,757.70****

***\$14,939.43 Average per site*

Outcomes: Successes and Lessons Learned

Successes:

- Staff visited and built relationships with APS teachers and counselors, which resulted in increased enrollment and retaining of current enrolled teens.
- Highest rated programs per teen surveys: 1) Sapelo Island Trip, 2) Soccer in the Streets and 3) Academic Help and Tutorials.
- Total of 5 high school graduates for the academic year.
- All students enrolled (28) passed the CRCT! All Crawford Long Middle students exceeded in Math and English / Language Arts (ELA); Six (6) exceeded in Science and Social Studies. All pre-teens exceeded in Math and seven (7) exceeded in ELA and Science.
- Atlanta Teen Leaders were selected from the Governor's Office of Children and Family Services to perform at the "Y.O.L.O.: You Only Live Once...Set the Standard" summit in Macon, Georgia.

Lessons Learned:

- Workshops and activities that were not in a traditional classroom "like" setting were favored over those that were.
- Teen coordinators hired need to be able to relate with the teens and also communicate well.
- All sites (non pilot) serving teen populations needed a teen coordinator to ensure program implementation and consistency for teens.
- Provide more programs geared towards middle grade students.
- Tutors should be scheduled at an "at need basis".
- Ensure to invest in a web based tutorial to supplement when tutors are not available.

