
Youth Involvement Within Government

Christian Tomas, Angelina Morffi, Lina
Elattar, Alexandria Elliott



Meet the Interns



Angelina Morffi

Hi! I'm a senior at Coral Gables Senior High School and an intern through the Cavaliers Future Leaders Program. At school, I'm involved in many things as President of the Academy of Finance, Editor-in-Chief of CavsConnect, Treasurer of Student Council and more. These positions have given me a taste of leading a team to success and serving my community, whether it be through simple matters like car wash fundraisers or national competitions.

Through interning at the City of Coral Gables, I have opened myself to new avenues, learning more about power and community. I'm excited to use this knowledge to help others.



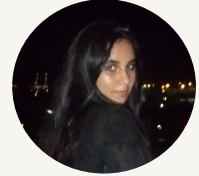
Christian Tomas

Hello! I am a rising Junior at Coral Gables Senior High School. I am currently enrolled in the IB program and involved in the Cavs TV publication, as well as many clubs inside of my school. I find that it's important to always be active in your community and so I joined this internship to learn more about local government and help engage others to do so!



Alexandria Elliott

Hey there! My name is Alexandria Elliott, I'm a rising junior at Gulliver Prep and my passion lies in international diplomacy. My freshman and sophomore year I represented my school as a Model UN student delegate and was recently appointed Vice President. Throughout this internship I have learned the importance of staying engaged in the community and how our local government maintains the city beautiful!



Lina Elattar

Hello! My name is Lina Elattar, I'm a rising senior at Coral Reef Senior High School in the legal program. My passion for government started early as i grew up attending political campaign events with my parents and constantly watching/reading local and national news. Volunteering in local campaigns, being in school clubs like Model UN, Key Club, HIP as well as serving as the voting district 9 liaison has reinforced my commitment to addressing social issues and pursuing the enforcement of justice as well as trying to help my community the best i can. This internship has helped me learn more about my community and its government, and I'd love to help others become more involved in their communities as well!

What are barriers and challenges preventing youth from participating in local government?



Limitations to Accessing Information

In our research, we discovered that one of the main obstacles preventing the youth from staying engaged in our community was the lack of information tailored to the younger generations. It is clear that there is a direct correlation between the platforms on which information is posted and the amount of interaction among adolescents. Ultimately, this contributes to the rate of youth engagement within coral gables.



Lack of initiative

Another reason that students likely haven't been involved in the community is their lack of initiative. This can be due to time constraints or the fear of failure. At first glance, becoming involved in local government seems intimidating, which pushes the youth away from these types of opportunities. However, once people in the same age group begin to collectively engage in this practice, it becomes widespread.

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Limitations to Accessing Information



Civics and Social Media

Teenagers ages to 13-17 have at least one active social media account

75%



Source: American Academy of Child & Adolescent and Psychiatry

Instagram users 13-24 report that the social media gives them “a sense of community”

52%



Source: Singapore Management University



2.4%

Followers from the City of Coral Gables are 18-24.

No recorded information about younger age groups.

Source: Communications and Public Affairs Department



24%

12th graders who scored at proficient level on the National Assessment of Education Progress in civics

Source: The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement



Civics and Social Media

These percentages outline the difference in how teenagers spend their time on social media rather than learning about the world around them. Having to adapt to these circumstances, the City of Coral Gables should expand their social media presence to appeal to younger audiences.



How else does the youth reach information?

School!

By working with local schools to spread information, the City of Coral Gables would be utilizing a student's already mandatory 6-hour devotion to education. Furthermore, it has proven to be successful...

"Being part of the Academy of Finance at Gables, I am required to complete a summer internship. Initially, I had been chosen to do clerical work at a local pediatrics office. However, it was not until my lead sponsor and my favorite mentor, Ms. Hernandez informed me about a new opportunity at Coral Gables. I jumped at the idea of learning the inner workings of my government."

- Intern, Angelina Morffi

"Going into my junior year, I knew that in order to stand out from my peers, I needed to take the initiative to involve myself in a summer program. In my search for an opportunity, I stumbled upon the Page Internship on the Coral Gables website, but that was pure coincidental. I feel as though if I had been given the information to apply through my school, the process would have definitely been facilitated. I'm sure that students around my school would've been interested in the internship had we been made aware of it by our administrators/counselors. "

- Intern, Alexandria Elliott

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Lack of initiative

Many teenagers would agree that without a vote, they do not have a voice. Furthermore, many would believe that many of the issues address in politics do not concern them. These misconceptions are what drives this lack of incentivisation and initiative to participate within government.





Creating a Youth Advisory Board

A Youth Advisory Board allows for a cycle of adolescent involvement. As children and teenagers continue to be included within government, they lead by example, inspiring other youth to take a stand in our community.

Main Members



President

- Oversees all departments
- Issue assignments
- Plans Board meetings
- Communicates with other city members



Treasurer

- Handles budgets
- Calculates expenses for activities
- Brainstorms solutions to tight restrains



Head of Marketing

- Manages Instagram social media, posting weekly to youth within the community
- Issue assignments



Head of Event Coordinator

- Plans ways to involve youth in events
- Collect volunteers
- Issue Assignments



Head of School Outreach

- Communicate with schools around the city
 - Issue assignments
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Marketing Board

The Marketing board will work towards marketing the City of Coral Gables - their events, their buildings, and their announcements - through their very own City of Coral Gables Youth Advisory Board Instagram. In posting weekly, we hope to advertise ways to involve youth within the city.

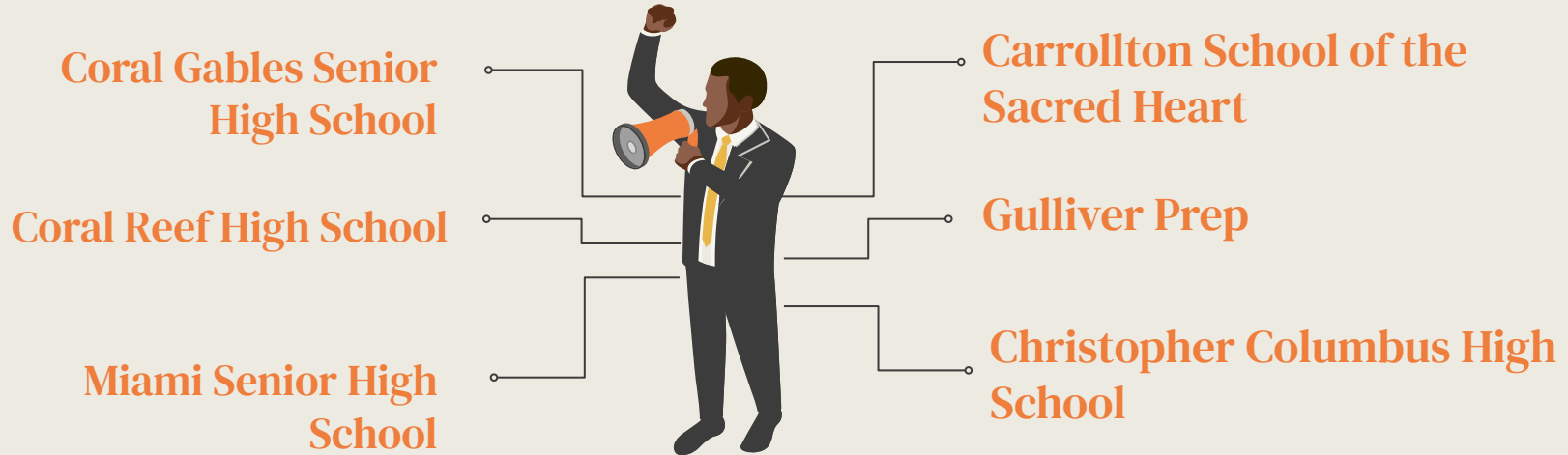
This board will contain up to 5 members made up of videographers, photographers, and editors. The main publisher will be the Head of the Board.

This board will work closely with Communications Department, abiding by their regulations and codes.



School Outreach Board

Two representatives per school: One emails newsletters and announcements to counselors and principals, the other collects school calendars and information to assist the board in involving themselves in school communities etc etc





Event Board

The Event board will work towards planning activities and events that interest and pertain to the youth. Whether it be working to expand pre existing ones or partnering with other communal spaces to make new events, the involvement of the youth will continue the cycle of initiative.



Project timeline

Farmer's Market

From January through March, the Student Advisory Board along with youth volunteers will host informational stands and promote ways to become involved in the city.

January

February

March

April

Rom-Com Movie Night at the park
Students assist in marketing for ticket sales, admissions, and working the concession stands.

Library - Study Groups
Approaching testing season, the youth will host study sessions for different subjects and age groups where they work together on homework and test material.

Tour of Gables 5k and 10k
Students hand out bibs, waters, and participation medals.

Project timeline

Venetian Pool - Safety Day

Hosted by students, swimmers will be given free entry upon completing either Learn How to Swim Lessons and CPR Certification Training from Coral Gables Lifeguards.

May

June

July

August

Recreation Center - High School Game Nights

Eligible youth from the area will volunteer to be a part of a sports team. Giving them a chance to be active during summer nights, teams will join for a taste of friendly competitions.

School Orientation Booth

Partnering with neighboring schools, the student board will host an informational booth on ways to stay involved in the Gables.

Back-to-school Supply Drive

Students will market the drive, encouraging the community to donate materials for low income students in the Gables.

Project timeline

Board Applications

The Youth Advisory Board will review applicants through an interview process, voting on the next representatives.

September

October

Spooky Movie Night at the park
Students assist in marketing for ticket sales, admissions, and working the concession stands.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Students will market the drive, encouraging the community to donate food for low income and hungry families in the Gables.

November

December

Caroling and Tree Lighting
The youth will participate in festive activities, further unifying the community.

Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

aangelinamorffi@gmail.com
ctomas0825@gmail.com
ellale21@stu.gulliverprep.org
linaelattar@gmail.com

