

Happy Holiday Season!

I am incredibly grateful that the DYD team had the privilege of closing out the year and starting the holiday season with the inaugural Department of Youth Development Summit. On December 1st the Summit was held at Los Angeles Trade Tech where we welcomed over 500 participants. The Summit featured a variety of enriching activities, including hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and a vibrant resource fair. I look forward to carrying this momentum forward into the new year and continuing to build and improve with all of you. The day was a testament to the strength of our community. Everyone's energy of dedication, hope, and joy was a beautiful moment in our shared journey towards a brighter future for youth in Los Angeles County.

The DYD team looks forward to 2024 and is excited to continue working in partnership with you to launch the Youth Development Networks, expand Youth Diversion, and increase programming for youth in camps and halls. Next year we plan to add to DYD's services by opening our first Safe Healing Center which will provide an alternative to detention. We also plan to begin creating pathways to employment for youth. Underlying all of these efforts is a need to tell the story of DYD and of our youth. DYD will begin a comprehensive communication campaign that will tell our story and the stories of the youth we serve with inspirational storytelling supported by data.

We will need all of you to make sure that message is seen, heard and amplified. As we move into 2024, I am deeply inspired by the young people we serve and the community members, and countless partners who are part of the DYD community. Happy Holidays and please enjoy a safe and restful season.

December 2023