

Youth Advocacy Coordinator

Emily Zhang

Professional summary

Dedicated youth advocacy professional with deep experience in public policy, civic education, and community engagement. Excels at leading youth-led campaigns, simplifying legislative issues, and building strategic alliances that center the voices of young people.

Experience

Youth Advocacy Coordinator

February 2019 - Now

YouthCare / Seattle, WA

- Facilitate youth advisory boards that collaborate with local officials to influence policy around housing, education, and employment opportunities.
- Design and host annual Youth Forums that convene over 100 participants to share lived experiences, legislative priorities, and community solutions.
- Produce advocacy materials, policy one-pagers, and outreach campaigns that help teens understand their rights and communicate with elected representatives.
- Collaborate with local coalitions to organize civic engagement training for peer educators and youth organizers across King County.

Advocacy Intern

May 2017 - January 2019

TeamChild / Seattle, WA

- Researched juvenile justice trends and contributed to briefs advocating for alternatives to detention and school pushout.
- Presented Know Your Rights sessions at schools and community centers, reaching over 400 youth with accessible legal education tools.
- Supported interagency meetings and policy roundtables with youth speakers, documenting insights for inclusion in final reports.
- Conducted outreach to young people affected by school exclusion and helped connect them with legal advocates and reentry programs.

Additional Information

- Contributor to "Youth Justice Now" podcast
- Board Member, Washington State Youth Voice Initiative

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 Seattle, WA

Education

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

University of Washington, Evans School | Seattle, WA | 2019

BA in Sociology

Whitman College | Walla Walla, WA | 2016

Certifications

- Advocacy Training Certification | Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. | 2023
- Trauma-Informed Practices for Youth | University of Washington | 2022

Skills

Policy Analysis 

Youth Empowerment 

Stakeholder Engagement 

Public Speaking 

Campaign Management 

Legislative Research 

Workshop Facilitation 

Grassroots Organizing 

Strategic Planning 