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News Flash



California Youth Connection Announces New Executive Director

California Youth Connection (CYC) today announced that the Board of Directors has unanimously elected Haydée Cuza as Executive Director effective September 26th, 2016. Haydée succeeds Interim Executive Director Robin Allen.

"Welcome back Haydee, we are so excited to have you back on the team. As well as, have a new ED that is someone who shares our lived experience, was a founding member of CYC and has gone on to be a successful non profit manager. You are an inspiration for all of our current, former, and future youth members. We are thrilled to work alongside you and to reach, empower and change the foster care system for all foster youth!"

Mariah Corder and J. Cortez III
Advisory Board Co Chairs

"After a thorough and deliberate selection process, the Board of

Directors is delighted that Haydée will lead CYC as we navigate through a host of challenges and opportunities,” said Jason Bryant, President of the Board of Directors. “CYC is a unique organization with an amazing mission which requires a uniquely qualified leader. We owe a huge debt of gratitude and appreciation for the interim leadership that Robin brought to the organization at an extremely critical time. Now we transition to Haydée who brings significant executive & management competency as well as a wealth of child welfare experience. Most importantly though and as a founding CYC member and former Policy Coordinator for CYC, she possesses the passion and vision to be a true guardian of CYC’s *youth led* mission”.

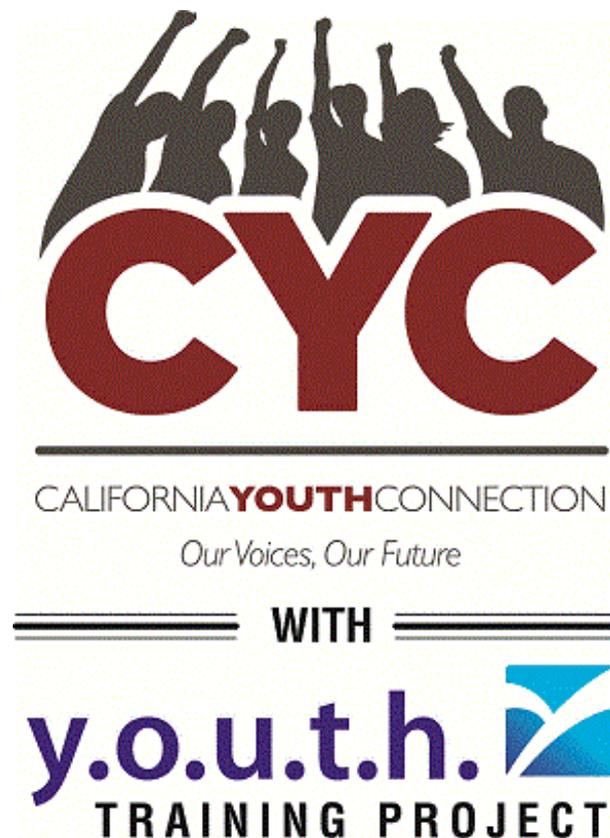


“I am honored that the CYC Board of Directors has chosen me to lead this amazing organization devoted to the voice and power of current and former foster youth,” says Haydée. “We will continue to assure that members’ experiences and recommendations are heard far and wide. CYC has been an important part of my life for over 28 years. The opportunity to step into this new role is both humbling and exciting!”

Most recently Haydée successfully led PEERS (Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services) through a number of funding and management transitions, positioning the organization as an

effective and vital peer-run mental health organization. Additionally, Haydée served as the Executive Director for Youth In Mind and as a Social Scientist and Technical Assistance Specialist working with federally funded workforce development programs, nonprofits, and for profit organizations.

Haydée earned her BA in Urban/African-American studies from Loyola Marymount University and her Ed.D. in the Education Leadership Program from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



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