

## **Antonia McSwain 2018-19 MYC Co-Chair**

A conversation with Antonia

—

### **1. How and when were you introduced to MYC?**

I was introduced to MYC a year ago in a Black Student Union meeting by former Co-Chair Fernanda and member Laura.

### **2. What does it mean to be an MYC Co-Chair?**

Being Co-Chair can't compare to just being on the Commission. The Commission has allowed me to make a difference and have my voice as a youth of color heard. Being Co-Chair is just a leadership position, that grants Christina and I more responsibilities. For me what will make me proud of being a Co-Chair is being able to see the Commissioners grow with experience and know that their passion for this work is fueled.

### **3. How do you balance school commitments and Co-Chair responsibilities?**

The balance between school and MYC has slightly been a challenge in the past but nothing I can't balance. The staff of MYC does an incredible job at informing and discussing events ahead of time so I know exactly what to put on my calendar.

### **4. Please share a few goals for the upcoming year.**

Personally, I believe Christina, the Commissioners & I are ready to grow in our passion, our work, and in ourselves. I want us to be able to experience an even better empowering journey than we did last year, but also being thoughtful and driven this year. I want to see a difference made for the better in our state but also in ourselves. That's the biggest goal I have envisioned.

### **5. How has the MYC experience shaped your views on the importance of civic participation and engagement for youth?**

MYC has not changed my views on civic participation or youth engagement because that's always been an important factor to myself. But MYC has reinforced the importance of youth engagement to me. Many great movements have been led by youth. Movements that have changed the whole nation. That alone leaves an impression on me but to witness youth taking action and actually working with those youth is empowering. With that being said, civic participation is important, but youth engagement is **critical** to this work because youth are here to make a change.