



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **City Year Los Angeles Announces Bill Thompson as New Executive Director**

*Experienced nonprofit leader and youth advocate tapped to guide  
City Year's next chapter in Los Angeles*

**Los Angeles, CA — December 11, 2025** — After an extensive national search, **City Year Los Angeles** announced that **Bill Thompson** will serve as its next **Senior Vice President and Executive Director**, effective **January 5, 2026**.

Thompson brings nearly 20 years of executive leadership experience in youth development and arts education. He currently serves as President and Head of Growth at Young Storytellers, where he also spent 15 years as Executive Director, leading the organization through significant expansion, increased sustainability, and national recognition. His work has centered on creativity, mentorship, and elevating youth voice—values deeply aligned with City Year's mission to support students in schools across Los Angeles.

City Year partnered with Shelli Herman and Associates, Inc. on the search, evaluating more than 215 prospective candidates from 159 institutions. The search committee was impressed by Thompson's collaborative leadership style, his track record of building diverse partnerships across education, entertainment, and philanthropy, and his commitment to equity, student opportunity, and community-centered work.

"We are thrilled to welcome Bill to City Year Los Angeles," said Glenn Gritzner, Board Chair and member of the Executive Director Search Committee. "From his earliest conversations with us, Bill demonstrated a deep understanding of our mission and an inspiring vision for the future. His passion for young people, his record of transformational leadership, and his strong relationships across L.A. make him the right leader for this moment."

"Bill brings a tremendous depth of experience and a powerful commitment to youth development," said Tracy Schwartz-Ward, board member and Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee. "We are confident that his leadership will position City Year Los Angeles for even greater impact in the years ahead."

"Bill is deeply committed to helping young people thrive, and he has built his career around

empowering underserved communities to find and use their voice,” said Joel Arquillos, Executive Director of The Snap Foundation. “He’s a proven leader of both staff and board teams, consistently driving missions forward while bringing out the best in everyone around him. I’ve been fortunate to partner with Bill on multiple initiatives, and every time I’ve felt genuinely supported—able to collaborate in a way grounded in trust, mutual respect, and shared purpose.”

Thompson began his work with Young Storytellers as a volunteer in 2006, where mentoring quickly became the best hour of his week. Under his leadership, the organization pioneered program models that center creativity and student storytelling, while strengthening partnerships with schools, districts, and entertainment industry leaders. He is a graduate of Yale University (MFA) and University of the Arts (BFA), a longtime City Scholars Fellow, and has been recognized for his leadership and innovation by Executive Service Corps, Social Venture Partners, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

“It is an honor to join City Year Los Angeles at such an important time for young people and for our city,” said Thompson. “City Year’s work is both essential and deeply inspiring—supporting students, developing future leaders, and strengthening our schools and communities. I am excited to partner with the extraordinary staff, AmeriCorps members, and supporters who make this mission possible.”

City Year also expressed gratitude to Shawn Silver, who has served as Interim Executive Director and will continue supporting the transition in her ongoing role as Managing Director of Development.

## **About City Year**

City Year helps students and schools succeed, while preparing the next generation of civically engaged leaders. Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members provide holistic supports to students, classrooms, and schools—helping improve academic outcomes and strengthen school communities. City Year partners with public schools in 29 U.S. cities and through international affiliates in the U.K. and South Africa. Learn more at [www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org).

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