

BAY AREA

# S.F. planning to provide teens jobs, internships

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youth and to ensure that all kids can access paid job-training programs.

"It's about building those relationships, building soft skills, getting kids used to showing up on time, what attire to wear — that's the beginning of getting an entry-level understanding of what it is to work," said Sheryl Evans Davis, executive director of San Francisco's Human Rights Commission who is helping to lead the initiative.

The program envisions four-week paid internships, with students working up to 20 hours a week during the summer. About a third of the new internships will be set aside for disadvantaged youth who may need more intensive training before they entering the workforce.

Over the next few months, the city will begin spreading the word about the new internship opportunities by hosting job fairs at high schools.

"We'll be working with (the San Francisco Unified School District) to make sure everyone knows what's out there and available," Davis

**"My own internship experiences in high school were essential to my success."**

*Mayor London Breed*

said. "And we'll see where the kids are — how many have had jobs before, what their interests are — to try to get some alignment there" between the students' interests and potential internship placements.

As a mayoral candidate, Breed frequently returned to her own early experiences working in professional settings. At age 14, Breed got a paid internship, found by the Japanese Community Youth Council, at the Family School, a nonprofit that provides services to young families. She took on basic office duties — filling out paperwork, answering phones and other administrative tasks — and she describes her time there as formative.

"My own internship experiences in high school were essential to my success, and I want every kid in San Fran-

cisco to have that same opportunity," she said.

She proposed expanding internship programs while on the campaign trail when asked about how, as mayor, she would seek to chart the next chapter of the city's relationship with the tech industry in particular.

City officials also see the Opportunities for All project as a way to begin collecting more data about how the internships are working, who they're helping and who the programs are still failing to reach. Davis said between 5,000 and 7,000 San Francisco youth who take on internships and jobs each summer, "but what we haven't known is if that's 5,000 unique students or if that's people working multiple jobs," she said.

"We need to talk about where the gaps are and make sure people suffering from inequities can develop skills and build a network and get some employment. The main thing the mayor wants is greater access."

*Dominic Fracassa is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. Email: dfracassa@sfnchronicle.com Twitter: @dominicfracassa*



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