



# YOUTH & EMERGING ADULTS Strategic Plan

**Toward a New Generation of Hope: The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults**



The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and  
Emerging Adults

CITY OF  
LONG BEACH

## Invest in Youth Campaign


- The Plan is the result of community engagement efforts led by the Invest in Youth Campaign.
- Building Healthy Communities Long Beach united various community-based organizations, along with support from the Advancement Project and California State University, Long Beach to develop the Invest in Youth Campaign Report.
  - The report was informed by responses from 750 area residents and youth engagement efforts. The report highlighted two key findings:
    - Long Beach residents were willing to support a greater investment in youth development; and
    - City investment in youth suppression approaches outspent investment for youth development.

## City Council Item

- In June 2018, the Invest in Youth report was presented before the City Council by youth leaders who spoke to multiple challenges they face and their vision for youth in the city to live their best lives now.
  
- In 2019, the City Council authorized \$200,000 to develop a plan that would “serve as the guiding vision and a framework for responding to the needs of the City’s youth and their families” over a three-to-five-year period.
  - The Parks, Recreation and Marine and Health Departments were appointed to co-lead the development of the Plan.
  
  - The Plan Project team is comprised of PRM, DHHS, and consultant staff.

## Youth Ambassadors

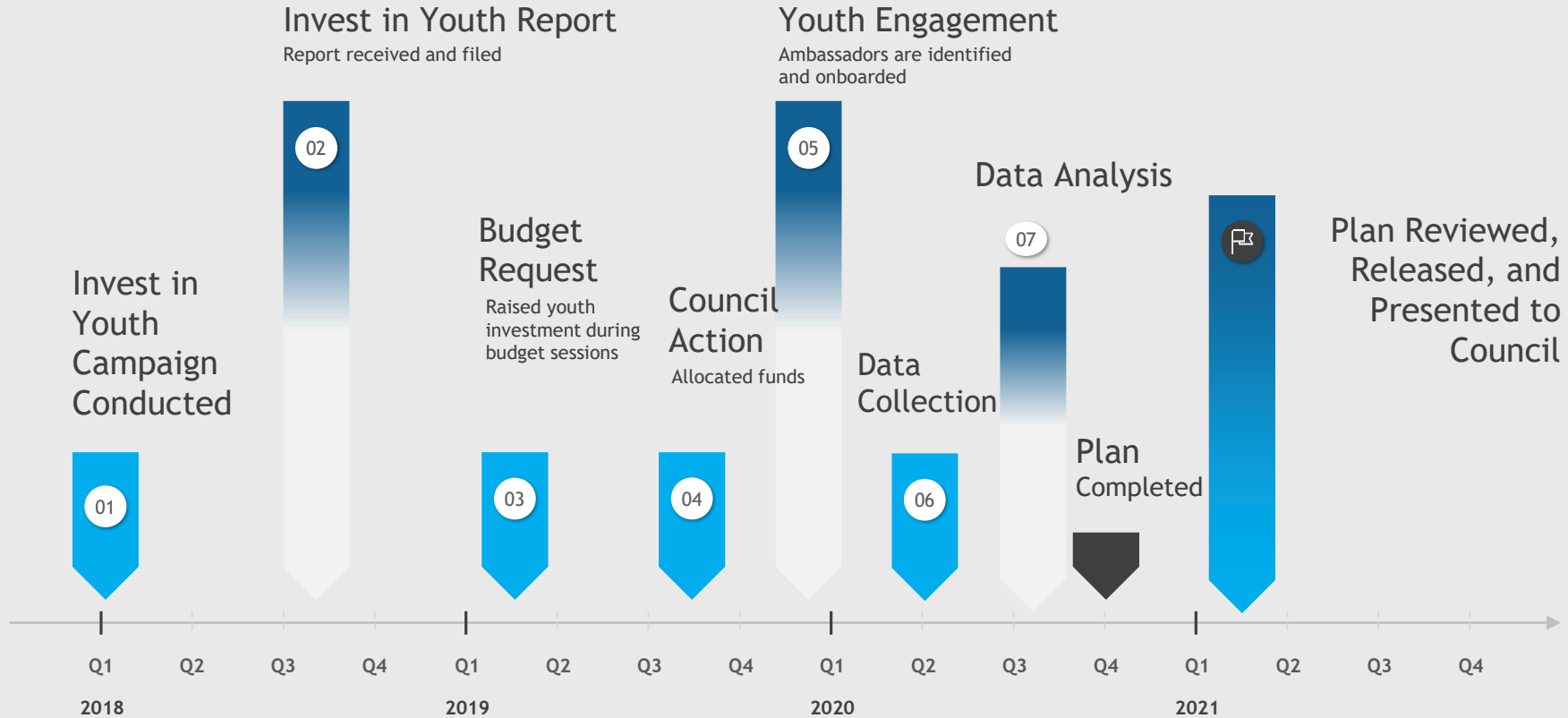
- 19 Youth Ambassadors (Ambassadors), ages 16 to 24, were selected in the Fall of 2019 through an application and interview process.
- Ambassadors represent each City Council District and the diverse cultural, socioeconomic, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and system-impacted perspectives across Long Beach.
- Ambassadors participated in several strategic planning trainings, facilitated all seven community forums, codesigned the online and key informant survey instruments, and outreached and engaged to ensure survey data were collected from throughout the city.



“I believe that young people deserve to be involved in the institutions that govern them. The best way to represent the youth of our community is to hear from them directly. This is why I was so eager to get involved with the Youth Strategic Plan.”

- **Alexa King, Youth Ambassador**

# Plan Development Timeline



# Vision and Statement of Possibility

## Vision

The vision of the Plan is that all youth and emerging adults between the ages of 8-24 are healthy and empowered with the necessary resources to develop into their true authentic selves.

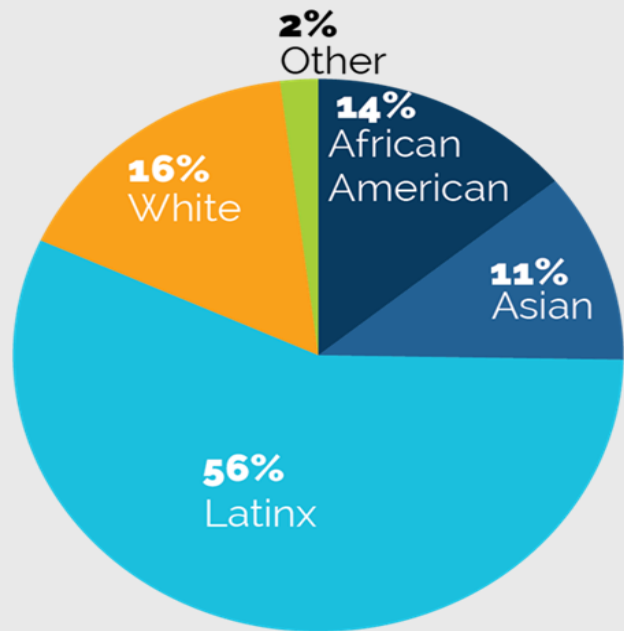
## Statement of Possibility

Youth are valued and empowered as decision-makers in the City of Long Beach to lead long-term change and solutions for the betterment of youth now and future generations.

# Data

## RACE/ETHNICITY

The majority of Long Beach Youth and Young Adults Age 5-24 are youth of color.



## EDUCATION

**3%** of 16-19 year olds in **90815** are not enrolled in school compared to **21%** in **90810**



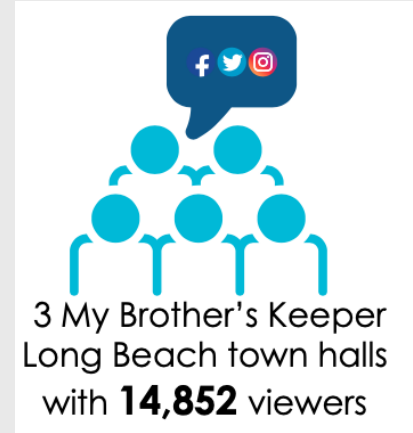
## POPULATION

youth and young adults in Long Beach between the ages of 5-24 years

**129,938**



# Community Engagement



Key stakeholders  
Interviews



**787**  
Residents  
completed the survey

## Challenges faced by youth:

1. Access to mental health
2. Economic and educational opportunities
3. Stable and affordable housing
4. Safe spaces to belong and connect
5. Stable and affordable transportation

# Goal 1: Youth Development

## Youth, ages 8 to 24, have robust, sustainable, and accessible services within the city.

1. Establish an Office of Youth Development with the Health Department, Community Impact Division, to lead and coordinate youth development efforts across the city.
2. Secure and coordinate structural funding streams to support youth development in the city.
3. Establish accountability structure for the Office of Youth Development and the Plan.
4. Develop data-sharing and reporting infrastructure to capture Plan impact.
5. Further identify and partner with youth and youth-serving organizations to improve youth outcomes.

## Goal 2: Physical Health, Mental Health, and Emotional Wellness

**Youth have health, mental health, and wellness services to support their overall well-being.**

1. Strengthen, scale, and fund local community-based organizations to increase availability of culturally-relevant health, mental health, and wellness services.
2. Increase access to open spaces and recreation programming to foster physical activity, community connections, and safe places for youth and families to connect.

## Goal 3: Planning for the Future

### Youth have career pathways to ensure economic stability and mobility.

1. Establish partnerships to increase access to pathways that expand economic and social capital for youth.
2. Increase private sector engagement and commitment to support youth development.
3. Increase access to technology and resources to support innovation and ensure all youth have an equal opportunity to succeed.

# Goal 4: Community Care: Social Connectedness

**Youth have inclusive spaces that foster a caring environment to grow and develop.**

1. Create open spaces that reflect the needs of young people.
2. Create and sustain youth-led platforms that promote inclusive spaces and equity.
3. Increase and sustain programming that promotes prosocial engagement for youth that are system impacted.

## Goal 4: Community Care

**Youth have inclusive spaces that foster a caring environment to grow and develop.**

1. Eliminate justice system touch points with youth.
2. Expand and enhance availability of community-based alternatives to youth incarceration and supervision that are trauma-informed and promote healing to address youth behavior outside the context of law enforcement, probation, and the court system.

# Goal 5: Housing

## Youth have safe, affordable and accessible housing options.

1. Increase access to transitional housing and services for youth exiting foster care, experiencing homelessness, and/or are system-impacted.
2. Create and increase affordable housing and housing legal protections.



# Goal 6: Transportation

**Youth have safe, affordable and accessible transportation options.**

1. Create and sustain reduced and/or no-fare for youth policy.
2. Increase access to safe transportation.

# Early Implementation

## CARES Act - Youth Leadership Fund

City Council allocated \$170,000 of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for youth leadership services. DHHS staff is supporting 10 diverse, local community-based organizations with the implementation of their projects.

## Office of Youth Development

The FY 21 City budget allows for the establishment of an Office of Youth Development, which will be staffed by full-time employee positions, a program manager and program coordinator. These positions will be housed in the Office of Youth Development, DHHS – Community Impact Division.

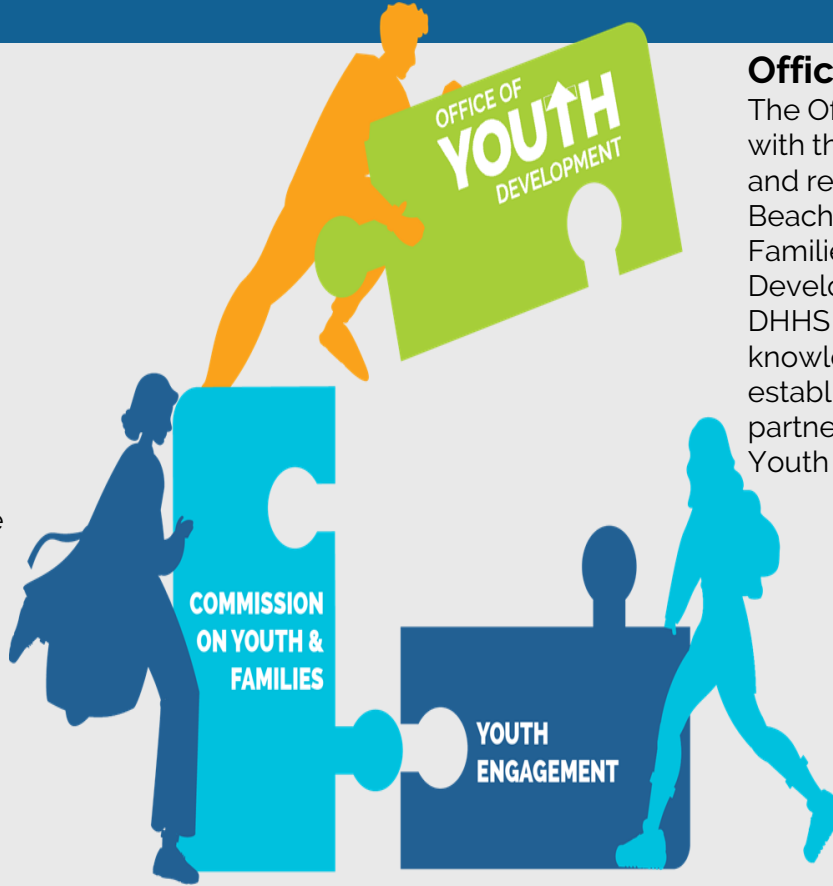
## Measure US

In 2020, Measure US was passed by Long Beach voters with youth as a focus area for future investment.

# Governance

## Youth and Families Commission

The Commission will work with the Youth Ambassadors and provide recommendations to the Office of Youth Development. They will promote efforts and potential actions highlighted in Plan to the Mayor and City Council. They will host an annual youth forum and help amplify the voices of the Youth Ambassadors and city youth in general.



## Office of Youth Development

The Office will continue to collaborate with the team of Youth Ambassadors, and receive input from the City of Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families. The Office of Youth Development will be managed within the DHHS to utilize the extensive staff knowledge and expertise and leverage established network of community partnerships and resource such as the Youth Service Network.

## Youth Engagement

Coordinate with existing city-led youth advisory and leadership groups; create new platforms for youth leadership (such as MBK Town Hall Series); uplift Youth Ambassadors and engage them as navigators in the Office of Youth Development.

# Thank You!

***Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer; Heeding the light before the fight is over. When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing In testing times, we became the best of beings.***

***Amanda Gordon, US Youth Poet Laureate, Miracles of Mourning***