

R-11

February 9, 2021

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report and confirm the proposed citywide Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

As part of the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 19) Adopted Budget, the Long Beach City Council allocated \$200,000 for the development of a Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults (YSP) – a five-year blueprint focused on the development of young people ages 10 to 24, residing in Long Beach. The YSP is housed within the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department and developed jointly with the Health and Human Services Department. Funds were used to contract services for community engagement, strategic plan development and provide stipends to 18 Youth Ambassadors, representing all Council districts. The Youth Ambassadors developed all strategic plan data collection instruments alongside the strategic plan consultant, facilitated five community forums, and assisted with data analysis. The Youth Ambassadors also co-designed and participated in three My Brother's Keeper (MBK) townhalls that explored the intersection of COVID-19 and the country's social uprising and racial reckoning, given the YSP was developed during a critical moment in our nation's history.

The data collection period for the YSP occurred from January through July 2020. During this time period, the Youth Ambassadors along with city staff facilitated five community forums engaging over 200 community residents, conducted key informant interviews with 35 youth-serving organizational leaders and with all councilmembers and/or their staff, and obtained survey responses from 757 Long Beach residents. Additionally, staff facilitated three MBK townhalls and two Youth Ambassador focus groups that explored the intersection of COVID-19, social uprising, and youth development in Long Beach. Project consultants and staff also reviewed secondary data and explored best practices for youth development frameworks leading to the selection of the Positive Youth Development framework for this plan.

The Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults identified five key goals:

- **GOAL 1:** Youth and young adults have a robust, sustainable and coordinated response system within the city of Long Beach.
- **GOAL 2:** Youth and young adults have mental health and wellness services.

- **GOAL 3:** Youth and young adults have career pathways that ensure economic stability and mobility.
- **GOAL 4:** Youth and young adults have inclusive spaces that foster a caring environment in which to grow and develop.
- **GOAL 5:** Youth and young adults have safe, affordable and accessible housing options.
- **GOAL 6:** Youth and young adults have safe, affordable and accessible transportation options.

The YSP provides a blueprint for the City's collaborative efforts. It outlines key steps in the development of an Office of Youth Development, a key office that will be responsible for the implementation of the plan. The plan will be used to guide the collaborative work of City departments and other government and private sector partnerships. City Council allocated funding in FY 21 to launch the Office of Youth Development by providing funds to hire a full-time Project Manager and Project Coordinator. Additional funding will need to be identified for the YSP to be fully implemented.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Taylor M. Anderson on December 21, 2020 and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on December 29, 2020.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost to develop the YSP was funded with \$200,000 in one-time resources allocated as part of the FY 19 Budget for this purpose. The YSP will serve as a blueprint for the City's collaborative efforts focused on the development of young people. As part of the FY 21 Budget, City Council allocated \$1,500,000 in structural funding to support various efforts outlined in the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative. Of this amount, \$332,044 will be used to establish the Office of Youth Development, which will be responsible for the implementation of the YSP. The funding will support two positions for the Office of Youth Development, including a Project Manager and Project Coordinator. Any additional funding required to fully implement the YSP has not yet been identified and further detailed estimates will be determined as resources are identified. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with the existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
February 9, 2021
Page 3

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

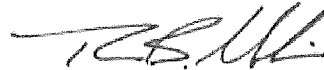


BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE



KELLY COLOPY
DIRECTOR
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER



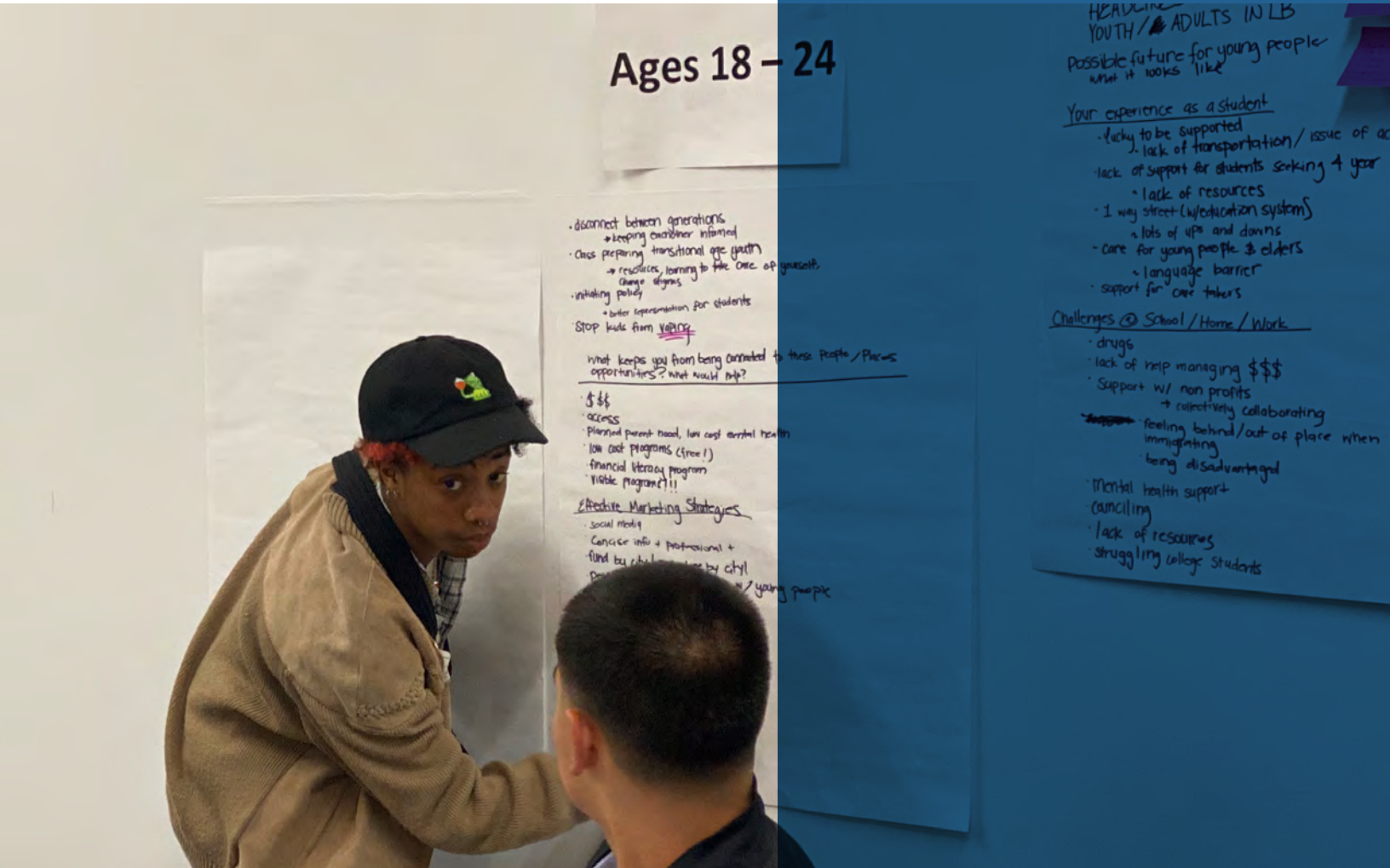
YOUTH & EMERGING ADULTS Strategic Plan

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



CONTENTS

- 1. Foreword 1
- 2. Introduction 2
- 3. Youth Development Landscape 9
- 4. Community Engagement and Methodology 14
- 5. Strategic Goals 15
- 6. Early Implementation 41
- 7. Governance and Oversight 42
- 8. Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults/ My Brother's Keeper / Long Beach Racial Reconciliation Initiative Crosswalk 44
- 9. Appendices/ Acknowledgments 46
 - Historical timeline of youth policy and initiatives in the city 46
 - Community Engagement and Methodology 48
 - Youth Ambassadors 50
 - Strategic Plan Project Team 54
 - Advisory Committee 54
 - Partner List 55
 - General Acknowledgements 55
- 10. Glossary 56
- 11. References 57



FOREWORD

The Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults (Plan) represents a bold vision of city collaboration to uplift the voices of youth ages 8-24 as decision makers and leaders. It is a plan that has been in the making since 2018 with the Invest in Youth Campaign, a community led action. Working alongside youth, community partners and multiple city departments, this Plan represents a cross-city departmental and community partnership for positive youth development in Long Beach. The Plan's intent is to mobilize the entire community to strengthen and create pathways that will improve the health, mental health, well-being, and economic mobility of youth.

The principles in this Plan speak to the resiliency and leadership of Long Beach youth. Growing up during a global pandemic, COVID-19, and a period of social reform, youth have reimagined service delivery to include peer models and intersectional approaches to care, have redefined public safety as communities that care and inclusive of all, and have committed themselves to remain engaged in the implementation of the Plan. The planning process also highlighted the many city activities already under way to support youth development and the willingness to seek new pathways and partnerships to achieve a common set of goals and objectives.

As a first action, the City dedicated structural funding to launch the Office of Youth Development. The Office of Youth Development will implement the Plan through public and private partnerships. It will be a space for youth to engage as peer navigators and support the implementation of the Plan by

working with various city commissions, departments and community partners. The office will be devoted to making youth a priority by creating an integrated system for youth ages 8-24 and ensure that various perspectives and approaches are coordinated locally and regionally to have Long Beach youth thrive.

The Office of Youth Development will be purposeful and intentional in its actions by adopting a framework based on Positive Youth Development, a data proven approach that is focused on building and nurturing all young people's beliefs, behaviors, knowledge, attributes and skills. Through this strengths-based approach, the City and youth-serving partners will promote positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, building social capital, and creating and providing the support youth need to develop as leaders. This framework will also elevate young people as equal thought partners, engaging them in the development of service strategies and solutions that will directly impact and benefit them and future generations.

The development of this Plan is testimony that partnerships with youth are effective and necessary. The visionary goals, objectives, and potential actions of this Plan are reflective of the strength, resiliency, and hope youth continuously demonstrate even during times of uncertainty and unrest. The City looks forward to working alongside youth, families, and youth-serving partners to ensure youth in Long Beach are healthy and empowered with the necessary resources to develop into their true authentic selves.



INTRODUCTION



The vision of the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults 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.

The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults was completed in the midst of two health crises: the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the country's reckoning with racial injustice. Shelter-in-place and stay-at-home orders, combined with social distancing measures introduced in March 2020 sparked a shift in community conversations, uplifting the social, emotional and economic impact on youth of color in Long Beach (hereinafter the term "youth" is inclusive of emerging adults between the ages of 18-24). The experiences of Long Beach youth and community members, as they faced the unprecedented challenges of these two health crises, only heightened the need to develop and strengthen the City's youth development policies, programs and practices. Developed in partnership with a team of youth representatives, Youth Ambassadors, this Plan forges avenues to explore intersectional approaches for youth identity in Long Beach as they face multiple life circumstances including a sense of uncertainty about the future. The Plan began through a community effort led by Khmer Girls in Action and the Advancement Project to develop the Invest in Youth Campaign Report. The report was informed by responses from 750 area residents and youth. The report highlighted two key findings:

1) Long Beach residents were willing to support a greater investment in youth development; and
2) the city investment in youth suppression approaches out-spent investment for youth development.

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. The report was received and filed before City Council on June 19, 2018. In the following year, Building Healthy Communities Long Beach continued to work closely with Khmer Girls in Action to advocate for increased youth development funding. In 2019, the Long Beach City Council authorized a \$200,000 expenditure 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 Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults is the fruition of direct community advocacy. It is an opportunity to listen

to the voices of youth as today's leaders and create pathways for their success. This Plan is set to ensure youth and emerging adults between the ages of 8-24 are healthy, productive and engaged leaders with the necessary resources to develop their talents, skills and competencies to excel and contribute to their communities.





With the allocation of funds to develop the city's first youth strategic plan, a core team of Long Beach Health and Human Services Department (DHHS) staff and consultants discussed the framing for this effort. This team was later expanded in the Fall of 2019 to include the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine as the lead agency in the development of this Plan. Early on, this team recognized the importance of maintaining the voices and leadership of youth at the forefront of this work. Hence, the Youth Strategic Plan Youth Ambassador role was created. Youth Ambassadors are representatives from throughout the city and are actively engaged in the development of the Plan. The Youth Ambassadors were selected in the Fall of 2019 through an application and interview process. They represent each City Council district and the diverse cultural, socioeconomic, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and system-impacted perspectives across Long Beach. Their ages range between 16-24 and all either attend local high schools and/or completed their postsecondary education in Long Beach.

The Youth 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 was collected from throughout the city. During the data collection period of January 26, 2020 to April 24, 2020, the country experienced an unprecedented event, COVID-19. The pandemic and social distancing

guidelines prevented face-to-face data collection engagement. As a result, all key informant interviews and survey collection efforts were conducted either via teleconferencing or online platforms. Nevertheless, 757 online surveys were collected, more than 71 key informant interviews were conducted, and all City Council members were interviewed as part of the data collection efforts. Prior to the social distancing orders, the Youth Ambassadors were able to complete seven (7) community forums, engaging more than 200 local area residents in the development of the Plan. Additionally, the project staff and Youth Ambassadors held three (3) My Brother's Keeper (MBK) town halls during which youth, youth-serving agencies and advocacy groups, and government representatives from diverse sectors discussed the intersectionality of this Plan as it unfolds under the impact of social uprising and COVID-19. The town halls gathered over 15,000 viewers across various social media platforms and served as a vehicle to continue to move forward a sense of connectedness and hope in the development of the Plan. The MBK town halls were a direct response to the social uprising experienced by youth across the country as the nation toiled with issues of institutional racism spurred by the death of George Floyd and the Breonna Taylor case verdict.

These conversations uplifted the voices of youth, their strengths, their dreams, and importantly, their leadership. Leading and crafting a youth strategic effort of this nature in the midst of a global pandemic and national civil uprising proved not to be a deterrent. Instead, it created an avenue for youth, parents, community and civic leaders to address the social inequities that persist in communities where predominantly people of color reside. It provided a pathway to uplift goals and strategies that will enhance and create new opportunities for equitable youth development in the city, and it provided all of us with a new generation of hope as youth rose to lead a plan that looks at intersectional approaches to youth development.

The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults was initially premised on Charles R. Snyder's Hope Theory, which says that most human behavior is goal directed, and that two key factors influence one's actions towards pursuing and achieving those goals. The factors being: Pathways Thinking, which is the ability to generate various pathways from the present to the desired future; and Agency Thinking, the level of intention, confidence and ability to follow those pathways to success (Snyder, 2000). Like most processes, the evolution of a theory led to the adaptation of the Positive Youth Development approach and framework. As

the Youth Ambassador roles evolved and with the ongoing engagement of youth service providers, the Youth Positive Development framework was introduced to signal a shift in thinking of youth from a deficit model premised on "fixing youth" to one of protective health and resiliency factors whereby youth are active change agents in their lives and communities (Youth.gov, n.d.). The continuous engagement of the Youth Ambassadors in the development of their own personal leadership skills, their co-creation of the Plan and their advocacy to ensure a transformative systemic shift for youth development in Long Beach – is in fact reflective of positive youth development.



Foundational Framework: Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD) refers to a broad approach that strives to build the competencies, skills and abilities for youth to grow and flourish throughout life. PYD is both a philosophy and an approach to adolescent development. As a philosophy, PYD views youth as precious assets to be nurtured and developed rather than as problems to be solved. The approach that flows from this philosophy works on building mutually beneficial relationships between youth and their family, peer groups, school, workplace, neighborhood, community, other government institutions, society, and culture to provide opportunities for youth to enhance their knowledge, interests, skills and abilities (Youth.gov, n.d.).

Taking a Positive Youth Development (PYD) perspective means viewing the adolescent years as full of potential rather than rife with problems to be solved.



Instead of merely encouraging adolescents to avoid risky behaviors, PYD emphasizes strategies that enhance positive qualities that adolescents already possess. The approach views adolescents as having a lot to offer and promotes the idea that adults can make a significant and positive difference in young peoples' lives. The approach also takes into account the various environments in which youth engage. These environments include family, schools (learning environments), neighborhoods and workplaces over the youth's life course. It looks at how youth build social capital in these environments which allow them to flourish and thrive across their lifespan.

While there are several definitions of Positive Youth Development, the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs developed the following definition of positive youth development for use by federal programs:

Positive Youth Development is an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths (Youth.gov, n.d.).

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD) FRAMEWORK

A Positive Youth Development (PYD) Framework is configured on four domains: Assets, Agency, Enabling Environment and Contribution (Youth.gov, n.d.). This framework illustrates that to achieve the vision of healthy, productive and engaged youth, PYD programs, practices and policies must work with youth to improve their:

Agency:

Youth perceive and have the ability to employ their assets and aspirations to make or influence their own decisions about their lives and set their own goals, as well as to act upon those decisions in order to achieve desired outcomes. Youth have, know and can access the necessary pathways to achieve their goals and believe in a positive future.

Assets:

Youth have the necessary resources, skills and competencies to achieve desired outcomes. This can include training, formal education, interpersonal skills, critical thinking skills, and recognizing emotions and self-control.

**Healthy,
Productive &
Engaged Youth**



Enabling environment:

Youth are surrounded by an environment that develops and supports their assets, agency, access to services and opportunities, and strengthens their ability to avoid risks and to stay safe, secure, and be protected and live without fear of violence or retribution. An enabling environment encourages and recognizes youth, while promoting their social and emotional competence to thrive. The term “environment” should be interpreted broadly and includes: social (e.g., relationships with peers and adults), normative (e.g., attitudes, norms and beliefs), structural (e.g., laws, policies, programs, services and systems) and physical (e.g., safe, supportive spaces).

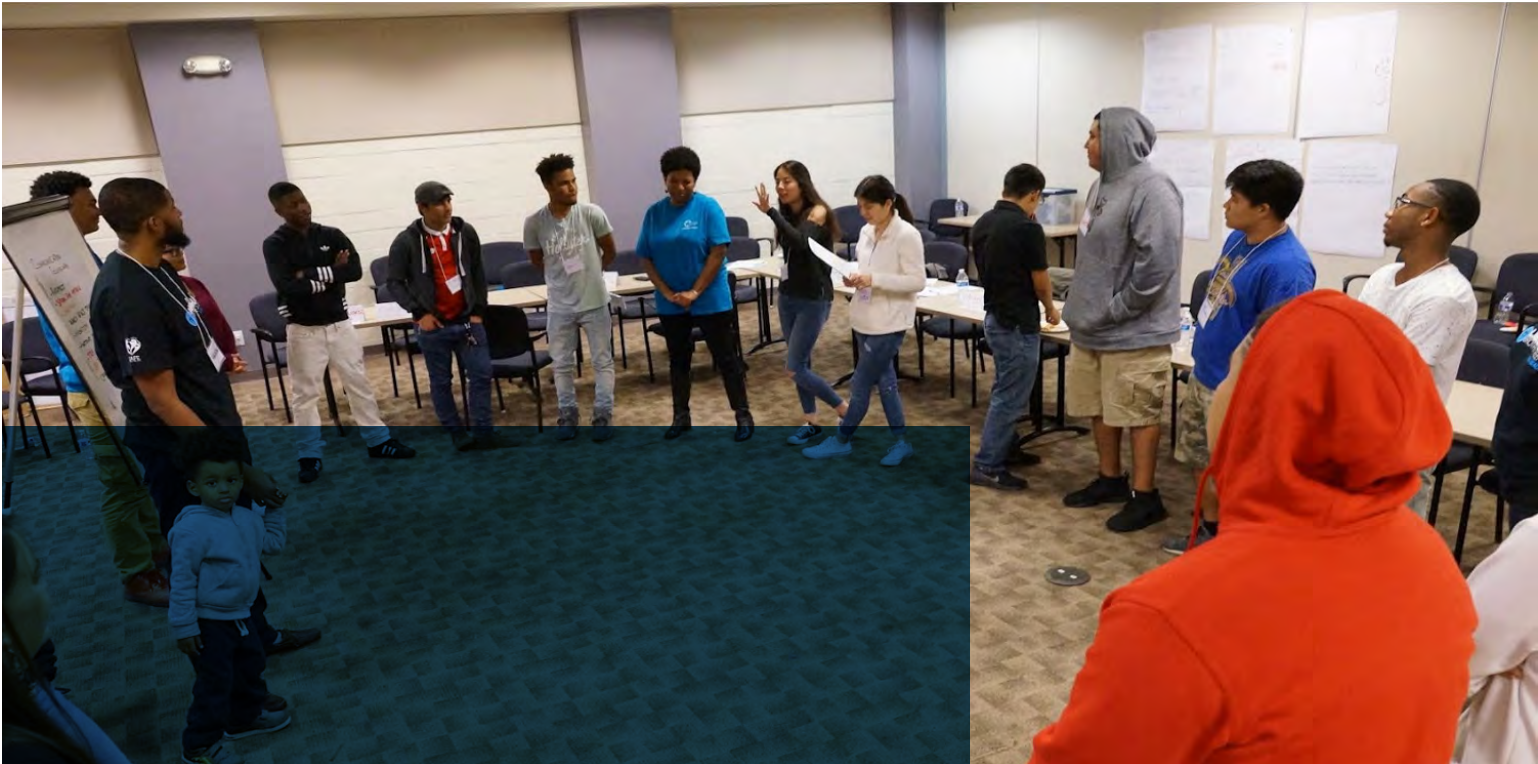
Contribution:

Youth are engaged as a source of change for their own and for their communities' positive development. Youth believe their engagement will make a difference in their communities.



STATEMENT OF POSSIBILITY

Over the course of several months, the Youth Ambassadors led various aspects of this Plan. They championed it's development from the very beginning and had countless conversations about their role to influence change in the city. Stepping into their powerful roles, they designed a statement of possibility. The transformative essence of this statement captures youth voices not as tomorrow's leaders, but as today's activists, educators and change makers. Long Beach youth may encounter challenges everyday. Yet, in the midst of their challenges, many find their voice; they live through a global pandemic and civil uprising with the intent that the success of this city, state and nation rests on their continuous civic leadership and sense of resiliency and hope.



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.

As the Office of Youth Development is established, the statement of possibility will serve as a guiding, overarching principle for the operation of this office. The city staff, community and partners will hold this principle as a tool of accountability with the youth who led this effort and future generations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults is grounded in seven key principles. Together, these principles create a foundation to strengthen and expand public and private sector relationships necessary to implement the goals, objectives and activities identified in the Plan. The principles represent the City of Long Beach's commitment to youth and their families. Over the course of the next five years, these guiding principles will be embedded and upheld in the development of youth programming, practices, approaches, multisector partnerships and policies. They create a common understanding for all throughout the city to interact with one another as the Plan is implemented. Service providers and other youth stakeholders are invited to adopt these principles into their organizations and to join in uplifting youth development in Long Beach.



Inclusivity & Acceptance

Actively listen as adult allies and create safe spaces for all youth to belong and connect, feel accepted, acknowledged and recognized as community assets and contributors in the city.

Equity

Commit to having all youth and their families reach their highest level of health and potential for a successful life, regardless of their background and identity, by prioritizing investments in under-resourced communities.

Strategic Relationships

Grow and maintain relationships with community-based organizations, government entities and private sector leadership to build trust, and leverage resources and talents representative of our diverse communities.

Community Voices

Create opportunities for youth as decision makers in the design, implementation and oversight of youth development efforts in the city and continuously engage youth and their families throughout the implementation of the Plan.

Intersectionality

Recognize the identities and experiences of youth and their families as multifaceted persons, overcoming systems of oppression, historical discrimination and privilege through civic action.

Commitment to Continuous Review & Improvement

Engage in a culture of learning, excellence and adaptability through continuous quality improvement efforts that maintain transparency and accountability for all.

Caring Communities

Undertake holistic approaches to well-being, whereby youth are mentally, physically and spiritually healthy and live in safe, economically sound environments that support their overall well-being.

These guiding principles are derived from community forums and focus group data. They represent the listening from the community onto the City to make a commitment to fully invest in the lives of all Long Beach youth.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE

YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

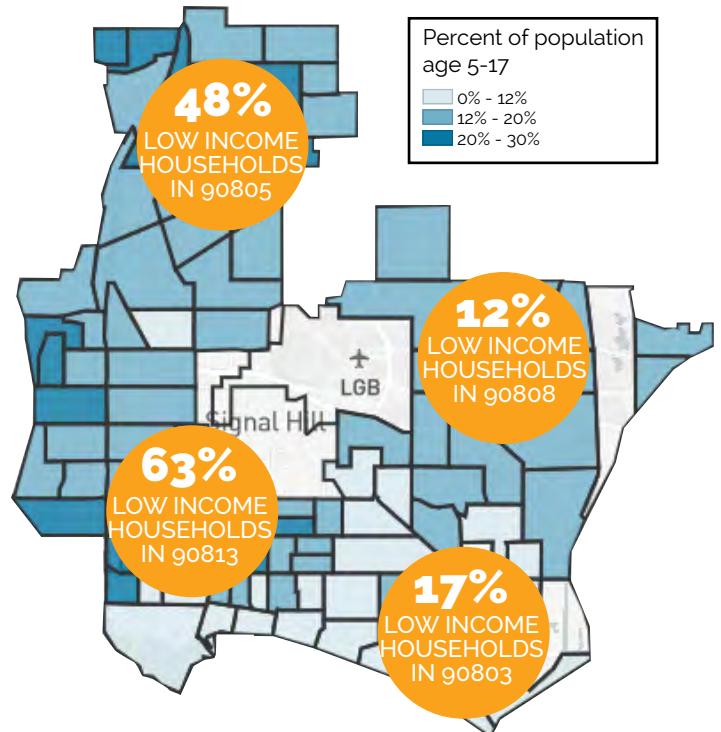
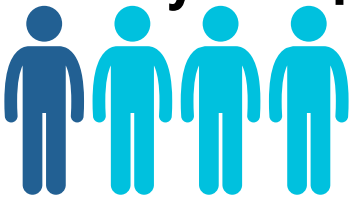
Supporting a young person's ability to learn, work, thrive and connect puts them on a path toward opportunity and success in adulthood. Young people in Long Beach are largely youth of color (86 percent) while only about half of seniors are people of color (47 percent). This difference in the proportion of youth and seniors of color is important, as a large racial generational gap corresponds with lower investments in education and youth programs and services. Children and youth do not have the political clout to support ballot measures that increase spending in education and health, disproportionately impacting investments and wellness outcomes. Researchers predict that by 2028 only 7 percent of the federal budget will go toward spending on children, as Social Security and Medicare account for an ever-growing share of the budget (Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, 2018). By 2035, according to projections from the Census, people over 65 are expected to outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history. By then, residents under 18 will represent only 19.8 percent of the national population, down from 22.8 percent in 2016. Local implications are inevitable (U.S. Census, 2018).

There are **129,938** youth and emerging adults in Long Beach between the ages of 5-24 years old.

WHERE DO YOUTH LIVE IN LONG BEACH?

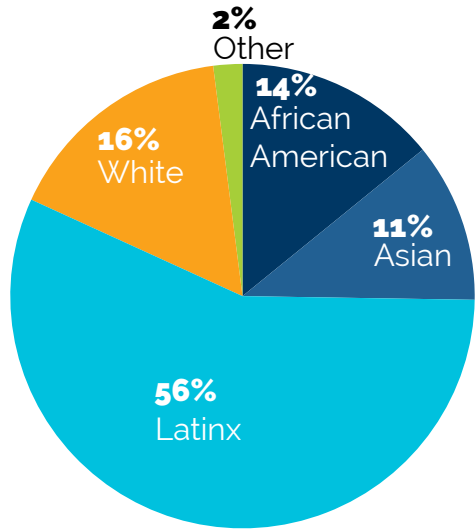
Although youth live across the entire City of Long Beach, the majority of those between the ages of 5-17 live in Central, West, and North Long Beach, which are areas with the highest rates of low income households.

Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) Long Beach youth under the age of 18 live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.



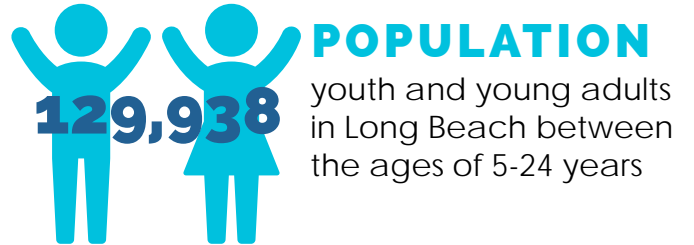
RACE/ETHNICITY

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**

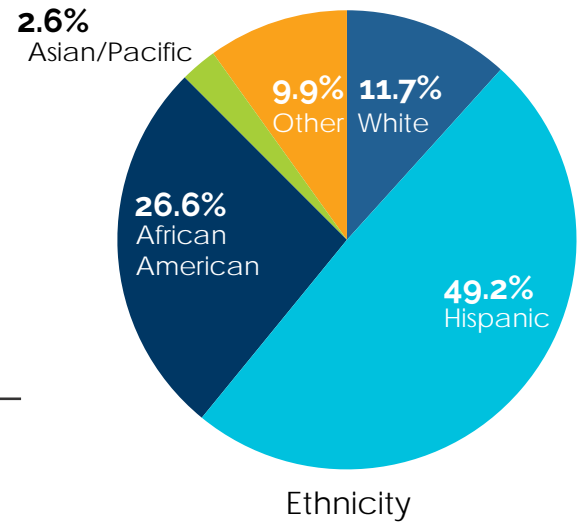
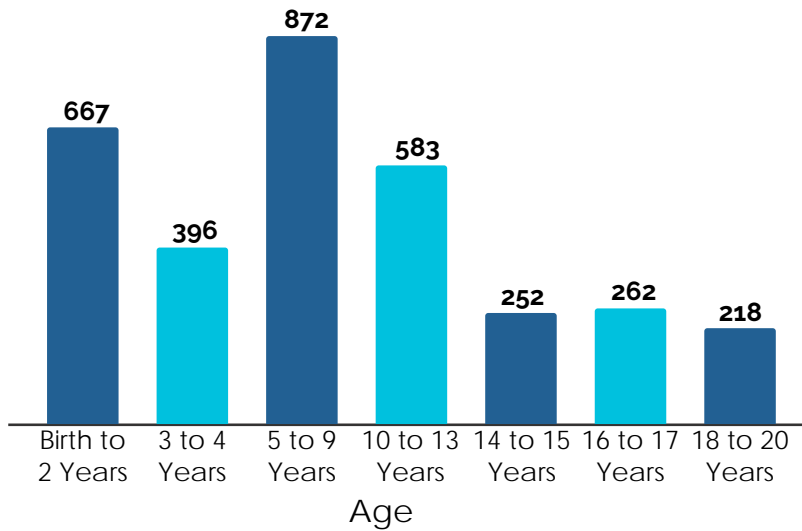


POPULATION

YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE DEMOGRAPHICS

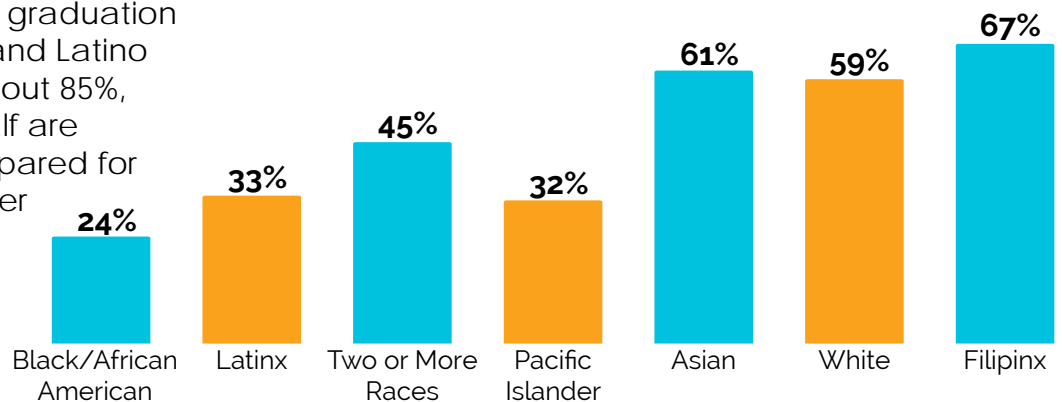
LA County Department of Children and Family Services, South County Office*

* South County includes Long Beach, Carson, Lakewood, San Pedro, Signal Hill, and Wilmington.



PERCENT OF HS GRADUATES CONSIDERED READY FOR CAREER OR COLLEGE

The high school graduation rates for Black and Latino students are about 85%, but less than half are considered prepared for college or career success after high school.



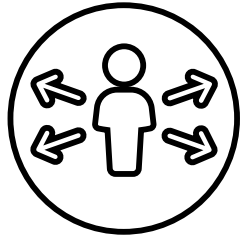
CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH

Throughout the development of the Plan, youth and emerging adults from across Long Beach shared their worries, hopes and dreams to help shape and inform the Plan. The top youth and young adult priorities that emerged included:



1

Mental health service access



2

Economic and educational opportunities



3

Stable and affordable housing



4

Safe spaces to belong and connect



5

Stable and affordable transportation



MENTAL HEALTH

Virtually all young people in Long Beach will at some point face challenges in their homes, school, community and relationships, and some may have more persistent or ongoing mental health challenges. As with physical health, mental health is not just the absence of disease or a mental health disorder. It includes emotional, psychological and social well-being, as well as being able to navigate challenging life circumstances, adapt to change, have fulfilling relationships, and realize their full potential.

Having a supportive community and environment can promote positive mental health and prevent or minimize mental health problems. Most youth and emerging adults can successfully navigate the challenges that come from experiencing a mental health disorder with treatment, peer and professional support and services, and a strong family and social support network.





ECONOMIC & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Young people need education, leadership opportunities, and career and life guidance to successfully transition to adulthood. Educational attainment strongly correlates with lifetime earnings. An analysis of Census data found that a person with a bachelor's degree will earn \$2,268,000 in a lifetime, or \$56,700 per year, on average. For those less educated and only with a high-school diploma, the number is down to \$1,304,000 in a lifetime, or \$32,600 per year, on average. The difference is as large as 84 percent, even though college education only takes four to six years to finish. Approximately 13% of 16-24 year olds in Long Beach are not working or in school (IPUMS USA - National Equity Atlas, 2017). The COVID-19 pandemic will increase these disparities, further complicating global and local efforts to reduce learning disparities, leading to a permanent loss of earnings across young people's lifetime averaging to a \$16,000 loss per youth (WorldBank). These youth, who are disproportionately youth of color, experience lifelong consequences, including negative health outcomes.

Long Beach is well positioned to better connect young people to education and employment opportunities. Schools, families, community-based organizations, and neighborhoods all play a role in a young person's path, both positive and negative. There are many points along that pathway at which a young person can get off-track, and many factors that can interfere with reaching key milestones, such as graduating from high school or preparing for college or career. Research suggests that young people can thrive in their transition to adulthood when they have opportunities for positive youth development, when they can connect their education or training with good-paying jobs, and when they have resources to address barriers such as childcare and transportation.



STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Having a safe, stable home is a basic need for everybody. Homelessness, unstable housing and the lack of affordable housing have long-lasting negative impacts on the physical and mental health of youth and emerging adults in Long Beach. The neighborhoods with the highest concentration of Long Beach youth under the age of 18 are also neighborhoods with the highest concentration of poverty where the majority of households are renters and struggle with the burden of paying ever-increasing housing prices.

In order for young people in Long Beach to do well in school, be safe and healthy, and have access to opportunities to reach their potential, their families must be able to live in stable and affordable housing with access to living wage jobs and support to help them meet young peoples' needs going forward into adulthood.





SAFE SPACES FOR BELONGING AND CONNECTION

Belonging is a basic human need, and the failure to satisfy a sense of belonging in youth may actually lead to complications in adulthood. Once young people feel a sense of belonging, a foundation has been created for them to develop emotional competence, self regulation, a growth mindset, perseverance and a vision for themselves in the future.

Many young people in Long Beach - especially lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/question, intersex, asexual, and/or two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) youth, foster youth, and youth of color - are marginalized or struggle with feelings of isolation, affecting their mental health and overall well-being. Long Beach can create opportunities for our neighborhoods, schools and communities to foster youth connectedness. Community-based youth development organizations, open space for recreation, teen centers and other services can provide opportunities for youth to build self-esteem, nurture healthy relationships, engage in leadership development and become civically engaged.



STABLE AND AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION

The safety, reliability and affordability of Long Beach's roadways and public transportation networks is critical to the development of youth. Safe streets and accessible public transit are lifelines to economic, education, and cultural-enrichment opportunities. Long Beach Transit estimates that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, about 5,000 riders per day boarded buses from 80 stops in the areas surrounding Long Beach Unified high schools – with many youth traveling across the city to attend schools that are best suited for their academic needs and career interests (Long Beach Transit, 2019). It is not uncommon for youth to travel up to 12 miles round-trip to and from school. Many Long Beach youth rely on public transit as their main source of transportation and navigate through challenges regarding its affordability and concerns about safety. According to the Policy Institute of California, transportation is low-income families' third largest budget item behind food and housing (Baldassare, et al., 2017). While fare-free programs are available for Long Beach City College, and Long Beach University students, these programs are not extended to high school students (LBCC, 2020). Many youth express that reduced student fare programs simply aren't affordable enough – high school students may purchase \$40 30-day passes discounted from the regular \$65 30-day pass rate, forcing many to prioritize bus passes over other critical needs or risk fare evasion. Recent funding measures and youth-led conversations present the opportunity to further explore fare-free options and activities that optimize the safety of pedestrians and public transit riders.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND METHODOLOGY

In preparing to implement a methodology for gathering and analyzing the data, a team of City staff, along with the Youth Ambassadors agreed that the process itself should model the kind of learning experience in which the development of youth should take place – Youth Ambassadors would develop the skills of focus group facilitation, data gathering and analysis that are common to developing strategic plans. The entire strategic planning process was developed with the Youth Ambassadors as active participants at each step along the way, as fully engaged members of the team.

The Youth Ambassadors collaboratively designed and led data collection efforts that engaged nearly over 15,000 residents through community forums, town halls, key informant interviews with youth service providers and councilmembers, and youth and parent surveys. A detailed data methodology overview as well as the names and biographies of the Youth Ambassadors are included in the Appendix section of this Plan.



787
Residents completed the survey

STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1:
Youth
Development

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

Goal 3:
Planning for
the Future

Goal 4:
Community
Care

Goal 5:
Housing

Goal 6:
Transportation

The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults highlights six visionary goals designed to ensure all Long Beach youth lead safe and healthy lives. The goals, objectives and potential actions of this Plan prioritize investments in youth that address inequity and support youth as they develop into adults.

This section provides an overview of findings and describes the goals and potential actions that the City will further explore and implement through the Office of Youth Development and its network of youth-serving partners.





Goal 1:
Youth
Development

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

Goal 3:
Planning for
the Future

Goal 4:
Community Care

Goal 5:
Housing

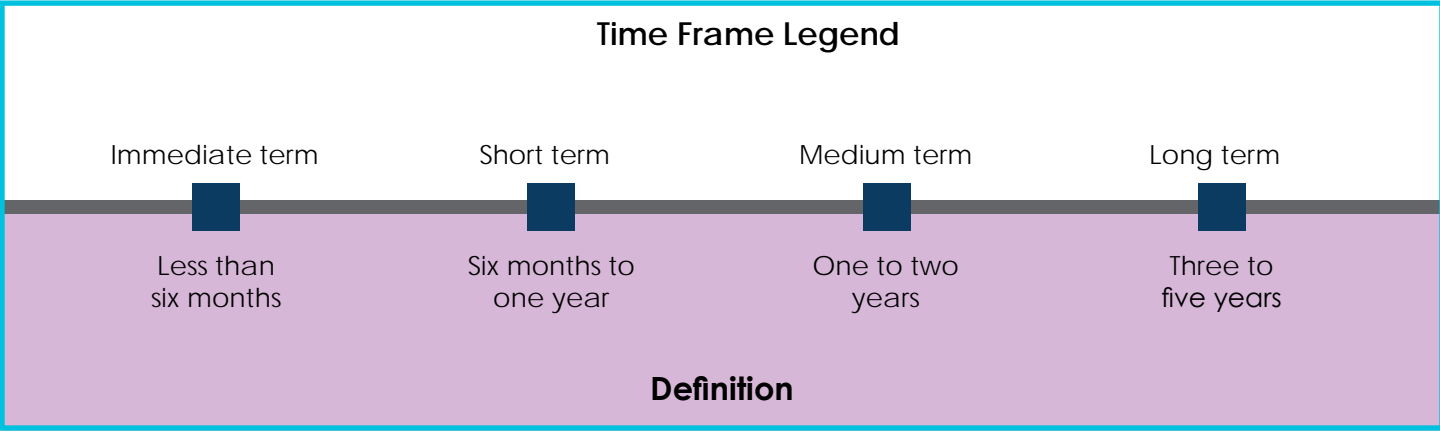
Goal 6:
Transportation

YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS, AGES 8 TO 24, HAVE ROBUST, SUSTAINABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH

Critical to the implementation of our vision for youth and emerging adults in Long Beach is first and foremost building a robust and accessible set of services that support youth and build a foundation for achieving the succeeding youth goals.

To lead long-term change and solutions for youth in Long Beach, youth and emerging adults need access to a sustainable and coordinated response system that will ensure the oversight and implementation of the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults. As such, the Office of Youth Development will serve as an organized hub for the implementation of the Plan and other youth-driven efforts. The office will link youth and Youth Ambassadors, service networks, Long Beach Unified, City Council, City departments, City commissions and other key stakeholders to support youth development. By leveraging existing youth leadership networks, such as the Long Beach Library’s Teen Advisory Boards, LBUSD Superintendent’s Student Advisory committee, and Student Equity Leadership Team that provide feedback and representation across all LBUSD high schools and library branches, the Office of Youth Development will support coordination of youth engagement and decision-making to achieve desired youth outcomes.

As part of the implementation, the City of Long Beach has approved two new staff roles in the City budget, who will be key in coordinating funding and continuing to refresh action plans as youth needs evolve. As evaluation of youth policy, programs and activities is streamlined, the City’s capacity to improve youth development practices and respond to the needs of youth and emerging adults will improve.



Goal 1:
Youth
Development

Objective 1

Establish an Office of Youth Development to lead and coordinate youth development efforts across the city

Current Activities	A	Supporting the implementation of the City’s Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative as it relates to youth development and violence prevention	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Engage youth and other residents throughout the Plan’s planning and implementation phases (also see: Governance).	Immediate term
	2	Coordinate educational roundtables with the Long Beach Unified, City Council, community-based organizations and city department leads to address youth development matters.	Short term
	3	Identify alignment and forge collaboration with existing youth initiatives and networking including All Children Thrive, Opportunity Youth Collaborative, Youth Justice Coalition, Bold Vision, Long Beach Youth Services Network, and Transition Age Youth Innovations 2, Library Teen Advisory Boards, Economic Development Teen Centers, etc.	Short term
	4	Review youth-related policies, programs, and services utilizing the City’s equity toolkit to ensure they reflect an equity lens.	Medium term

Objective 2

Secure and coordinate structural funding streams to support youth development in the City.

Current Activities	A	Leveraging CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funding to support COVID-19 youth-focused response.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Identify and apply for private and government grant opportunities to support youth development efforts.	Immediate term
	2	Establish direct funding for youth through Measure US funds.	Medium term
	3	Strengthen and align currently funded programs and services.	Long term

Goal 1:
Youth
Development

Objective 3

Establish accountability structure for the Office of Youth Development and the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults.

Current Activities	A	Strengthening the engagement of the Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families and Long Beach Promise partners.	
Proposed Activities			Time Frame
	1	Restructure and align the Youth and Family Commission with the Office of Youth Development.	Medium term

Objective 4

Develop data-sharing and reporting infrastructure to capture plan impact.

Proposed Activities			Time Frame
	1	Collaborate with city departments and community-based organizations in developing performance metrics and collecting data periodically.	Medium term
	2	Develop cross-agency shared youth development performance metrics memorandum of understanding to inform future decision making on youth programming in the City (including community-based organizations working on health and mental health service delivery, such as The Children’s Clinic, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Long Beach schools, Racial Equity Data & Performance Metrics workgroup, and Long Beach Public Library services that can serve as sources of data collection citywide).	Long term
	3	Launch youth development data dashboard (i.e. youth development report card).	Long term

Goal 1: Youth Development

Objective 5

Further identify and partner with youth and youth serving organizations to improve youth outcomes.

Current Activities	A	Ongoing coordination of the Long Beach Youth Services Network, which links service providers and youth to housing, employment, counseling, health, legal and funding resources.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Bolster cross-agency referral processes.	Medium term
	2	Explore the development of shared metrics and case conferencing activities.	Medium term
	3	Develop an online service portal of youth service providers and their services in Long Beach.	Medium term
	4	Streamline procurement processes to allow smaller businesses and nonprofits including youth-owned businesses to contract with the City.	Long term





PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS: YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS HAVE HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES TO SUPPORT THEIR OVERALL WELL-BEING

A prevalent concern gathered from youth development surveys, focus groups, and town halls was the accessibility and availability of resources to support youth physical health, mental health, and emotional wellness. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, participant survey data demonstrated that of the Long Beach youth who responded “I need help with my mental health needs,” 31% noted that their experience accessing mental health resources was “very hard” and 52% noted “somewhat hard.” Although many mental health resources and services, administered through in-school counseling, may currently be available to youth, survey responses highlight gaps in outreach and sharing of information to youth and their families. To increase the reach of these resources, Youth Ambassadors expressed the need for family-centered and community-based services that help build resilience and wellness for families as a whole. These approaches consider the effect of environmental factors, such as their academics, work, and home life, to holistically tailor services to individual youth experiences.

In light of social uprising and COVID-19, MBK Town Halls and focus groups underscored the importance of mental health and wellness for youth, who due to health safety measures, have attended school virtually and have subsequently reported feeling disconnected from their community, peers, and support systems. Feelings of isolation, which have been intensified for youth under physical distancing protocols, can increase negative mental health impacts, such as increased anxiety, depression, distress and low self-esteem. Research shows that fostering connectedness to peers, family, mentors and friends can strengthen youth resilience and promote positive mental health. In response to rising mental health concerns, youth development efforts will build off existing mental health infrastructures and strengthen partnerships with nonprofit agencies and academic institutions to improve and ensure the wellness of youth and their families (Loades, M. E., et al, 2020).



Goal 2:

Physical
Health, Mental
Health, and
Emotional
Wellness

Objective 1

Strengthen, scale and fund local community-based organizations to increase availability of culturally-relevant health, mental health and wellness services.

Current Activities	A	Establishing service agreements between Long Beach Unified School District and service agencies to provide in-school counseling, mental health services, and trauma and resiliency services (including LA County Department of Mental Health contracts).	
	B	Providing Healthy Active Long Beach activities and educational resources, such as The Children's Clinic's intergenerational cooking classes and Healthy Eating, Active Living classes through the Health Department's programming, and community gardens through Parks, Recreation, and Marine.	
	C	Engaging the Health Department's Tobacco Youth Leadership Council to build leadership skills and provide education on smoking/vaping prevention.	
	D	Uplifting the intergenerational approaches underway by the Mental Health America-Los Angeles and The Children's Clinic Transition Age Youth Innovations 2, (Mental Health Services Act Innovation community capacity building grants) which focus on addressing community-level trauma.	
	E	Providing screening for children, youth, and families through The Children's Clinic prevention care services to provide care and linkage to health resources.	
	F	Operating teen spaces through Parks, Recreation, and Marine as access sites that provide mental health resources to residents. The Teen Center Committee within Parks, Recreation and Marine has opened their teen programs to more community resources and has identified mental health and wellness as a priority.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Link uninsured or underinsured youth and their families to community-based health agencies such as The Children's Clinic, the Health Department, or local hospitals to seek medical care homes, screenings, immunizations, and reproductive health resources.	Immediate term
	2	Improve access to health, mental health and trauma services by coordinating with the Long Beach Youth Services Network to engage health and mental health agencies, and streamline referral processes, address policy and system barriers, and increase knowledge of available service.	Medium term

Goal 2:

Physical
Health, Mental
Health, and
Emotional
Wellness

Objective 1

Strengthen, scale and fund local community-based organizations to increase availability of culturally-relevant health, mental health and wellness services.

Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	Activity	Time Frame	
	3	Develop and sustain family-centered approaches to health, mental health and trauma to build family resiliency through community-place-based efforts.	Medium term
	4	Coordinate additional access points to mental health services for youth and their families in Long Beach Libraries such as peer led mental health services and integrating social workers in libraries throughout the city to increase assessment and linkages to services.	Medium term
	5	Coordinate with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and other public entities to build local community-based capacity through funding and other resources to provide culturally-relevant health and mental health services.	Medium term
	6	Obtain a Department of Mental Health contract within the City structure to increase service delivery opportunities.	Medium term
	7	Start a ParksRx program in which physicians or other medical professionals prescribe time in parks instead of medication where appropriate.	Medium term
	8	Enroll all youth in health insurance plans.	Long term

Objective 2

Increase access to open spaces and recreation programming to foster physical activity, community connections, and safe places for youth and families to connect.

Current Activities	Activity	
	Activity	Description
	A	Partnering with Long Beach Unified School District and other technology providers to increase access to digital services through CARES Act funding that will increase social connectedness among youth.
	B	Reconfiguring many Parks, Recreation, and Marine programs to ensure safe recreation programs are accessible amid the pandemic. Programs such as the Mobile Recess Program, Virtual Camps, and Learning Hubs have been developed and offered at no cost. Communities of color and families within low-income neighborhoods are prioritized. Camp fees have been reduced and financial assistance has been expanded.

Goal 2:

Physical Health, Mental Health, and Emotional Wellness

Objective 2

Increase access to open spaces and recreation programming to foster physical activity, community connections, and safe places for youth and families to connect.

Current Activities	C	Providing virtual and in-person youth drop-in centers, such as those coordinated by We Exist, the LGBTQ Center Long Beach, Mental Health America-LA (MHA-LA), and Good Seed, that foster inclusivity, community, and facilitate access to other services.	
	D	Providing instructive and low-cost virtual and socially distanced youth recreational activities such as camping, physical activity classes, and more through city supported funding and CARES Act opportunities.	
	E	Supporting the implementation of the City's Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative as it relates to youth development and violence prevention.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Bolster and create in-person and virtual platforms that engage youth and elevate youth topics.	Short term
	2	Host an annual youth event planned by coordinated in collaboration with the Youth and Families and the Office of Youth Development.	Short term
	3	Identify funding opportunities to support the development of new parks and open spaces, and update current park amenities.	Long term
	4	Explore joint use agreements with Long Beach Unified School District, churches and other open spaces to use for recreational activities.	Long term
	5	Strengthen the role of parks as inclusive and safe spaces by building staff capacity and providing training in diversity, equity, and trauma.	Long term





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS HAVE CAREER PATHWAYS TO ENSURE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND MOBILITY

Long Beach Youth Ambassadors highlighted the overwhelming feelings of uncertainty that youth and emerging adults experience when planning for the future, as many face challenges navigating entry into the workforce or into higher learning institutions. With unemployment rates on the rise and economic hardships visibly affecting their families and communities in the midst of a global pandemic, young people in Long Beach - especially first-generation youth and youth of color - need access to workforce development and career pathways to ensure family-sustaining economic stability and to alleviate anxieties in planning for the future. The Plan's vision for this goal is to not only leverage existing work-based learning opportunities but to expand efforts to implement two-generation / whole family approaches, such as Pacific Gateway's Strengthening Working Families, that engage youth, children and parents simultaneously in activities that bolster economic well-being.

Coordination between Long Beach Unified, community-based mentor and academic enrichment programs, and institutions of higher learning will provide widespread college and career-readiness opportunities and create systems of support that harness youth potential and expand economic and social capital for youth and emerging adults. Workforce development programs have the potential to build youth agency by fostering a supportive environment where youth are active participants in the planning for their futures. Youth and emerging adults in Long Beach will be: empowered to be part of decision-making as youth development programs are designed and implemented; equipped with academic, technical or soft skills knowledge; and connected to mentorship or internship opportunities of interest as they prepare for their economic futures.

Supporting youth in planning for a post-pandemic future is a challenge that requires a coordinated response fueled by unbridled energy and urgency. Early data indicate that distance learning and shutdowns caused by COVID-19 have exacerbated existing achievement gaps. Despite efforts to provide quality remote learning experiences and access to technology, most studies have found that full-time online learning does not deliver the academic results of in-class instruction. Additionally, many students do not have conducive learning environments or parental academic supervision. The economic and personal impact of learning loss caused by the pandemic could result in consequences and impacts such as long term skill loss, lower wages, and reduced health, increased crime, and higher levels of incarceration. Response measures will require cross-system collaboration that includes resource sharing, the integration of health and mental health services in schools, rigorous and equitable contextualized learning experiences, flexible spending and staffing, and other interventions.

Goal 3:
Planning for
the Future

Objective 1

Establish partnerships to increase access to pathways that expand economic and social capital for youth and emerging adults.

Current Activities	A	Continuing work-based learning and paid work experience opportunities, including efforts led by local community agencies, the school district, and the City. Existing efforts include Pacific Gateway-funded work opportunities at the Long Beach Public Library, Health Department placements, and UPLAN (Development Services).	
	B	Advancing community-based mentorship and academic enrichment programs including Long Beach BLAST, 100 Black Men, Leadership Long Beach, Success in Challenges, Long Beach’s Youth Leadership Program, and Operation Jump Start.	
	C	Advancing industry-aligned career pathway and career technical education programs across the school district, local charter schools, and Long Beach City College such as California Partnership Academies, Linked Learning pathways, and Strong Workforce programs.	
	D	Supporting innovative partnerships such as the Long Beach College Promise and Promise 2.0, which provide supports to students to promote academic and life success.	
	E	Promoting programs such as the school district’s Male Academy, and Long Beach City College’s Male Success Initiative, that create empowering environments and build social capital through mentorship.	
	F	Identifying and securing scholarship opportunities, including efforts led by Parks, Recreation, and Marine, and Partners of Parks.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Increase work experience opportunities in City departments by expanding the Mayor’s Internship Challenge; place youth in decision-making roles within commissions and advisory boards.	Immediate term
	2	Partner with institutions of higher learning to establish a youth policy institute to develop solutions to critical youth-related challenges.	Medium term
	3	Bolster community-based and industry-aligned career development and work-based learning activities.	Medium term
	4	Develop and implement two-generation/ whole family approaches that engage youth, children, and parents simultaneously in activities that bolster economic well-being. Pacific Gateway’s Strengthening Working Families, community-based Early Childhood Education Committee, and the Fundamentals of Fatherhood Program are currently implementing two-generation program elements.	Medium term

Goal 3:
Planning for
the Future

Objective 2

Increase private sector engagement and commitment to support youth development.

Current Activities	A	Supporting Industry-led internships and work-based learning opportunities, such as existing efforts at Boeing, Kaiser Permanente, and Echo Global Logistics.	
	B	Promoting the Mayor’s Internship Challenge and Mayor’s Education Fund.	
	C	Uplifting the efforts of the school district, Pacific Gateway, and community workforce councils and advisory boards.	
	D	Utilizing the ALLin (Advancing Linked Learning) Career Pledge Portal.	
	E	Implementing the ‘Everyone In’ Economic Inclusion Implementation Plan which includes policy recommendations for workforce and youth development and economic resiliency to increase access and advance economic equity for all individuals in Long Beach.	
	F	Preparing youth for positions with the City, including entry-level recreation opportunities; Parks, Recreation, and Marine is the first employer for many Long Beach residents.	
	G	Including youth workforce initiatives and priorities in Project Labor Agreements and other city contracts.	
Proposed Activities			Time Frame
	1	Engage industry leaders in the design and implementation of career development activities including mentorship opportunities.	Immediate term
	2	Expand partnerships among industry and community-based organizations providing workforce development services for youth.	Immediate term
	3	Strengthen pathways to family-sustaining jobs in high-growth industries including those in the Green and Caring economies; bolster partnerships with agencies such as Conservation Corps Long Beach.	Medium term
	4	Develop a funding campaign focused on increasing financial investment youth development.	Long term

Goal 3: Planning for the Future

Objective 3

Increase access to technology and resources to support innovation and ensure all youth have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Current Activities	A	Providing digital inclusion and technology equipment lending programs.	
	B	Offering digital resources through the Long Beach Public Library and education partners including digital studio programs, coding classes, robotics programs, 3D printing training, and more.	
Proposed Activities			Time Frame
	1	Expand multilingual digital literacy skills development opportunities.	Short term
	2	Increase access to low-cost, high-speed, quality in-home internet services; expand City-provided no-cost public WiFi; and expand citywide fiber network infrastructure.	Short term
3	Expand no-cost city-provided community computer labs; and access to low-cost, quality, internet-enabled technology devices (e.g., desktops, laptops, phones, and tablets).	Short term	





YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS HAVE INCLUSIVE SPACES THAT FOSTER A CARING ENVIRONMENT TO GROW AND DEVELOP

This goal includes two parts: Social Connectedness, and Prevention and Intervention.

Social Connectedness

Having access to supportive community resources, as well as support from educators, mentors, peers and family helps build positive self-esteem and nurture a sense of belonging for youth. By creating spaces that are inclusive and safe for young people in Long Beach - especially LGBTQIA2S+ youth, foster youth, and youth of color - youth are given the opportunity to feel connected to their community and environment in times of social isolation. In thinking about the futures of Long Beach youth, spaces that welcome their growth and development are essential to build confidence and skills for the future.

In the creation of accessible and inclusive spaces, staff and community partners will strive to create welcoming, responsive environments for youth through a collective commitment of maintaining cultural humility. Through training on equity, implicit bias, and trauma-informed practices, staff and community partners will use what they learn to inform their roles in the lives of youth and emerging adults, and actively work to create platforms for ongoing youth dialogue and institutional accountability for the implementation of this Plan and subsequent action plans.

Training and activities should encourage positive intergroup contact, empathy-building, and perspective taking that will require people from different communities, ages, and ethnic/racial backgrounds to effectively impart anti-prejudice, including anti-racist, values.



Goal 4:
Community
Care:
Social
Connectedness

Objective 1

Create open spaces that reflect the needs of young people.

Current Activities	A	Revitalizing teen centers collaboratively activated by Pacific Gateway and Parks, Recreation, and Marine.	
	B	Activating socially-distanced learning spaces in city-operated youth career centers.	
	C	Ensuring City libraries are safe and open spaces that create and foster the transfer of knowledge, and increase family bonding experiences; including branches with space dedicated to youth.	
	D	Activating community spaces through the Be Safe summer program for opportunity youth.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Stand strongly against prejudice by requiring all partnering groups, organizations, and service providers that work with youth to actively dismantle systemic racism, homophobia, and other forms of prejudice within their respective systems.	Immediate term
	2	Partner with academic and faith-based institutions to expand use of campuses as community hubs and resource centers.	Immediate term
	3	Provide equitable and inclusive access to quality recreational programs, including: 1) Increase park programming with greater access to equipment during after-school and weekend hours; 2) Create virtual drop-in spaces; 3) Activate parks as socially-distanced learning spaces.	Short term
	4	Commit to equity and anti-racism and provide staff and community-based partners training on equity, implicit bias, anti-racist, and trauma-informed practices.	Medium term
	5	Create joint-use agreements between the City and Long Beach Unified for access of school open spaces to increase park and recreational programming.	Medium term
	6	Eliminate late book fines for youth to encourage equitable use of libraries across the city.	Long term
	7	Identify structural funding opportunities to support youth centers.	Long term

Goal 4:
Community
Care:
Social
Connectedness

Objective 2

Create and sustain youth-led platforms that promote inclusive spaces and equity.

Current Activities	A	Providing virtual drop-in spaces that promote social connectivity and provide a platform for youth advocacy, friendship building, and talent showcase. Local efforts include virtual events and conferences hosted by the LGBTQ Center Long Beach, We Exist, California Families in Focus, MHA-LA Transition Age Youth Innovations2, WomenShelter Long Beach, and places of worship.	
	B	Building community organizing and advocacy efforts that elevate the youth voice in conversations for and about youth, including Khmer Girls in Action, Black Lives Matter - Long Beach, Californians for Justice, Long Beach Forward, Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, Ronnie's House, and others.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Create virtual platforms for ongoing youth dialogue on youth development issues including immigration, racial healing, and social/economic inclusivity.	Immediate term
	2	Collaboratively design and implement intergenerational services that support youth and their families, promote libraries and other community spaces as positive and supportive spaces that foster these activities; other spaces include Pacific Gateway's FutureLB, Good Seed's drop-in center, and community centers operated by the Salvation Army, the Boys & Girls Club of Long Beach, and YMCA Long Beach.	Medium term
	3	Engage youth in urban planning including park planning efforts.	Medium term



Goal 4:
Community
Care:
Social
Connectedness

Objective 3

Increase and sustain programming that promotes prosocial engagement for youth and emerging adults that are system impacted.

Current Activities	A	Offering employment-based youth diversion and intervention efforts at organizations such as Centro CHA, The RightWay Foundation, and Pacific Gateway that are specifically designed for youth in foster care or probation.
	B	Reducing the rate of detention or incarceration through strategy and policy change led by youth coalitions, such as the Khmer Girls in Action, that work with the County of Los Angeles.
	C	Funding the job training and tuition expenses of individuals and families negatively affected by gang injunction policies through LA City's Reconnections Career Academy which uses gang injunction curfew settlement monies.
Proposed Activities	Time Frame	
	1	Implement community engagement best practices that are youth-centered and placed-based to address and elevate community care priorities; consider best practices outlined in publications and literature such as Patrick Sharkey's Uneasy Peace, as well as placed-based initiatives such as the City's Violence Prevention Plan, and guaranteed income initiatives being collaboratively explored and proposed.



YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS HAVE INCLUSIVE SPACES THAT FOSTER A CARING ENVIRONMENT TO GROW AND DEVELOP

Prevention and Intervention

Community members and Youth Ambassadors expressed concern during the My Brother’s Keeper Long Beach town halls about youth sense of safety and the effects that current policing and public safety strategies (e.g. police department intervention and response in local schools) have on youth growth and development. Data presented by the Long Beach My Brother’s Keeper Local Action Plan showed the disproportionate effects policing has on youth of color, particularly Black youth who were found four times more likely to have been cited and arrested in the City as compared to other ethnic groups.

To ensure all youth and emerging adults in Long Beach have access to a caring environment, these data points and experiences captured from Long Beach youth prompted conversations around alternative intervention and violence prevention strategies that reduce youth interaction with law enforcement, including the Long Beach Police Department.

Existing efforts at Long Beach Unified have begun to promote positive alternatives to school discipline training school faculty and staff on the use of restorative justice approaches that reintegrate students into the classroom through mediated conversations. Restorative justice is an approach to justice focused on ‘repairing harm’ done to individuals and the community.

To build upon these efforts, a multidisciplinary response system that advocates for individual youth needs, responds to mental health crises and school-related incidents, invests in community resources and services, and integrates alternative ‘non-law enforcement’ intervention specialists (e.g. behavioral health specialists, counselors, therapists, substance abuse rehabilitation, etc.) will help cultivate community-centered approaches to youth safety. These community-based interventions will help minimize criminalization of youth behaviors and will, alternatively, help youth live in their communities with the adequate, trauma-informed support they need to thrive in their transition to adulthood.



Objective 1

Eliminate justice system touch points with youth.

Current Activities	A	Upholding decision to contractually remove Long Beach Police Department's School Resources Officers from Long Beach Unified School District campuses.
	B	Coordinating with LA County-led efforts on responding to youth misdemeanors
	C	Supporting and building the capacity of local youth-serving networks as LA County closes youth probation camps and implements community corrections reform efforts that reappropriate funds to community-led strategies.

Goal 4:
Community
Care:
Prevention and
Intervention

Objective 1

Eliminate justice system touch points with youth.

Current Activities	D	Collaborating with youth/community-led coalitions, such as the Californians for Justice, and working with the County of Los Angeles to reduce the rate of detention and incarceration through strategy and policy change.
	E	Collaborating with LA County Alternatives to Incarceration and the LA County Office of Youth Development and Diversion to pilot promising and emerging practices in youth development.
	F	Providing training opportunities that are designed to eliminate bias and racism, including efforts led by the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ), and the Obama Foundation.
	G	Supporting LA County Office of Youth Diversion and Development to divert youth misdemeanors to youth-serving agencies including existing partnerships between LBPD and CCEJ
	H	Supporting and providing parental accountability for student chronic absenteeism through the State's School Attendance Review Boards, and the Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office's Parent Accountability and Chronic Truancy (PACT) Program.
Proposed Activities	Time Frame	
	1	Design and implement a survey centered on youth-police relations to assess youth experiences; results will be used to inform community care and policing practices; Long Beach Police Department to facilitate this process.

Goal 4:
Community
Care:
Prevention and
Intervention

Objective 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.

Current Activities	A	Integrating community-based restorative justice practice into community policing practices.	
	B	Expanding gang intervention and diversion efforts that focus on early intervention and connecting justice-involved youth to life coaching and career/ trade pathways through city-county diversion efforts.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Complete the memorandum of understanding between the Los Angeles County Office of Youth Diversion and Development and LBPD.	Short term
	2	In collaboration with partner agencies, Identify grant and other funding opportunities to increase investment in youth services and programs.	Medium term
	3	Fund restorative opportunities for youth with low-level offenses.	Medium term
	4	Increase resources to sustain community gang intervention activities.	Medium term
5	Invest in new or existing non-law enforcement community-based reentry services such as housing, case management, job training, social enterprise opportunities, counseling, education, legal services, advocacy and leadership development; uplift efforts led by community-based organizations such as the Campfire USA, Centro CHA, Long Beach Bar Foundation, and Southern California Crossroads.	Long term	



YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS HAVE SAFE, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING OPTIONS.

Youth and emerging adults are not able to thrive, maintain a safe emotional wellbeing, and excel in school if they are worried about meeting basic human needs, such as finding and maintaining safe and affordable housing. In Long Beach, only one in 10 rental housing units were found to be affordable to low-wage workers in the Equitable Growth Profile of the City of Long Beach, while one-quarter of jobs in the city are low-wage jobs (PolicyLink, 2019). With escalating rent that outpaces wages for low-income households, maintaining stable and affordable housing becomes a burden for youth and their families, causing stress and uncertainty that inhibits youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency and limits their ability to live to their fullest potential (PolicyLink, 2019).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, job instability and loss of employment put many Long Beach families at risk of being unable to pay rent. As a result, there are significant social and economic implications for youth faced with housing barriers; effects that are likely to affect youth ability to complete their education and pay back student loans. To address these challenges, the City will work to increase access to transitional housing for youth exiting foster care, experiencing homelessness, or that are system-impacted; and create and increase affordable housing and housing legal protections to prevent housing displacement.



Goal 5: Housing

Objective 1

Increase access to transitional housing and services for youth exiting foster care, experiencing homelessness, and/or are system-impacted.

Current Activities	A	Providing housing vouchers to youth leaving the foster care system who are at risk of experiencing homelessness through the federal Foster Youth to Independence Initiative.	
	B	Providing housing vouchers to youth leaving the foster care system who are at risk of experiencing homelessness through the federal Foster Youth to Independence Initiative.	
	C	Providing legal assistance for undocumented foster youth through agencies such as Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.	
	D	Subsidizing housing and other living expenses for foster youth enrolled in school, and/or are working through LA County Department of Children and Family Services, and Probation, and Long Beach Housing Authority's transitional housing and independent living programs.	
	E	Supporting young adults aged 18-21 years to secure and maintain housing Through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Navigators Program (funds 'housing navigator' activities with priority to transition-age youth in foster care).	
	F	Providing youth in foster care co-located employment and housing opportunities through innovative workforce housing partnerships, such as LINC Housing's Palace.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Increase the number of transition-age youth housing opportunities.	Short term
	2	Explore land use and zoning policies that create affordable housing opportunities such as garage conversions and modular housing.	Medium term
	3	Implement emergency housing initiatives funded by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.	Medium term

Goal 5: Housing

Objective 2

Create and increase affordable housing and housing legal protections.

Current Activities	A	Supporting workforce housing partnerships through conversations and collaboration with housing development and workforce development partners. Existing efforts include projects led by LINC Housing, and Century Villages.	
	B	Coordinating with future Everyone Home transition age youth efforts to increase pathways for youth to access various services, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent housing and supportive services.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Explore and adopt displacement avoidance strategies and policies that prevent lower-income residents from being priced out of their homes and neighborhoods, strategies may include the development of an anti-displacement taskforce, adoption of tenant protections, rental assistance, affordable housing revenue sources, homeownership programs, fair housing, linkage fees, and equitable development efforts.	Short term
	2	Engage youth in city development and land use efforts, including community planning collaboratives like UPLAN (Uptown Planning Land Use and Neighborhood strategy) to increase youth knowledge of housing issues and set forth youth-informed recommendations.	Short term
3	Support affordable housing initiatives (e.g., homebuyer assistance programs, mixed-rate housing developments, inclusionary housing ordinances).	Medium term	





YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS HAVE SAFE, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS.

In recognizing the barriers to economic mobility for many young people, increasing accessibility and affordability of transportation can create opportunities for youth to connect to assets outside of their neighborhoods, and can support their agency and access to services that strengthen their personal growth and development. To ensure all youth and emerging adults have access to safe, affordable and accessible transportation options, Plan goals strive to create and sustain reduced and/or no-fare for youth policy, increase partnerships with rideshare services to create reduced-fare programs, support bikeability and walkability initiatives, and explore personal commuting options.

Long Beach Transit (LBT) ridership trends show that 35% of riders are students, many of whom rely on public transportation to commute to school as a result of school bus service elimination. Additionally, LBT travel pattern analyses have concluded that if transit services are not available, many of its customers are most likely to walk, get a ride, carpool, or not make the trip (Long Beach Transit, 2019).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LBT operates on a modified schedule and refrains from collecting fare as a means of continuing to provide accessible and reliable transportation to essential workers and others commuting from and around Long Beach (Long Beach Transit, 2020). However, outside of the social distancing era, K-12 Long Beach students are required to pay full-price fare of \$1.25 per ride or reduced fare (\$40 monthly TAP card) if qualifying low-income individuals complete an application with all required documents online or by mail, including copies of a full-face photo, official photo ID, and proof of enrollment (Long Beach, 2019). Conversely, Long Beach City College (LBCC) partners with Long Beach Transit for full-time, eligible students to receive a free “Strong Beach” bus pass that allows students to ride any LBT bus, anytime. LBCC students need to maintain “good academic standing” (e.g. a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher and 50% completion of all units attempted) and full-time status to receive their free bus pass (LBCC, 2020).

Exploring the possibility of a no-fare policy extension to all K-12 and college students would minimize barriers preventing students from attending school. In LAUSD, a neighboring school district to LBUSD, pilot programs for free student transit for all its students have reported improved student outcomes and reduced absenteeism and tardiness (Los Angeles Unified School District, 2020). With similar expanded access to transit options for students in Long Beach, the city will help many young people realize their full potential by maximizing access to safe and reliable transportation.

Goal 6:
Transportation

Objective 1
Create and sustain reduced and/or no-fare for youth policy.

Current Activities	A	Supporting the use of Long Beach Transit discounted bus pass for eligible students.	
	B	Increasing awareness of the Long Beach City College’s no-cost Strong Beach Bus Pass.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Collaborate with Metro, and Long Beach Transit to propose and pilot a reduced/ no-fare policy for all youth.	Medium term
	2	Increase public-private partnerships with rideshare applications and services to create reduced-fare programs for low-income youth and increase accessibility overall.	Medium term

Objective 2
Increase access to safe transportation.

Current Activities	A	Implementing safety measures in pedestrian, transit, and bicyclist priority areas as outlined in the City’s Safe Streets Long Beach: A Vision Zero Action Plan; existing infrastructure improvements include protected bike lanes, scramble crossing lanes, and new street layouts.	
	B	Engaging youth and emerging leaders in developing transportation and climate change responses and policies. Through partnerships with youth leadership programs and local schools across Long Beach.	
Proposed Activities	Time Frame		
	1	Implement personal commuting and pedestrian safety protocols outlined in Safe Streets Long Beach.	Medium term
	2	Enhance safety protocols including in-transit messaging, and online/app resources.	Medium term
	3	Support youth-informed bikeability and walkability initiatives and infrastructure improvement.	Medium term
	4	Support implementation of the City’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan by providing safe and accessible transportation alternatives to private car travel for youth.	Medium term

Goal 6: Transportation

Objective 2

Increase access to safe transportation.

Proposed Activities		Time Frame
	1 Build capacity to increase youth engagement in activities designed to address climate change through affordable, safe, carbon-free transportation.	Long term
	2 Encourage public transit routes to and near parks and youth centers to increase access to services and programs.	Long term
	3 Prioritize transportation projects and programs that have the greatest potential to include mitigation and adaptation actions while also addressing environmental justice, equity concerns, and opportunities to invest in youth and the green economy.	Long term



EARLY IMPLEMENTATION

The City of Long Beach's vision for youth development is achieved through a team approach of youth, parents, youth-serving agencies and government representatives, to address community priorities for youth services, spaces, and programs that strengthen the quality of life for all youth and emerging adults. With this approach, early phases of youth development efforts have focused on creating a foundation of practices, approaches, policies and multi-sector partnerships that will guide the Plan and enhance youth safety, skills and well-being.

To accomplish youth development goals, the City has implemented early action steps that drive the work forward and allow for timely and intentional implementation of the Plan. Among these early steps are the coordination of an Office of Youth Development, the advancement of the Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative, youth engagement in MBK Town Halls, and allocation of CARES Act funding to youth programming. These implementation efforts reflect the City's commitment to collaborate with youth and community leaders to create an environment that gives young people in Long Beach the opportunity to learn, work, thrive and connect, now and for future generations.

1. Implementation of an Office of Youth Development:

The FY21 City budget includes two full-time employee positions, a program manager and coordinator, to lead the Office of Youth Development and to lead a timely, thoughtful, and responsive implementation of the Plan. These roles will facilitate youth decision-making, strengthen youth and family engagement, and work to secure funding to sustain the youth development goals outlined in this Plan.

2. Establishment of the Long Beach Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative:

Following the killing of George Floyd, the Long Beach City Council engaged in an earnest conversation about racism as a public health crisis, the need to restore public trust in City government, and how to reconcile a gap in the experiences of impacted and vulnerable people with current City policies, especially the Black community. The City Council unanimously adopted the Framework for Reconciliation, which contains four key components to ending systemic racism:

1. Acknowledging the existence and long-standing impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach and the country;
2. Listening to accounts and experiences of racial injustice, inequity, or harm to community members; and
3. Convening stakeholders to analyze feedback from the listening sessions and racial disparity data to recommend initiatives that shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform;
4. Catalyzing action that includes immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council's consideration.

The Racial Equity & Reconciliation - Initial Report was presented to City Council in August 2020 and provides an overarching foundation of principles and best practices to support systems change. In particular, this foundation provides the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults an approach for which to produce equitable outcomes for all youth in all areas of their lives, including their health, education, economic stability, and community well-

being. With an alignment of goals and strategies, the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults and the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative will synergize to improve overall wellness and access to resources for communities most impacted by social and economic barriers.

3. Allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds:

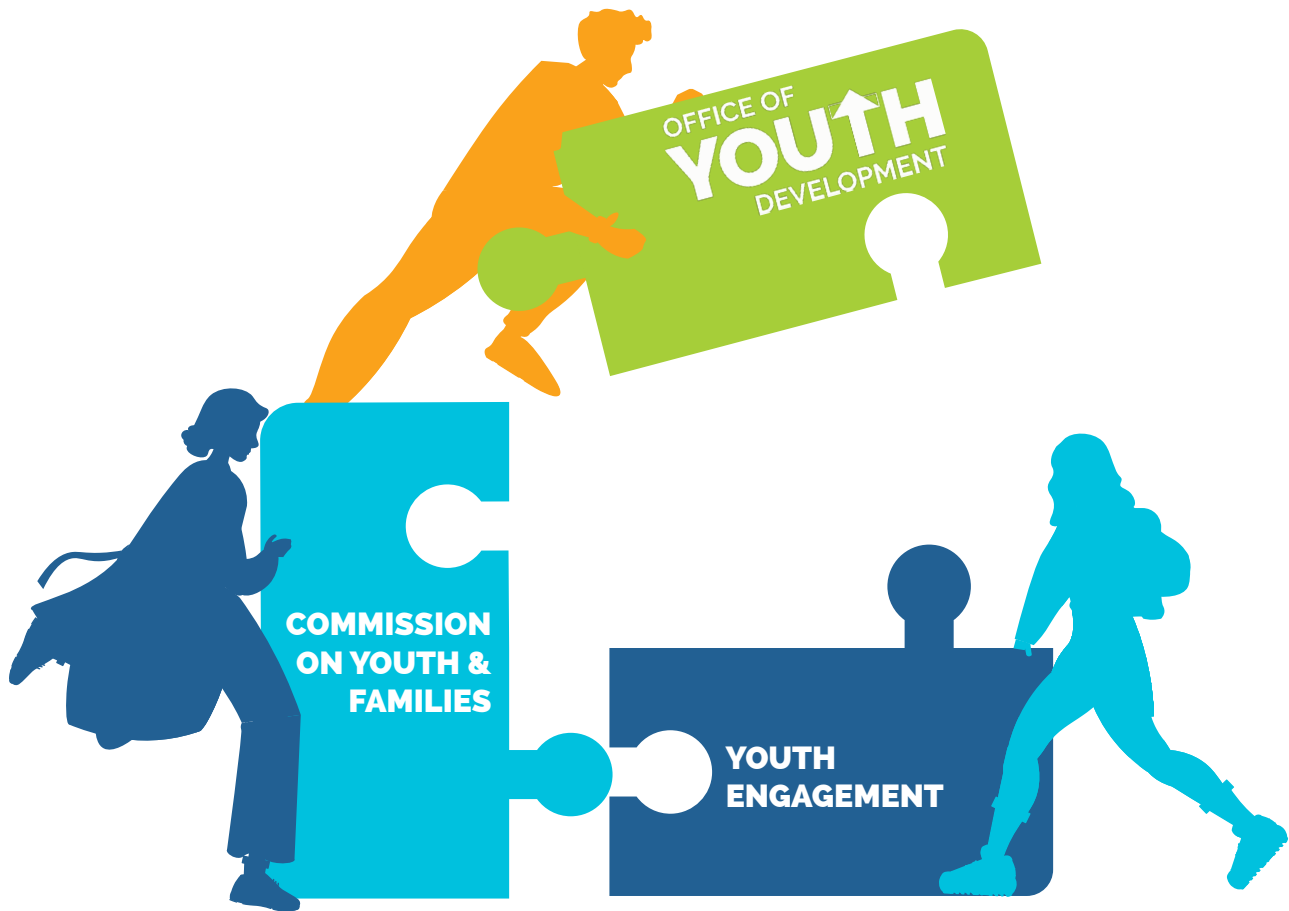
Long Beach City Council allocated \$170,000 of CARES Act emergency funding specific to youth leadership services, and additional CARES funding to be invested in nonprofit relief, Black Health Equity, and mental health services. To coordinate structural funding streams in support of youth development, CARES Act funding will be leveraged to support virtual activities for youth connectedness and to respond to the needs of youth and their families. This funding supported 10 local community-based organizations. Data collected by these organizations will inform the development of a city mentorship/ life coaching process.

4. MBK Network: The City of Long Beach is a member of the MBK national network. This network is composed of key cities that adopted the Obama Administration's My Brother's Keeper Challenge and commits to address the disproportionate impact of structural violence on boys and men of color. During the development of this Plan, three MBK town halls were held. This helped relaunch the city's MBK efforts, and staff are actively engaged with the national network to leverage its resources, talents and services to the betterment of Long Beach youth. As part of the early implementation of the Plan, a three-part series on youth development will be held. Additionally, City staff are working with Long Beach City College and Long Beach Unified to explore mentorship best practices with the intent of collaborating on a future citywide mentorship program.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT



Implementation of the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults, its goals and objectives and potential action plans will be led and managed by the 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 Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to utilize the extensive staff knowledge and expertise and leverage the established DHHS network of community partnerships and resources. The Office of Youth Development will be initially staffed by two full-time employees, and two Social Work and/or Public Policy interns.



COMMISSION ON YOUTH & FAMILIES

The nine members of the Commission on Youth & Families are seven adults and two youth. All adult members of the Commission possess experience working with or serving youth and families and have a wide range of expertise in areas that include health and social services, job training, education and youth development. The youth members are under the age of nineteen when appointed by the Mayor and have demonstrated leadership and a high level of engagement in community activism. The Commission's role is to advise the Mayor and City Council of the needs, concerns and problems of youth and families; make policy recommendations regarding the City's efforts to serve youth and families and promote coordination between the City, Long Beach Unified School District, and other county, state and national organizations, and community-based organizations.

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 this Plan to the Mayor and City Council. They will host annual youth forums and help amplify the voices of the Youth Ambassadors and city youth in general. They will quarterly assess implementation progress, receive updated assessments, review reports, and engage the city's youth and families to provide crucial feedback to the Office of Youth Development.

The commission is currently housed in the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department. City leadership will explore the future direction and role of this commission to maximize talents, skills, and resources to foster alignment with the Office of Youth Development.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The City will prioritize and elevate youth and their voices by fostering inclusive approaches that engage youth in decision making efforts and activities. City staff recognizes the importance of building upon the work of the Plan's Youth Ambassadors, and other youth-led groups across the City, including advisory boards and councils at the Long Beach Public Library, Pacific Gateway, Parks, and Development Services. The Office of Youth Development will work with youth in creating accountability systems that meaningfully integrate and require youth participation and feedback across a governance continuum that includes community level work, city departmental actions, and legislative and policy decisions. The Office will collaborate with existing networks and education partners to ensure a diverse youth perspective is elevated and moves the city forward.

While previous city-led efforts struggled with consistent youth engagement and participation, the coordinated efforts outlined in this Plan are now aided by advances in social media and online video communications technology that facilitate engagement and participation in civic activities.



LONG BEACH STRATEGIC PLAN FOR YOUTH AND EMERGING ADULTS / MY BROTHER'S KEEPER / LONG BEACH RACIAL EQUITY & RECONCILIATION INITIATIVE CROSSWALK

The Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults is designed to engage youth as active agents in the development, implementation and oversight of the City's youth development policies, programs and practices.

The City of Long Beach already has various initiatives and programs working to improve outcomes for all young people, each of which have their own set of protocols and stakeholders in place. Identifying the overlap in goals, objectives, and activities between this Plan and other initiatives is necessary to ensure coordination and integration of youth development efforts, and to overall increase community impact. The Plan aligns efforts with the Long Beach My Brother's Keeper Local Action Plan (MBK) and the Long Beach Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative to strengthen accountability and increase program effectiveness, so that all young people in Long Beach have the ability to learn, work, thrive and connect.

The table below maps out the intersections between this Plan and other key initiatives.

Long Beach Youth Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults Goal Area	Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults
Youth Development	Goal 1: Youth and emerging adults have a robust, sustainable, and coordinated response system within the City of Long Beach
Mental Health and Wellness	Goal 2: Youth and emerging adults have mental health and wellness services to support their overall well-being
Planning for the Future	Goal 3: Youth and emerging adults have career pathways to ensure economic stability and mobility
Community Care	Goal 4: Youth and emerging adults have inclusive spaces that foster a caring environment in which to grow and develop
Transportation	Goal 5: Youth and emerging adults have safe, affordable, and accessible housing options
Housing	Goal 6: Youth and emerging adults have safe, affordable, and accessible housing options

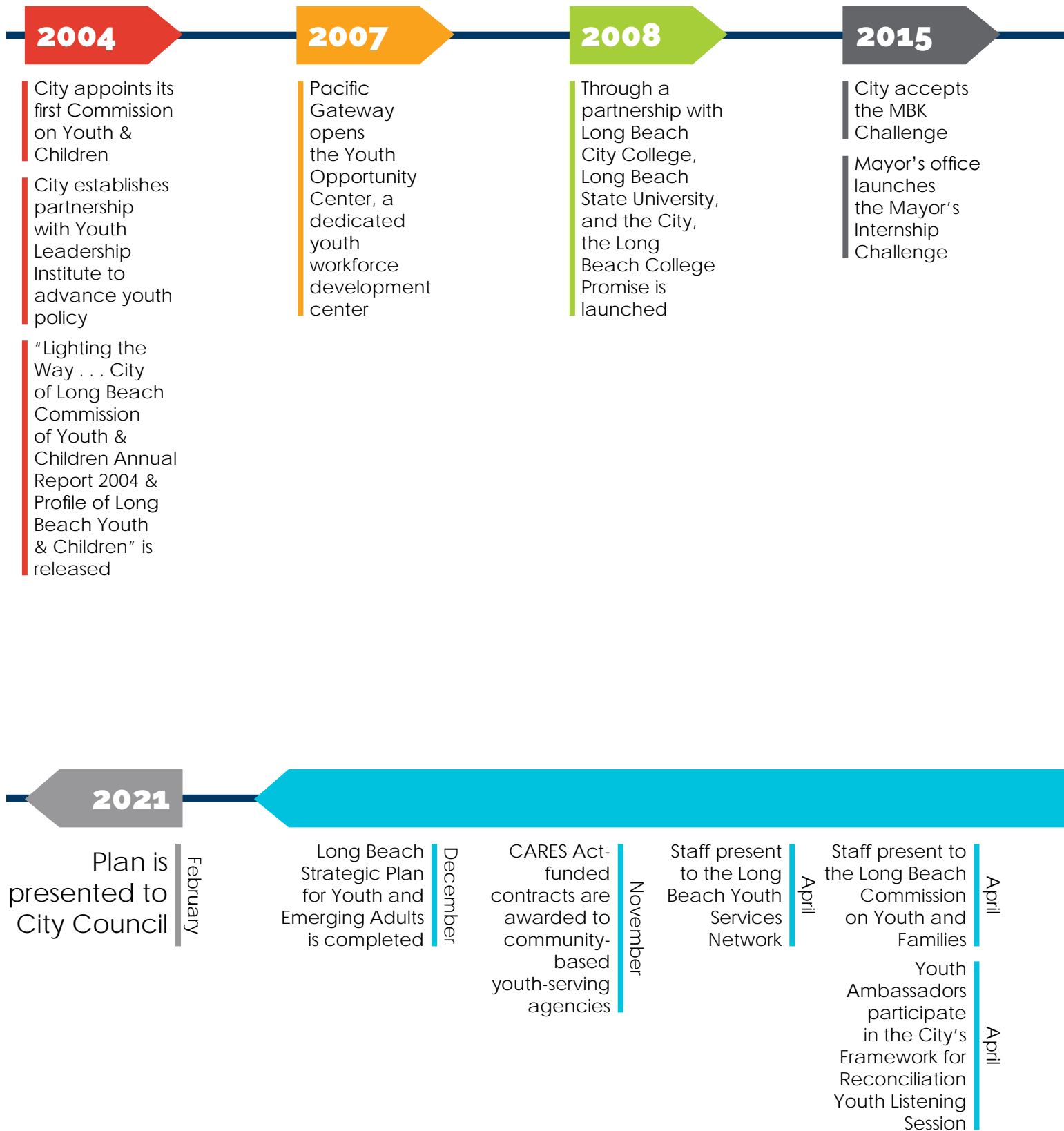




<p>My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Milestones</p>	<p>Long Beach Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative</p>
<p>MBK Local Action Plan</p>	<p>RER Goal 2: Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention</p>
<p>MBK Milestone 1: Enter school ready to learn: All children should have a healthy start and enter school ready – cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally</p> <p>MBK Milestone 6: Safe from violence and provided second chances</p>	<p>RER Goal 4: Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism (Strategy 1 - Advance Health Equity)</p>
<p>MBK Milestone 1: . Enter school ready to learn</p> <p>MBK Milestone 2: Read at grade level by third grade</p> <p>MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from high school ready for college and career</p> <p>MBK Milestone 4: Complete postsecondary education or training</p> <p>MBK Milestone 5: Successfully enter the workforce</p>	<p>RER 4: Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism (Strategy 2 - Advance Economic Equity)</p>
<p>MBK Milestone 6: Safe from violence and provided second chances</p>	<p>RER Goal 2: Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention</p>
	<p>RER Goal 1: End systemic racism in Long Beach, in all local government and partner agencies, through internal transformation (Strategy 3 - Overcome barriers to participation through language access, child watch, stipends, free or low-cost access to accessible meeting spaces, and transportation)</p>
	<p>RER Goal 4: Improve health and wellness in the city by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism (Strategy 3 - Advance safe, healthy, and affordable housing)</p>

APPENDICES / ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF YOUTH POLICY AND INITIATIVES IN THE CITY



2016

City adopts the MBK Action Plan

2017

Department of Health and Human Services launches a federal Department of Justice-funded All In campaign, that addresses chronic truancy at local schools and funded restorative justice activities

2018

Invest in Youth Campaign conducted
City's Commission on Youth & Families is relaunched
City's workforce bureau assumed coordination and convenor role in the Long Beach Youth Services Network
City hosts the MBK West Coast Leadership Summit
Invest in Youth Report released
Invest in Youth Report received and filed by City Council

2019

Building Healthy Communities - Long Beach and Khmer Girls in Action advocate for youth investment during budget sessions
Health and Human Services issues five MBK mini-grants to youth-serving organizations
City Council allocates funds to create the Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults
Team of Youth Ambassadors are recruited by the Health and Human Services Department through an application process

2020

COVID-19-specific youth focus group is conducted
My Brother's Keeper Long Beach's first virtual town hall is streamed and watched by over 6,000 viewers

April
April

Department of Health and Human Services staff lead key informant interviews with youth-serving stakeholders and every city council office

March

At-Large Community Forum is held at Long Beach City College

The Strategic Plan for Youth and Young Adults survey is designed in partnership with Youth Ambassadors and distributed through social media and other online-based efforts due to social distancing

March
March

Youth Ambassadors conduct four community-specific community forums and focus groups across the city

February

Youth Ambassadors are onboarded and receive training on data collection and analysis

January

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND METHODOLOGY

In preparing to implement a methodology for gathering and analyzing the data, a team of City staff, along with the Youth Ambassadors agreed that the process itself should model the kind of learning experience in which the development of youth should take place – Youth Ambassadors would develop the skills of focus group facilitation, data gathering and analysis that are common to developing strategic plans. The entire strategic planning process was developed with the Youth Ambassadors as active participants at each step along the way, as fully engaged members of the team.

The training sessions began with an introduction and orientation to the process of strategic planning that included developing the mission, vision, setting goals and developing measurable objectives. The team conducted three training and skills practice sessions on the use of focus groups as a data gathering method, and the facilitation skills necessary to gather information, manage group relations and note taking. The team conducted another set of orientation and practice sessions on quantitative and qualitative methods of data gathering and thematic analysis, so that the identifying themes that emerged would be the basis for the goal setting sessions in which the Youth Ambassadors would be involved. The final skills practice sessions dealt with the roles the Youth Ambassadors would play as a team, with adult ally support, to 1) open the focus group session, 2) introduce themselves and their colleagues, 3) set rules of conduct for the participants, 4) facilitate group discussion and 5) take notes which would be transcribed for analyzing themes during data analysis. At the end of each focus group session, the Youth Ambassadors were given time to analyze the pros and cons of the session and discuss what adjustments might need to be made.

The research approach was triangulated, that is to say three sources of data points were used in gathering and analyzing the data, and reaching conclusions to inform the strategic plan. The three main sources of data were:

- Secondary demographic data from the U.S. Census, health data from the City of Long Beach's Department of Health and Human Services, and equity data from ReThinking Greater Long Beach Atlas of Geographic Opportunity.
- Primary qualitative data from key informant interviews and focus groups across city departments, youth-serving agencies, and city council districts, respectively.
- Survey data from a 29-item questionnaire administered online to more than 700 respondents.

Additional data sources that supplement the plan-organized data sources were used, including the Long Beach Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative and youth reports from Red Hook, New York and Louisville, Kentucky to inform best practices for youth development.

Community Forums. To most effectively reach residents across the city, the team held community forums clustered into three council district regions with Council Districts 1, 2, & 6 meeting downtown at the Billie Jean King Main Library; Districts 3, 4 & 5 meeting at Whaley Park; and Districts 7, 8 & 9 meeting at Silverado Park.

The community forums included focus groups, and resource fairs to connect people to existing services. An additional focus group open to the entire community was held at Long Beach City College's Pacific Coast Campus.

During each forum, the respondents were divided into four groups (or grade levels, plus a group for parents and older adults): Ages 11-13 (6th – 8th grades); Ages 14-17 (9th – 12th grades), Ages 18–24 (Post High School); and Parents and Older Adults (25 & above). The focus group protocols are included in the Appendix for the reader to review. Each group was facilitated by a team of three Youth Ambassadors (a facilitator, a recorder and a notetaker), supported by a city or partner agency staff person who provided assistance when necessary, and also served as a second notetaker.

The respondents' answers to the focus group questions were recorded on flip-chart and individually recorded

by notetakers, transcribed by staff and shared with a data consultant for analysis and inclusion in the report. The secondary data were aggregated and summarized in the report. The focus group data were reviewed and collated into groups of responses according to topics or themes (Thematic Analysis) to determine and interpret the meaning of the response at the time it was given. The Team sorted through and analyzed the data into strategies, goals and objectives for presentation to the Youth Ambassadors and the Advisory Committee for further analysis and confirmation before including them in the final Plan.

Key Informant Interviews. Staff conducted a total of 71 informant interviews asking city councilmembers, youth-serving representatives, and other civic leaders to provide their perspectives on youth needs and assets, and the support they require to best serve youth people generally and especially amid the unique needs presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Survey. A total of 787 residents, including youth and parents, and other adult allies, completed a community survey that asked youth about their experience living and growing up in Long Beach, and assets and challenges faced by them. English, Spanish, and Khmer versions of the survey were made available for both youth and adults/ parents. The survey was released after the last community forum and solely released online as a result of social distancing guidelines. The survey was promoted extensively by the City, City Council offices, the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Khmer Girls in Action, the Long Beach Youth Services Network, and other partner agencies.

My Brother's Keeper Long Beach Town Halls. Over 15,000 residents streamed and participated in three town halls designed to explore the intersection of the social uprising on racial injustice and COVID-19, engage youth-serving stakeholders in a discussion on how to sustain change, and lead a conversation with system leaders on the Plan's goals, and desired collaboration with the new Office of Youth Development. Panelists included four youth representatives; partners from the Advancement Project, Khmer Girls in Action, Black Lives Matter's Long Beach chapter, Pacific Gateway, and Professional Community Intervention Training Institute; and lastly, system leaders across several city departments, and Long Beach Unified School District.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Below are short statements from several of the Youth Ambassadors along with their picture. Their bold statements represent their leadership and commitment to Long Beach.



Abraham Gudino-Manzo, Council District 6
Student, Long Beach City College

I want to help future generations become the best version of themselves and create a community of mutual trust.

I am grateful for God, my father, and mentors. They have all helped me with life problems, showed me what to look forward to and to never give up.



Alexa King, Council District 5
Student, California State University, Fullerton

I find myself to be passionate about a lot of things, however one of the causes I pay most mind to is homelessness in our community. It is truly devastating to see individuals living on the streets, without food or shelter, and even more upsetting knowing there are people living lavishly with more than they could want or need, just a few blocks away. I also spend a great deal of my time fighting for the dismantlement of systematic racism in our nation's government institutions and working to further the efforts of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I appreciate the extraordinary people in my life, especially my stepfather. My stepfather is an immigrant from Haiti, who came to live in New York City when he was a young boy after being raised alone by his grandmother. He has dealt with the cultural barriers of being an immigrant in American society, as well as being a Black man, facing discrimination and prejudice throughout his life. He lost his leg in a motorcycle accident in 2004, as well as shattered his pelvis, and he has experienced excruciating pain practically everyday since. Despite all of the struggles that he has endured, he continues to be a rock in the lives of my younger sister with special needs, and to my mother and I. He is the funniest, and most intelligent person I know. He is full of wisdom and he is kind to everyone he meets. I hope to one day be as strong and courageous as he is.

I hope to make a difference in this world, regardless of whether or not people remember me. I wish to accomplish as much as I can in my time on this earth, and make an impact on the lives of those around me. I hope that my legacy involves implementing changes in policy and ensuring justice for the marginalized groups in our country, as well as a form of lawmaking that will benefit Americans for years to come.



Alexis Chem, Council District 6
Student, Long Beach City College

Viewing the passion, dedication, and drive that my peers continuously demonstrate has motivated me to join them in working towards creating change. My efforts are also inspired by my older sister, Sabrina and her journey and what she went through in order to take care of me and my younger sister. I am committed to youth development and increasing access to mental health, and want to be remembered as one of the youth leaders in Long Beach that helped create a better community.



Alli Cain, Council District 3
Student, Long Beach Polytechnic High School

I had interned for Councilmember Suzie Price for three years prior to becoming involved in the Youth Strategic Plan and loved being able to help my community. Yet, I wanted to be able to make a bigger contribution to my city. So, when I heard about the opportunity to be a part of a team that would create long-term change for the youth of Long Beach and elevate causes I care about including, climate change, protecting the environment and its resources, LGBTQ+ rights, a woman’s right to choose, Black Lives Matter, access to/improved education, gender equality, and female empowerment.

I admire my mom. She truly embodies an independent woman. She has shown me that you can do it all, and has shaped my sisters and I to be the independent, and empowered women we are today.

Lastly, I want people to remember me as a positive person, who fought for what was right and helped make the people and community around her a better place.



Briana Mendez-Padilla, Council District 1
Student, California State University, Long Beach

I am a Youth ambassador because I want to ensure youth in the future feel as empowered as I am.

I’m passionate about education and equitable access to it as well as intersectional feminism and LGBTQIA+ issues. The person I most admire is Elizabeth, my mom. I’ve seen how strong she is and how she conquers any challenge life throws her way. She is my best friend and I’m the person I am today thanks to her. She inspires me to be confident and to never give up. Thanks to her, I know I can do anything.



Elayne Carbajal, Council District 6
Student, University of California, Santa Cruz

I was inspired to join the Youth Strategic Plan Youth Ambassador team because it finally presented me the opportunity to put all of the work I’ve been doing for years with the Youth Institute into action and possibly, legislation. As an ambassador, I have the opportunity to create change for my generation and generations to come.

I care about protecting the environment that we were blessed with and creating equal access for all to be able to experience the beauties of nature despite socioeconomic class.



Gabriel Sanders, Council District 3
Student, University of Wisconsin-Madison

I am attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison virtually from Long Beach, CA, where I have lived my entire life. I am majoring in History and intend to pursue a certificate in either political science or legal studies, which will prepare me for law school. I was honored to serve as a Youth Ambassador for this Strategic Plan, and I will keep the stories relayed to me in our focus groups close to my heart as I continue advocating for social justice, environmental sustainability, and health equity



Ian Christopher Espinosa, Council District 4
Student, Long Beach City College

During most of time in high school, I never felt seen or cared for. Things changed during my senior year when I got to Poly Academy of Achievers and Leaders (PAAL) and saw teachers and staff actually cared for their students and introduced me to mentors that inspired me to help others.

I care about Black Lives Matters, the local Invest in Youth campaign, and any movement involving the LGBTQIA2S+ community. I am inspired by my friends that have grown into remarkable people despite everything life has thrown at them. I’ll always look up to them for that.



Mac Harris, Council District 6
Student, Cerritos College

Mac Harris is a 21-year-old Long Beach-based community organizer, they are a Black, Queer, and gender non-conforming individual. Their pronouns are solely they/them. They started working within the community of Long Beach during their last year in high school back in 2017. They first started with the organization Genders & Sexualities Network, and then moved on to start working with Khmer Girls in Action. They are also a spoken word poet and have been writing for a total of 8 years and performing their own poetry for about seven years now. After being brought into the life of community work, they realized just how important the aspect of community really is, however more importantly how vital it is to finally get the voices of youth heard. Youth deserve to have access to the very table that determines their fate in this world.



Marissa Martinez, Council District 8
Civil Engineering Graduate - Class of 2020, University of California, Irvine

The environment in which I was raised in inspired me to pursue direct community involvement, particularly with an overlooked demographic: youth. Many of the social issues that affect young people and our communities can be addressed through compassionate and conscientious policy change that prioritizes safety, sustainability, and community resiliency.

I am inspired by women like Nina Simone, who used her influence in sociopolitical affairs. I want to be remembered for my sense of empathy, and assertiveness and determination in making the world a more equitable place. And to quote Ms. Simone, "I've got life, I've got my freedom... And I'm going to keep it".



Mina Matta, Council District 5
Student, University of California, Santa Barbara

Youth are rarely ever empowered to take leadership positions and when I heard that the City was assembling a team of ambassadors to represent the different districts in Long Beach, I knew I wanted to be a part of it.

Ever since I was little, I always admired powerful women like Malala Yousafzai, who I viewed as a beacon of light. I understood that in other parts of the world Middle Eastern girls like me were denied an education and I never wanted any opportunities that were presented to me to go to waste. Women such as Yousafzai have fought so hard just to give girls a chance to learn and discover what they can become. I want to be remembered as someone who sparked a change.

In addition to youth development, I am passionate about feminism, Black Lives Matter, climate change, education, and Best Buddies, an organization that creates inclusive spaces in schools and workforces for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



Noah Santiago, At-Large Representative
Community Organizer

I was born in Eastside Long Beach and currently reside in North Long Beach. I have always lived in this city and I've seen changes throughout my life. I started volunteering in social justice work because I wanted to see a change in my community. I wanted to use my anger and lived experiences to make change. I currently volunteer with the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ), the Invest in Youth Campaign. I am also part of the California Endowment's President's Youth Council. Throughout my journey in finding my voice, I was also gifted with mentors, elders, and peers that have impacted my healing process and my life. Youth voice should always be at the forefront of everything to lead.



Troye Peters, At-Large Representative
Artist

I'm Troye. I'm 21 and my pronouns are he/him/his and I've been involved with the development of the Youth Strategic Plan since I was 17. I got into the work by being in GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance Network) and learning about systematic injustices towards black and brown people. Since attending my first activist camp in 2017 my love for the work has continued to grow, the Plan has given me the opportunity to help and work in the community I've grown up in.



Janice Mendez, Council District 9
Student, Long Beach City College



Denise Valles, Council District 7



Daylin Joseph, Council District 7



Emmanuel Akinola, Council District 9



Kristi Aoki, Council District 8

STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT TEAM

Ana Lopez, City of Long Beach, Health and Human Services Department
Erica Valencia-Adachi, City of Long Beach, Health and Human Services Department
Harrison Huynh, City of Long Beach, Office of the City Manager
Joy Warren, City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department
Alex J. Norman, DSW, Professor Emeritus, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
Eli Romero, Listo
Jennefer Heng, Khmer Girls in Action
Valeria Gomez, University of Southern California, Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Adam Lara, City of Long Beach, Health and Human Services Department
Alma Castro, City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation, and Marine
Brent Dennis, City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation, and Marine
Cathy De Leon, Long Beach Public Library
Charlene Wynne, Port of Long Beach
Charline Minifield, Port of Long Beach
Christine Petit, Long Beach Forward
Daniel Solis, California Conference for Equality and Justice
Darick Simpson
Dawn Modkins, Black Lives Matter Long Beach
Dinesa Thomas, Habitat for Humanity LA
Duy Tran, LA County Public Health
Elisa Nicholas, M.D., The Children's Clinic
Elizabeth Norris-Walczak, LA County Public Health
Eric Beccera, Long Beach City College
Erick Serrato, Pacific Gateway
Ericka Estudillo
Erin Simon, Long Beach Unified School District
Gaby Hernandez, Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Gladys Kaiser, City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation, and Marine
Glenda Williams, Long Beach Public Library
Irene Quevedo, Operation Jump Start
Ivana Young, Long Beach BLAST
Jacky Guerrero, Advancement Project
James Marks, Professional Community Intervention Training Institute
Jennifer Schumer, M.D., The Children's Clinic
Jenny Serrano, LA County Department of Children & Family Services
Jessica Quintana, Centro CHA
Dr. Juan Benitez, California State University, Long Beach
Joel Gemino, The LGBTQ Center LB
John Hamilton, California State University, Long Beach
Kelly Colopy, City of Long Beach, Health and Human Services Department
Dr. Lance Robert, 100 Black Men
Les Peters, Long Beach YMCA
Lian Cheun, Khmer Girls in Action
Lieutenant Byron Blair, Long Beach Police Department
Lionel Gonzalez, Long Beach Unified School District
Maria Chandler, M.D., The Children's Clinic
Maral Karaccusian, Office of LA County Board Supervisor Janice Hahn
Megan Kerr, Long Beach Unified School District
Meredith Reynolds, City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation, and Marine
Nancy Lewis
Nevon Watson, Long Beach City College

Nicole Fields, Obama Foundation
Norma Rodriguez, Californians for Justice
Osie Wood, Success in Challenges
Patricia Costales, The Guidance Center Long Beach
Raul Vazquez, Long Beach BLAST
Ruby Marin-Jordan, Long Beach Police Department
Dr. Sara Zaidi, Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families
Seyron Foo, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation, and Marine
Teresa Chandler, City of Long Beach, City Manager's Office
Dr. Tiffany Brown, Long Beach Unified School District
Virginia Zart, Long Beach Police Department
Vivian Malauulu, Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families

PARTNER LIST

100 Black Men
Advancement Project
Alliance for Children's Rights
Black Lives Matter Long Beach
Boys & Girls Clubs of Long Beach
California Conference for Equality and Justice
Californians for Justice
Centro CHA
Earthlodge Center for Transformation
Extraordinary Families
The Guidance Center Long Beach
Goodwill
Khmer Girls in Action
LGBTQ Center Long Beach
Long Beach Bar Foundation
Long Beach BLAST
Long Beach City College
Long Beach Community Action Partnership
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Long Beach Unified School District
Long Beach Youth Services Network
Los Angeles County, Department of Children and Family Services
Mental Health America – Los Angeles
Operation Jump Start
Pacific Gateway
Pools of Hope
Power 4 Youth
Ronnie's House
The Salvation Army Long Beach
United Cambodian Community
YMCA of Greater Long Beach
Youth Leadership Institute

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kevin Lee, City of Long Beach, Office of the City Manager
Anabell Chavez, City of Long Beach, Office of the City Manager
Ceferino Martirez, Photo Credit

GLOSSARY

Agency Thinking: the level of intention, confidence, and the human ability to actually follow those different pathways to the desired future.

Anti-racism: is the active process of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.

Community care: development of caring communities by strengthening the dynamics between residents, places, and community institutions.

Emerging Adults: a person in their late teens or early twenties, in this Plan, 18-24.

Equity: when everyone can reach their highest level of health and potential for a successful life, regardless of their background and identity. Equity is when everyone has what they need to be successful, while equality is treating everyone the same. Equality seeks to promote fairness, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same help.

Evidence-based: Evidence-based programs and practices are specific techniques and intervention models that rigorous evaluations have found to have positive effects on outcomes.

Homophobia: fear of, hatred or discomfort with, or mistrust of people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Hope (in relation to Hope Theory): a cognitive process, made up of pathways thinking and agency thinking, through which individuals actively pursue goals.

Inclusivity: the practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those having physical or mental disabilities or belonging to other minority groups.

Intersectionality: the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Pathways thinking: the human ability to generate different pathways from the present to the desired future.

People of color: people who are not white.

Placed-based: an approach which emphasizes the characteristics and meaning of places as a fundamental starting point for planning and development

Positive Youth Development : engagement of youth along with their families, communities, and/or governments so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems.

Poverty: Poverty is the condition of living without enough income to cover basic needs.

Prevention and intervention: process of identifying and responding early to reduce risks or ameliorate the effect of less-than-optimal social and physical environments.

Restorative justice: Restorative justice is reactive, consisting of formal or informal responses to crime and other wrongdoing after it occurs.

System-impacted: a person who is legally, economically, or through family, affected in a negative way by incarceration or the incarceration of a close relative.

Trauma Informed: means shifting the focus from “What’s wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?” based on the knowledge that a person’s current behaviors are shaped by the impact of extreme or traumatic experiences of the past.

Trauma: The American Psychological Association defines trauma as an emotional response to a terrible event like an accident, rape or natural disaster. Longer term reactions include unpredictable emotions, flashbacks, strained relationships and even physical symptoms. Generational Trauma is the idea that serious incidents of trauma (such as slavery or the Holocaust) are inherited through the passage of genes for generations.

Two-generation: a focus on creating opportunities for—and addressing the needs of—both children and their parents, guardians, and/or family.

Youth-driven: Youth-driven programming is based on three concepts: that youth can speak up, that their voices and opinions are heard, and that their ideas or suggestions are acted upon. It is often used to develop more engaging, personalized, and effective programs or to develop leadership skills.

Youth: the period between childhood and adult age, usually ages 10-17.

Child Trends Glossary

Youth development is an expansive and growing field of research and practitioners. Academic fields in sociology, psychology, education, health, biology, public policy, grantmaking and the law are some of the various research and professional viewpoints on youth development. Given the diverse representation of the youth service providers, advocates and residents, we provide a glossary of terms created by Child Trends for your use. This resource is not a comprehensive list but rather provides some context for readers of this Plan to share a common knowledge base of frequently used terms of the Plan.

Please refer to Child Trends. (2020). Programs for Youth and Young Adults: Defining the Terms at: <https://www.childtrends.org/programs-for-youth-and-young-adults-science-informed-definitions>

REFERENCES

American Public Transportation Association (2019). Public transportation ridership report fourth quarter 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/2019-Q4-Ridership-APTA.pdf>

An equitable growth profile of Long Beach: summary (2019). PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE). Retrieved from https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/EP_Summary-Long_Beach_web_02-04-19.pdf

Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. (2018). Newest kids’ share report projects further decline in spending on children. CRFB. Retrieved from: <http://www.crfb.org/blogs/newest-kids-share-report-projects-further-decline-spending-children>

COVID-19 Could Lead to Permanent Loss in Learning and Trillions of Dollars in Lost Earnings (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/06/18/covid-19-could-lead-to-permanent-loss-in-learning-and-trillions-of-dollars-in-lost-earnings>

Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (2017). IPUMS USA - National Equity Atlas, University of Minnesota, from <https://www.ipums.org>

LBCC (2020) LBCC "Strong Beach" bus pass pilot program. Long Beach City College. Retrieve from https://www.lbcc.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/strong_beach_bus_pass_pilot_program_faqs.pdf?1598974293

Loades, M. E., Chatburn, E., Higson-Sweeney, N., Reynolds, S., Shafran, R., Brigden, A., Linney, C., McManus, M. N., Borwick, C., & Crawley, E. (2020). Rapid Systematic Review: The Impact of Social Isolation and Loneliness on the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in the Context of COVID-19. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 59(11), 1218–1239.e3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2020.05.009>

Long Beach Unified (2019). CA school dashboard. Retrieved from <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/1964725000000/2019/academic-performance#college-career>

Long Beach Office of Equity (2020). Long Beach equity infographic. Longbeach.gov. Retrieved from http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/health/healthy-living/office-of-equity/clb_infographic-v2

Long Beach Transit (2020). Long Beach Transit at-a-glance. Retrieved from <https://ridelbt.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/LBT-At-A-Glance-February-2020-1.pdf>

Long Beach Transit (2019). Title VI program June 1, 2020 - May 1, 2023. Retrieved from <https://ridelbt.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Title-VI-Report-2019-Draft.pdf>

Long Beach Transit (2018). Long Beach Transit annual agency profile. Retrieved from https://cms7.fta.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/transit_agency_profile_doc/2018/90023.pdf

Los Angeles Unified (2020). Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner urges free student transit passes for all students. Retrieved from <https://achieve.lausd.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3>

Marchettea, J.S., Middlebrook, D. (2013). The enviro-nomics of walkability and bikeability. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Retrieved from <https://www.trpa.org/the-enviro-nomics-of-walkability-and-bikeability/>

Programs for youth and young adults: science-informed definitions (n.d.). Child Trends. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/programs-for-youth-and-Young-adults-science-informed-definitions>

Regional Ridership Improvement Task Force (2018). Ridership growth action plan. Retrieved from http://media.metro.net/about_us/committees/images/report_tac_RGAP_FinalReport_2018-12.pdf

Snyder, C. R. (2000). *Handbook of hope: Theory, measures, and applications*. Academic press.

U.S. Census. (2018) Older people projected to outnumber children for first time in U.S. history. United States Census. Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/cb18-41-population-projections.html>

Youth.gov. (n.d.). Positive youth development. Retrieved December 19, 2020, from <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>





City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Visit us at www.longbeach.gov

   @LongBeachCity

To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Health and Human Services at 562.570.7177. A minimum of three (3) business days is requested to ensure availability. Reasonable attempts will be made to accommodate request made within less than three (3) business days.