

Date: May 2, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Update - Office of Youth Development**

This memorandum serves as an update on the Office of Youth Development (OYD) and implementation efforts of the Long Beach Youth & Emerging Adults Strategic Plan (YSP). The YSP was established in early 2021 as a result of community engagement efforts of the Invest in Youth Campaign. The vision of the YSP 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 YSP was designed by Long Beach youth, who shaped the goals and activities of the Plan through data and community feedback.

The OYD, located at the Department of Health and Human Services' Ronald R. Arias Health Equity Center in north Long Beach, was established to implement the YSP and ensure youth are included in every effort. Included in this memo are short updates on three key areas: 1) Staffing, 2) Measure US - Youth Fund, and 3) the development of a Youth Advisory Council.

**Staffing:** The City of Long Beach (City) approved staff positions through Measure US to coordinate the implementation of the YSP and develop a sound community investment strategy. David McGill-Soriano is the Youth Development Coordinator, and Sherlyn Beatty is the Youth Development Program Manager. David and Sherlyn bring a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and skills in implementing youth development programs and initiatives. Both staff members are vested Long Beach residents and have started to implement Long Beach Recovery Act efforts in the areas of mentoring, youth governance, a system for referrals for opportunity youth, youth empowerment, and more.

**Measure US – Youth Fund:** In November 2020, the residents of Long Beach passed Measure US. These funds support public health, climate change efforts, and youth development in Long Beach. In 2021, the community voiced an interest in establishing a Youth Fund with Measure US. This spring, the OYD will launch its first disbursements of Measure US - Youth Funds via two rounds of community grant opportunities: the Youth 100 Fund, and the Midsize Community Grants. The combined total amount of direct community investment grants will be in the amount of \$225,000 disbursed via a third-party vendor. The Youth 100 Fund will be a mini-grant project focusing on providing formal and informal groups with the opportunity to submit youth neighborhood engagement proposals and receive mini-grants ranging from \$500 - \$2,000. Examples of informal groups include student, parent, and neighborhood groups without non-profit status and formal groups or entities with non-profit status or a fiscal agent. These projects will focus on serving youth ages 8 – 24 who reside in communities most impacted by crime, COVID-19, poverty, and chronic health conditions. The applications for these projects will be available in May 2022, with projects being completed by October 2022.

Additionally, midsize non-profit community grant applications will also be available late May 2022. The midsize grants are for non-profit organizations undertaking work related to one of the six goals identified in the YSP.

**Youth Advisory Council:** One of the first action items under goal one of the YSP is to establish a Youth Advisory Council. Recently, the OYD held two youth design sessions to inform the development of a Youth Advisory Council and its application process. The Youth Advisory Council will be an 11-member body with one youth representing each council district and two at-large members representing areas disproportionately impacted by violence, poverty, and COVID-19. Youth Advisory Council members will serve one-year terms. A similar process was used to establish the Youth Ambassadors, which were youth who led the development of the YSP. The primary role of the Youth Advisory Council will be to advise and guide City staff and community partners in the implementation of the YSP and disbursement of the Measure US -Youth Fund. The [Youth Advisory Council Application](#) will be open until May 27, 2022.

The OYD looks forward to working with you as we continue to implement the YSP and ensure the safety and health of Long Beach Youth. For additional information, please contact Kelly Colopy at [Kelly.Colopy@longbeach.gov](mailto:Kelly.Colopy@longbeach.gov) or Sherlyn Beatty at [Sherlyn.Beatty@longbeach.gov](mailto:Sherlyn.Beatty@longbeach.gov)

Attachment: Youth Advisory Council Flyer

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

**APPLY TODAY!**

City of Long Beach, Office of Youth Development

# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



**YOUTH LEADERS AGES 16 TO 26!**

## BACKGROUND

The Youth Strategic Plan was designed by Long Beach youth who shared their perspectives and used data to find ways for the city to better serve young people. The Office of Youth Development was established to carry out the plan and create a Youth Advisory Council.

## STATEMENT OF POSSIBILITY

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

## REQUIREMENTS

- Be between the ages of 16 to 26
- Reside in Long beach
- Be available to meet at-least once a month
- Have a passion for issues affecting youth in Long beach

**APPLICATIONS DUE BY MAY 27**

[bit.ly/lbyouthcouncil](https://bit.ly/lbyouthcouncil)

**APPLY TODAY!**



FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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OFFICE OF  
**YOUTH**  
DEVELOPMENT