



Commission for Women and Girls: Community Survey Findings

August 28, 2024

Background

City Council directed the City Manager to create a plan for a Commission on Women and Girls.

Sept. 7, 2021

Jan.-Mar. 2022

Staff provided an update on plan to establish Commission. Received Capacity-Building Grant and one-time funding to support community engagement.

Office of Equity Hired Community Engagement Program Specialist and developed inclusive data collection tool.

Apr.-Aug. 2022

Sept.-Dec. 2022

Launched Comprehensive Community Survey to help inform the development of the Commission. **Survey closed Jan. 30, 2023.**

Mar. 7, 2023
Staff provided an update to City Council on efforts to establish the Commission, including preliminary Survey results.

Jan.-Mar. 2023

Staff present Community Survey findings to City Council. First reading of Ordinance to establish Commission.

Jul. 18, 2023

All references to 'women and girls' includes those who identify as female: cis and trans, and those who identify as gender-expansive: non-binary, non-conforming, and genderqueer.

About the Long Beach Women and Girls' Community Survey

In partnership with an Ad Hoc Community Advisory Team, staff created a Community Survey to help inform the development of the Commission. **The Survey treats the respondent as a subject-matter expert on the needs and aspirations of Long Beach women and girls.** Participants were asked to identify policies, programs, and resources that align with **six overarching quality of life indicators:**

- **Intersectionality** - The way our social identities overlap based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class, etc.
- **Economic Stability** - Having the resources necessary for a healthy life, such as affordable housing, living wages, worker protections, healthcare, and reliable transportation.
- **Health** - The complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being.
- **Family** - Intimate and domestic connections like marriage, living together, and other economic and social responsibilities.
- **Connectedness** - Social and resource connection, such as community, social networks, and access to support, feeling seen, heard, and valued.
- **Safety** - Efforts to reduce violence against women, including emotional, environmental, physical, sexual, mental, or other harm.

The Survey was open from Nov. 23, 2022-Jan. 30, 2023.

Long Beach Women and Girls' Community Survey

Outreach & Engagement

- **Addressing the Digital Divide:** The Survey was available online using the Qualtrics survey platform and in-person open Long Beach Public Libraries and King, Chavez, and Houghton Parks.
- **Meeting the Linguistic Needs of the Community:** The Survey was available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog.
- **Partnering with Community Organizations:** Equity Staff tabled various public events, corresponded with, and presented to over 20 women-led and serving organizational partners to encourage participation.
- **Incentivizing Participation:** Participants who completed the Survey received a \$20 gift card or electronic incentive.



Summary of Participation

Final Report evaluates 743 valid online survey submissions including 42 paper surveys.

- Participants represented all Zip Codes in Long Beach.
- Ages ranged from 12-75 years or older.
- Racial/ethnic identities of survey participants were Asian/Pacific Islander (11.1%), Black/African American (11.9%), Hispanic/Latinx (28.9%), and White (38.1%) though 2.1% of participants identified as Middle Eastern, Southwest Asian, or North African and 2.7% identified as Native American, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous
- 159 participants indicated living with a disability. Most indicated that they lived with a physical (31.4%) or mental disability (23.9%).
- Most participants indicated their gender expression as female (89.5%) compared to male (4.0%), non-binary or gender expansive (1.4%), transgender (2.4%), or two-spirit (0.4%).

Data Analysis

Dr. Amber Johnson and a research team from California State University, Long Beach analyzed the Survey responses, providing a **quantitative and qualitative review, which includes demographic indicators, participants' level of agreement with the quality of life statements** stratified by race/ethnicity and by zip code, and priorities identified by the participants.

- Quality of Life Indicators consisted of statements which participants had the opportunity to disagree (1), somewhat disagree (2), somewhat agree (3), and agree (4) with.
- Responses were averaged to determine how much participants agreed with each statement and were reported as mean scores (M) ranging from 1-4.
- Responses to open-ended questions for each quality of life indicator, were coded to identify six primary themes and four recommendations to guide the forthcoming Commission.

Long Beach Women and Girls' Community Survey Findings

Participants' responses to the open-ended questions aided identifying **six primary themes**:

- **Economic Support** - pay equity, career support, childcare support, and housing support
- **Safety** - domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, self-defense, and ensuring safe communities
- **Health Access and Equity** - mental health support, reproductive care, specialized clinics, free and/or affordable healthcare, more diverse and inclusive medical professionals, etc.
- **Support Under-Resourced Communities** - gender equity, language equity, race-related concerns, support for undocumented individuals, and support for youth.
- **Support and Develop Programming** - supporting existing programs and developing additional programs geared toward women and girls
- **Educational Support** - mental health education, sex education STEM education, financial literacy, and career education



Long Beach Women and Girls' Community Survey Findings

Recommendation 1: Employ multi-level strategies that facilitate individual, community, and structural changes that promote economic equity for women and girls in Long Beach.

Recommendation 2: Develop Comprehensive gender-responsive policies and practices that promote the safety of women and girls in both public and private spaces in Long Beach.

Recommendation 3: Promote equitable access to inclusive healthcare services, health education, and support to improve the quality of life for women and girls in Long Beach.

Recommendation 4: Expand and create opportunities to promote gender equity in education for women and girls in Long Beach.





Thank you

Alanah T. Grant
Equity Officer
City Manager's Office, Office of Equity
Alanah.Grant@longbeach.gov