

Date: January 23, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Daryl Supernaw, Councilmember, Fourth District

Subject: Feasibility of Establishing an Educational Corridor at the Long Beach Airport (LGB)

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to request the City Manager work with all necessary stakeholders to provide a report back to the City Council within 90 days on the feasibility of establishing an educational corridor at the Long Beach Airport (LGB) which would highlight the rich aviation milestones that have been accomplished over the past century. This corridor should include a component that pays homage to individuals who have contributed to this centennial and could include but is not limited to the people listed in the document titled: Long Beach Airport and Southern California: A Brief New Aviation and Aeronautics History (1900s-1980s)¹. The corridor should continue the timeline from the 1980s to present day in recognizing more recent contributors to the airport's history.

DISCUSSION

On November 26, 2023, the Long Beach Airport (LGB) marked its 100th anniversary. LGB is the oldest municipal airport in California and the city has worked to highlight the airport's milestones by hosting several educational events and campaigns such as Festival of Flight, a public art installation, a vintage poster series, an open house, and more. For years, LGB has been a proud community partner and sponsor of various non-profit organizations and events.

In early November, a four-part short film series titled "Flying Through History: 100 Years at Long Beach Airport²" was released and it depicted different aspects of the Airport's history. On December 13, 2023, a 236-page comprehensive report of LGB was released. It provided an overview of the airport's history and focused on stories of diversity in the field of aviation. The report was commissioned through the Historical Society of Long Beach and was written by award-winning author and historian Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson and documentary filmmaker Dr.

¹ <https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lgb/about-us/100th/long-beach-airport-and-southern-california-a-brief-new-aviation-and-aeronautics-history--1900s-1980s->

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNMTq3-RHnY&list=PLbzCWns_YZxNukTt7ykbzQarRqWMoS-n2

Philip S. Hart. On pages 208-215³, a timeline noting history-making individuals is published.

In an effort to promote, continue the research, and educate the public on Long Beach's rich historical aviation accomplishments, this request is seeking the feasibility of implementing an educational corridor or hall of fame-like exhibition at LGB. It is recommended the concept include photography, artifacts, and honorable mentions of the individuals who participated in bringing LGB to its current renowned status. The inclusion of the histories of women and Black, Latin, Asian, Indigenous, and other persons of color is highly recommended.

The report to the Council should include estimated costs, identification of potential funding sources, and/or a public-private partnership fundraising model that could be used to implement such a project.

FISCAL IMPACT

This recommendation is requesting the City Manager to work with relevant departments on feasibility of establishing an educational corridor at LGB highlighting the rich aviation milestones that have been accomplished over the past century. The requested action is anticipated to have a moderate impact on staff hours beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is expected to have moderate impact on existing City Council priorities, as this effort may impact or delay other current projects and initiatives managed by the impacted stakeholders. The cost for this effort and funding sources are currently unknown. Funding will need to be identified for planning, design, and potential construction, project management, delivery, and other associated costs. When project costs have been finalized, staff may return to the City Council for funding identification or appropriation approval. The Fourth Council District Office is willing to provide \$5,000 in initial funding to assist in initiation of the feasibility study/assessment.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daryl Supernaw".

Daryl Supernaw, Councilmember, Fourth District

³ See Attachment A