

Date: August 23, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *lt*

From: Jennifer Kumiyama, Citywide Accessibility Coordinator /s/

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Considerations for Library Services

On Thursday, August 11, 2022 the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD) approved a letter of recommendation asking the Fiscal Year 2023 budget take into consideration any additional funding that is needed to address basic access and inclusion throughout library services. This recommendation is based on the 2021 Library Services Performance Audit.

If you would like any further information regarding this communication, please contact Jennifer Kumiyama, Citywide Accessibility Coordinator, at (562) 570-6257 or jennifer.kumiyama@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHEMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
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KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

Kim Vuong, Chair
Stephen Adams, Vice Chair
Dr. Nicholas Matthews, Secretary



Nubia Flores, Commissioner
Marissa Gonzalez, Commissioner
Jeremy Hill, Commissioner
Dr. Gretchen Swanson, Commissioner

August 11, 2022

Mayor and Councilmembers
Tom Modica, City Manager
411 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: FY23 Budget Considerations based on findings released from the 2021 Library Services Performance Audit

In February 2021, the Long Beach City Auditor released [Library Services Performance Audit: The Library Needs to Improve its Services to Equitably Meet Diverse Community Needs](#). When the City undertakes an audit and publishes a report, it is important to review the findings and implement the recommendations. Consequently, the Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities received a presentation from Library staff on July 14, 2022. The crux of this presentation was to assess changes implemented by Library Services since the 2021 audit report was released.

As a signatory to the Global Compact on Inclusive and Accessible Cities (Cities for All), Long Beach has affirmed its support for the principles of accessibility and inclusion. The importance of these principles for our City's twelve libraries cannot be understated. Our libraries are a critical resource for Long Beach's significant population of persons with disabilities, approximately 50,000, many of whom are low or very low income. Importantly, our libraries provide an enduring connection to lifelong learning, personal and professional development, and the world at large.

However, findings and recommendations in the audit related to persons with disabilities have not yet been adequately addressed. For example, adaptive technology—a necessity for access—in many cases continues to be out of date. While the Center for Adaptive Technology and the Library Studios provide more robust support for persons with disabilities, they are available at only two library branches. These spaces are also open only a few days per week—and only a few hours at time—due to understaffing. Additionally, with respect to language access, Library staff have still not received training in ASL or adaptive communication methods. The Library unmistakably requires additional resources to provide accessible, inclusive services.

We recommend that during this FY23 budget season, you and your Budget Management Bureau meet with Library staff to determine what additional funding is needed to address basic access and inclusion within the Long Beach Library system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Citizen's Advisory Commission on Disabilities

Cc: Cathy De Leon, Director, Library Services