



Date: August 15, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Meredith Reynolds, Deputy City Manager 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **ClimateLB Awarded Projects**

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On June 20, 2024, the City of Long Beach launched the ClimateLB Youth Climate Action Fund Microgrant Program (ClimateLB) to support youth ages 15-24 in designing, producing and overseeing urgent climate solutions that further the City's climate action goals. ClimateLB is intended to support the City's 10-year community investment plan, the West Side Promise, and align with the goals of the [Long Beach Climate Action Plan \(LB CAP\)](#), [Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults](#) and [Racial Equity and Reconciliation Plan](#). The City received a \$50,000 grant for ClimateLB, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University.

### **Program Timeline**

On June 20, 2024, the City announced the upcoming ClimateLB grant opportunity through a [press release](#), and on June 28, 2024, a second [press release](#) announced that the application period was open. Additionally, information was posted on social media, provided on the program [webpage](#), and emailed to organizations that are climate and sustainability focused, youth-led or youth-serving, and/or that promote equity and environmental justice. Flyers were distributed to libraries and teen centers. A presentation on the ClimateLB grant opportunity was also provided to the Youth Advisory Council on June 12, 2024. Multilingual technical assistance for the applications was provided by the City's [BizCare Team](#). The [Office of Climate Action & Sustainability](#) also held office hours to answer questions about the grant program and potential applications. The application period ran from Friday, June 28, 2024, to Friday, July 12, 2024. Funds will be administered to grant awardees by September 30, 2024, and projects must be completed by December 31, 2024.

### **Application Review**

Fifteen applications were submitted, and twelve of those applications met the qualifications. The qualified applications were first reviewed by a panel of California Climate Action Corps fellows who are placed with the City of Long Beach, followed by a selection committee of City staff led by the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability. Eight projects were selected to be awarded a \$5,000 grant (Attachment).

The allowed project types are:

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1. Youth-Led Reforestation and Tree-Planting Projects: Projects that mobilize youth volunteers to plant trees, improve urban green spaces, and increase urban canopy coverage for better air quality and climate resilience.
2. Youth-Led Climate Education Efforts: Educational initiatives led by youth that target local schools and communities to increase awareness and understanding of climate issues.
3. Youth Climate Ambassadors Programs: Programs that engage youth to provide information on local climate and environmental resources to local businesses, nonprofits, and residents.
4. Youth-Designed Public Art and Awareness Campaigns: Partnerships with youth artists to create public art installations and awareness campaigns that convey the urgency of climate action and the City's climate goals.

Projects selection criteria included:

- Alignment with the goals and parameters of the project types
- Youth-led project
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation in West Long Beach
- Environmental justice and equity
- Youth and the green economy
- Climate change and furthering LB CAP goals
- Supporting Long Beach youth community
- Project feasibility, performance metrics, timeline, and budget

For more information, please contact Fern Nueno, Climate Manager, at [Fern.Nueno@longbeach.gov](mailto:Fern.Nueno@longbeach.gov) or 562-570-7615.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY  
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MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

## ClimateLB Award Recipients

Organization	Project Name	Project Summary
<b>Associated Mothers in Action</b>	<i>Climate Change and Environmental Art</i>	An art contest and event to promote awareness of environmental conservation and climate change for youth ages 15-18, 19-21, and 22-24.
<b>California Youth Empowerment Services (CaYES)</b>	<i>Sky Guardians: Youth Climate Patrol</i>	Development and implementation of a two-day weekend “camp” to teach youth how to use drones and develop innovative projects to address climate issues.
<b>Earthlodge Center for Transformation</b>	<i>We Fight with our Forest</i>	An invitation for our community members ages 15-24 to participate in gardening, composting, permaculture, and other work on the land to provide environmental balance and create safe and sacred community space for the community and the local flora and fauna.
<b>H.E.L.P. of Long Beach</b>	<i>Helping Environmentally Low-Income Properties</i>	McBride High School students will find heat island areas, outreach to the community, provide information on resources available for xeriscaping yards, educate on climate issues, and offer volunteer assistance in order to effect positive change one house at a time, one neighborhood at a time.
<b>Long Beach Bar Foundation and Shortstop Youth Projects</b>	<i>Youth Climate Education</i>	An innovative initiative designed to educate and empower youth who will conduct interactive presentations at local schools on climate issues.

## ATTACHMENT A

Organization	Project Name	Project Summary
<b>Long Beach Polytechnic High School</b>	<i>Festival of Gardening and Butterflies Plants</i>	A Garden Club project to teach students how to plant seeds, start seedlings, and create terrariums, with the plants being given out at a future Festival of Gardening and Butterflies event.
<b>The Jewel Box Children's Theater</b>	<i>West Long Beach Trashion</i>	A project where youth will collect and use trash to create art projects that will be unveiled at a Trashion Show (fashion show) with an educational twist.
<b>Youth Leadership Institute</b>	<i>Voicewaves: Climate Edition</i>	The project includes a community presentation and facilitated meetings that will educate youth on media production and climate issues, and the creation and distribution of a climate-focused journalism piece or zine.