



**Immediate Press Release:**  
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## **ATLANTIC CORRIDOR COMMUNITY GRANTS ANNOUNCED**

Eight North Atlantic community groups will receive a total of \$80,000 in funding and technical grant management assistance to build a stronger North Atlantic community.

**The Long Beach Community Foundation's** \$80,000 in funding for the **Leadership Long Beach** (LLB) Atlantic Corridor Phase One Project popularly referred to as the **Connected Corridor** ([www.connectedcorridor.org](http://www.connectedcorridor.org)) marks the inauguration for funding of community-based grants to strengthen the LLB Atlantic Corridor. This project is made possible by the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**.

Jim Worsham, President and CEO of the Long Beach Community Foundation, said: "We have been very pleased with the way Leadership Long Beach has been managing the Connected Corridor project. The project's goal is to create connectivity and empower stakeholders to participate in the development of the Atlantic Avenue corridor, and Leadership Long Beach has been instrumental in bringing many diverse groups to the table. The approved grants represent the significance and spirit of the Knight Foundation's *Transformation Initiative* for Long Beach."

Grant recipients include Architecture Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy, Fairfield Family YMCA, Smolarcorp, Hamilton Middle School Service Learning and Leadership Academy, Community Action Partnership, NLB Collaborative, Project Oasis and Kingdom Causes.

"In addition to funding, grantees will have access to technical assistance from the **Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership**, which will assist with building their organization's capacity, monitoring project progress and addressing unique project needs in a timely manner. Therefore this enhanced resource will support sustainability for each project," said Project Director Carina Cristiano Leoni.

### **Grant Recipients and Programs:**

**Architecture Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy** will be a two part grant. They will build much-needed concrete benches for Jordan High School which will create areas for students to have lunch and sit during break time. This will be a student driven project with the leadership of ACE teacher Mike Zeke. The second component to this grant is a partnership with Long Beach Houghton Park's Senior Center. With Zeke's lead, the students will offer minor home maintenance and repairs at no cost to seniors participating in the senior program at Houghton Park. The project will help students meet their service learning hours while making a meaningful community contribution. This intergenerational project is seen as a win-win.



**Fairfield Family YMCA** created a “lunch bunch” group for students at Hamilton Middle School. The youth mentoring group was established because of an identified need during a Connected Corridor Round Table Discussion Night. YMCA’s program will enable students to become active and informed citizens while building positive self esteem traits through participation. In addition, this is seen as a possible pilot program for other local middle schools within the LBUSD system.

**Smolarcorp** will create and publish an anthology of 100 creative works by local artists in North Long Beach. An engaging project that will build community through the creative process of compiling this publication, all proceeds will benefit the Fairfield Family YMCA and Connected Corridor Project.

**Hamilton Middle School Service Learning and Leadership Academy** will develop an engaging program for parents and students at Hamilton Middle School. This Academy will be focusing on character education, business community partnerships, service learning opportunities, bilingual education, and leadership skills. This Academy will work through the philosophies of Stephen Covey’s, “Successful Habits for Youth” by promoting life-long learning characteristics for scholarliness. This grant is also seen as a possible pilot for other schools in the local area.

**Community Action Partnership** will create another successful L.A.M.P. (Leadership Academy Mentoring Program) in North Long Beach. Modeled after their downtown project, it enables students to become valued family and community members. It is an interactive program teaching cultural proficiency, healthy lifestyles, educational scholarliness, and workforce development. The grant will enable this program to expand its outreach from downtown to *top of the town*.

**NLB Collaborative** will create a web-based information resource site. Long time residents of NLB will collaborate to produce informative news about the area, provide a calendar of events, as well as link to important resources in the city. This group has successfully written the North PAC Review and feels this is their next step in community communication. They say the *Connected Corridor* has inspired them to pursue this direction.

**Project Oasis** will expand their First Fridays’ concept to NLB. This group will develop art shows and art outreach activities to the local community. In addition, they will mentor area youth on how to display and promote themselves as artists, an important element when pursuing a career in the arts. They will provide a youth mentor program to aspiring students at Jordan High School and surrounding schools.

**Kingdom Causes** will foster a network for interns of community and faith-based groups. This will build collaboration among spiritual leaders for the area through their youth mentor program. This network will encourage multiple spiritual centers to work together for the common good of one community. The core values for this project are to inspire, connect and mobilize the interns to work together for the greater good of the community.

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