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*A Long Beach Community Foundation initiative  
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## **Partnership Kicks Off First News Series October 24th**

*One of the first of its kind, four competing news agencies will join for collaborative project*

Oct. 23, 2017, LONG BEACH — Four Long Beach news agencies — the Press-Telegram, Long Beach Post, Grunion Gazette and Long Beach Business Journal — have launched the Long Beach Media Collaborative (LBMCMC), aimed at in-depth, multi-platform journalism endeavors.

LBMCMC's first series, Strengthening the Series, will launch Tuesday, Oct. 24. The project, which will add new content for the next several weeks, looks at why nearly 16% of Long Beach residents still do not have access to the internet, how this shortage affects local families, and what might be done to bridge the digital divide.

The Long Beach Community Foundation, with grant funding from the Knight Foundation, chaired the initial efforts, inviting the agencies to work together and pool resources on a journalism project that could make a difference in the community.

"An informed community is an engaged community," said Marcelle Epley, President and CEO of the Long Beach Community Foundation. "With news agencies working together, reporting on important issues, we hope the results will ultimately inspire residents to be part of the solution."

Stories will appear in print and online across all platforms, as well as on LBMCMC's own website, longbeachmc.org, where readers are invited to provide feedback and ideas on current stories and ideas for future content.

For more information, contact LBMCMC Project Manager Wendy Thomas Russell at [wendythomasrussell@gmail.com](mailto:wendythomasrussell@gmail.com) or (562) 746-1851, or Marcelle Epley at [marcelle@longbeachcf.org](mailto:marcelle@longbeachcf.org) or (562) 435-9033.

### **About Long Beach Community Foundation:**

*The Long Beach Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public organization with more than \$32 million in assets and 145 charitable funds. It was established in 1996 to make strategic grants to nonprofits, and assist individual donors with their philanthropic goals today and through planned giving. Fees charged to manage funds at the Foundation are invested directly back into the community in the form of discretionary grants. LBCF's mission is to initiate positive change for Long Beach through charitable giving, stewardship, and strategic grant making with a vision of being the preeminent steward of endowments serving the needs of Long Beach in perpetuity.*

*LBCF operations are led by President & CEO Marcelle Epley and oversight is provided by Board Chair Gary DeLong, Vice Chair Robert Stemler, and Board members Blake Christian, Michele Dobson, Bob Foster, Tony Gales, Mark Guillen, Randal Hernandez, Donita Joseph, Annette Kashiwabara, Steve Keesal, Frank Newell, Judy Ross and Judy Vander Lans.*

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