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**Long Beach Mural Project Unites Four Organizations to Improve Central
Long Beach Preschool and Employ People with Social, Physical and/or
Mental Challenges**

The Community is Invited to Volunteer for LBCF's National Philanthropy Day Project

Long Beach, CA – The Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) has selected two organizations, EDUCATE: Advancing Early Childhood Education & Literacy and the Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool, located at 1480 Long Beach Blvd, Long Beach for their 2020 National Philanthropy Day project grant. On November 14th and 15th Long Beach residents, community volunteers, and Long Beach Community Foundation stakeholders will come together to transform the street-facing wall of this preschool into a vibrant work of art. Volunteers will create a paint-by-number style mural depicting images of children with diverse backgrounds and abilities on the side of the building to reflect the diversity of both the school and the city of Long Beach.

“Like others, the Long Beach Community Foundation had to make some adjustments this year to carry out certain projects. Our annual tradition of sponsoring a visible community improvement in our city will be accomplished this year through strategic partnerships, creative solutions, and determination to continue to make our city even better,” said LBCF Chairman, Gary DeLong.

LBCF will work with Muralism, a nonprofit that is committed to beautifying cities, while providing work experience to artists with special needs. Murals are jointly designed by an artist from Muralism and the beneficiary to accomplish their goals.

“We love community improvement projects, but our ultimate goal is to employ people with social, physical and/or mental challenges as artists and to help them build good

work habits, social skills, and confidence,” said Muralism Executive Director Ernie Merlán. “We also have a current goal to paint 100 murals before the 2028 Olympics. This mural is number 16 for us.”

This mural will also involve the preschool families who will play an active role in beautifying their building and the community through the project. Special coronavirus considerations are being implemented to provide for participants’ safety including gloves, social distancing during the mural painting, and staggered painting shifts to minimize close volunteer contact. Following the volunteer efforts, the Muralism team will return to do additional clean up and professional finishing touches on the painting to further bring it to life.

“Despite some unavoidable delays related to the pandemic, we are so happy to move forward on the building mural,” said Elisa Coburn, Executive Director of Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool. “The open call for project applicants from the community foundation seemed like a great fit for our needs and we couldn’t have been more pleased to be chosen as a recipient of such an amazing opportunity.”

National Philanthropy Day is a national initiative that honors charitable work across the country and is celebrated in a variety of ways. To honor this philanthropic event, LBCF annually chooses a local nonprofit organization to support with a one-day transformative renovation. LBCF’s National Philanthropy Day allows the community foundation to “roll up its sleeves” and make a meaningful impact alongside a Long Beach nonprofit. This is the sixth annual National Philanthropy Day project LBCF has funded and implemented in Long Beach. Other nonprofits who have been the past beneficiary of these efforts include Young Horizons, Boys and Girls Clubs of Long Beach, Precious Lamb Preschool, the Long Beach Rescue Mission’s Lydia House for Women and Children, and Mental Health America of Los Angeles.

“These one-day National Philanthropy Day transformations never lose their magic,” said LBCF President & CEO Marcelle Epley. “It is thrilling to watch the physical transformation before your eyes and think about the impact it is going to have on the community and generations to come.”

LBCF invites volunteers and donations to support its efforts on November 14 and 15, 2020. To volunteer at the event, please email info@longbeachcf.org. To donate to future National Philanthropy Day projects, visit <https://longbeachcf.org/donate/national-philanthropy-day/>.

About the Long Beach Community Foundation

The Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public organization. Locally, a team of four individuals manage 177 charitable funds totaling over \$56 million, which are pooled with \$3 billion in charitable funds through a 60-member team in Greater Kansas City. LBCF 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. *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 Michele Dobson, Bob Foster, Tony Gales, Mark Guillen, Donita Joseph, Annette Kashiwabara, Steve Keesal, Frank Newell, Kevin Peterson, Judy Ross and Suzanne Nosworthy.

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