



# Vantage

## Who are Today's College Students?

*Celia Mejia and Erin Murphy, Program Co-Vice Presidents*

Plan to attend the September meeting as the Long Beach branch of AAUW explores a topic that touches the heart of our mission: **Today's College Undergraduates** — the students who shape the future of our communities, workforce, and civic life. We will also welcome **CSULB and LBCC Scholarship recipients**. We hope you'll join us to learn more about today's college students.

We're used to picturing the traditional college student as 18–22 years old, living on campus, and attending full-time. But at institutions like Long Beach City College (LBCC), California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), and across the country, that image no longer fits the majority. In fact, more than 60% of LBCC students attend part-time, and a large portion are over the age of 25. Nationally, undergraduates are more likely than ever to be first-generation college students, financially independent, and juggling work or caregiving responsibilities.

This year's incoming class — the Class of 2029 — is also the most ethnically diverse in American history. At LBCC, nearly 60% of students identify as Latinx, and African American/Black and Asian American students also make up significant portions of the student body. At CSULB, more than 70% of students identify as students of color, reflecting the diversity of the region and the shifting demographics of higher education. Nationally, fewer undergrads than ever identify as White and middle-class. Locally and nationally, most college students are female.

Many undergrads today face high levels of financial stress, mental health concerns, and uncertainty about the return on their college investment.

We'll dive into:

- \* What college looks like today — demographically, financially, and culturally
- \* What makes Gen Z students unique in how they learn, communicate, and organize
- \* Impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) on their studies and the job market
- \* How institutions like CSULB and LBCC are adapting to better serve these evolving needs

As AAUW members committed to education equity and women's advancement, understanding this transformation is essential. This discussion promises insight into the challenges and resilience of today's students.



Plan to attend by reserving with Charlotte by August 27. Guests are invited to attend the program.

RSVP to Charlotte Joseph at: [aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com)

Visit our Website for more info: <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/>

### AAUW Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

### AAUW Vision:

Equity for all.

### AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan.  
Fact-based.  
Integrity.  
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

### AAUW Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of age, disability, gender, location, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.



# From the Co-Presidents

by Jane Hansen and Barbara Hall, Co-Presidents



Welcome to a new year of activism for AAUW Long Beach! And in the spirit of actions speak louder than words—we're off to a great start. In July our branch, with enthusiastic support from AAUW CA, participated in the "Good Trouble Lives On" event celebrating the legacy of John Lewis. His leadership in the Civil Rights movement and throughout his life still inspires us today. We were in good company with Women's Shelter of Long Beach, NAACP with our member Sharifa Batts speaking as their new branch president, and both Long Beach and Lakewood Indivisible groups.

Our branch also participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Long Beach Women's Fair celebrating Women's Equality Day. This day is celebrated in the United States on August 26, commemorating the 1920 adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution marking women winning the right to vote! Also, from Charlene Goehring, President of AAUW CA please note a brand-new, all-member publication will replace the California Connection. It will include important news for members from AAUW California as well as AAUW National, dates to remember, book/podcast recommendations, and more, including prizes! Be on the lookout for this in mid-September!

Our theme this year is—**Reimagining Together**. Our branch Board of Directors and Chairs met in July for our annual planning retreat and voted to pursue AAUW National's Five Star program for 2025-26. We see the criteria to meet as a great "road map" for us, including: Advancement (AAUW Fund), Public Policy & Advocacy, Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations. We will need all our members to participate in achieving this goal!



## Calendar Dates to Note

August 26	LB Women's Fair
September 1	Labor Day
September 6	Branch Meeting
September 15	Executive Meeting
October 4	Branch Meeting

## Contact Us

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[longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](http://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/)

www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca  
**For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low**  
**rlow1@hotmail.com**

## Report from Reimagining Committee to the July Board Retreat meeting by Amy La:

Overall, the branch leadership attendees received our presentation well and recognized our challenges better. The expectation is not to recreate the wheel or create a full blown program like the STEM Conference. We can partner with existing programs in the community (e.g., sponsor their program, co-program, provide support or something like a workshop during their event).

For instance, we can join efforts with the city Commission's planning for their safety conference tentatively scheduled in February 2026 at LBCC. It sounds like they are very much still in the planning phase. Erin Murphy (our co Programs VP) is not aware of this potential conference at LBCC yet.

We're further tasked with narrowing what specific group within the 20-30 age group we want to target. For example, do we focus on support for women in tech or in other fields. Another option is to target Tech Trek alumni and/or scholarship recipients as part of our target population.

Your ideas and suggestions are welcome.

# Good Trouble—Day of Action!

By Frances Rozner, Event Coordinator

As our co-Presidents mentioned, our Long Beach branch participated in the John Lewis Good Trouble Day of Action at Houghton Park, Thursday evening, July 17 with a table promoting AAUW efforts to advance gender equity for women and girls. Many thanks to our tabling volunteers - Juliet Wurr, Barbara Hall, Faye Alperin, Jane Hansen, Frances Rozner – and to Tammy Kane in her leadership role with Long Beach Indivisible, for getting us involved, and to others of the branch who visited the table. (The accompanying photo was taken at the close of the event, so some are missing.) AAUW was an official national partner of the Day of Action because AAUW opposes the SAVE Act and supports the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, D.C. Statehood, and more.



## Are we on the road to 5 Stars?

Motions were made (please read 7-19-25 motion on page 6) and we as the Board of Directors voted to pursue Five Star Program status for our branch this year 2025-26.

To recap: Amy La will create a Google Docs form so we can track our progress toward the 3 out of 5 criteria required in each of five areas. We anticipate having it available in September for input. It will reflect National's FY26 Five Star Program criteria. Here is the link for your reference: [Five-Star Program](#)

AAUW LONG BEACH VISITS

**Bowers Museum**

World of the Teracotta Warriors

Sunday, October 5, 2025  
Docent tour 11:00 AM  
Lunch 12:30 PM



BOWERS MUSEUM - 2002 NORTH MAIN ST., SANTA ANA  
EXHIBITION ENDS OCTOBER 19, 2025

**Your \$23 check is your RESERVATION**  
Make check out to "Faye Alperin"  
5201 E. El Cedral St., LB 90815

Lunch is "on your own" at Tangata Restaurant  
Deadline September 30, 2025

Tour limited to 20 guests  
Carpool drivers wanted - Parking \$7



## Branch Website Update

by Tobi Balma, WebManager

### Join the Website Team: Help Shape Our Branch's Online Presence!

Our branch website is the *Public Face* of our community—keeping members informed, connected and engaged with resources and events, as well as attracting new members.

#### Did You Know Our Website Has...

Several years of *Vantage* newsletters and our branch history  
 Member news, award recipients, and a membership list (names, emails, cell numbers)  
 Branch meeting details, interest group activities, and AAUW National discounts & perks  
 Easy links to renew your membership and/or donate directly to AAUW Funds  
 And more! Explore here: <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net>

#### This month, we've added exciting updates:

An updated membership list in our "Members Only" Password Protected Page  
 A new section with valuable AAUW California resources  
 AAUW National & California Public Policy Priorities

#### Why Join the Website Team?

Support our branch by reviewing content for relevance and accuracy (about 1 hour/month)  
 Keep our website fresh and welcoming  
 Build connections with fellow members

#### Learn & Grow

No prior experience needed—just curiosity and interest!  
 Discover how our website works behind the scenes  
 "Adopt" a page to keep it updated  
 Build skills to becoming a future Web Manager



**Contact** Tobi at [aauw.tobi@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.tobi@gmail.com) to get involved or learn more.

## Membership Counts!

by Mary Ann Takamoto and Faye Alperin, Membership VPs

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Elisabeth Choate-Ciletti to our branch. She prefers to go by Lisa. Lisa is originally from San Jose, California, but now calls Long Beach home. Lisa completed her B.S. in Molecular Biology from San Jose State University and her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from USC. She has been a professor in the Biology Department at Pasadena City College for over 25 years.

Lisa has previous experience with AAUW Pasadena participating in programs encouraging girls to pursue STEM careers. Please say hello to Lisa at a future meeting and introduce yourself to her.



## Branch Year Starts Now!



Read up about the past Scholarship winners on the Website.

<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/projects/magarian-scholarship-winners/>

Elected Officers are ready for the new 2025-26 year! (L-R): Jane Hansen, Tammy Kane, Mary Ann Takemoto, Ginny Baxter, Erin Murphy, Celia Mejia, Faye Alperin, Barbara Hall (Officers not in photo: Darlene Daclan, Pat Ferrer, Cacilia Kim, Linda Westman).

## Public Policy

from Juliet Wurr, Public Policy Director

### Mission Forward with Public Policy Priorities

The high point of my first year with AAUW Long Beach was participating in the 2025 Lobby Days in Sacramento. I was thrilled to meet with state legislature offices to inform them about AAUW and advocate for their support of AAUW California's priority bills. Advocacy for women and girls is the Mission of our organization, and I was excited to be part of that effort. In my role as Public Policy Director for AAUW Long Beach, I look forward to advancing our Mission and Public Policy Goals with our members. 2026 Lobby Days are part of my agenda.

At our branch's retreat for Board of Directors and Administrative Chairs (July 19, 2025), we decided that for 2025-26, our branch would tie our programs and activities closely to furthering National's Mission and California's Policy Priorities. AAUW's Mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW California's Public Policy principles are consistent with the Mission of AAUW National. They are updated every two years with input from membership.

For 2025-27, California's Public Policy Priorities are as follows:

- Economic Security for all Women.
- Equal Access to Quality Public Education
- Social and Racial Justice
- Increased representation of women in leadership roles.

Our branch programs this year will include speakers and activities, including other like-minded groups, aimed at promoting these priorities. Our goal is to inspire and inform our membership, with calls to action to participate in activities promoting AAUW's Mission and California's Public Policy Priorities.

We will soon begin preparing for Lobby Days 2026 and I encourage you to join us. We're always open to new ideas to further our goals. Do you know of like-minded groups with whom we might join forces? Is there an issue you care about or an activist who inspires you? Let me know.



At the June 7, 2025 Branch Membership meeting:

Tammy reviewed the 2025-2026 budget and took questions. After discussion, the motion was made by Tammy Kane, Co-Treasurer.

"By direction of the Board of Directors, it is recommended the proposed 2025-2026 budget be approved by the branch." Barbara Hall, in-coming Co-President, called for a vote.

A second is not required for a recommendation from the board. Motion passed unanimously.

The following motions were passed during the July 19, 2025 Board Retreat:

**1. Motion to Approve Appointed Officers and Administrative Chairs – Barbara Hall**

"I move that the AAUW Long Beach FY26 Executive Committee accept the appointment of all Appointed Officers and Administrative Chairs as identified in the AAUW Long Beach Board 2025-26 list of contacts provided in the Retreat Notebooks dated July 19, 2025."

Seconded by Jane Hansen Motion Passed

**2. Motion to Approve Change to P & P, Section 9, Building Fund – Tammy Kane  
(read by Darlene Daclan)**

"We move that the Board of Directors approve the change to section 9, Building Fund, part b of AAUW Long Beach Policies and Procedures to state:

"Interest and/or principal from the Building Fund may be used as needed to pay for general expenses incurred to conduct branch activity, including Branch Meetings, and to preserve records of that activity.

General expenses include, but are not limited to, the PO Box, Historical Society membership, refreshments, Zoom subscription, space rental and audio-visual support."

Seconded by Darlene Daclan Motion Passed

Notes: This motion clarifies that Building Fund monies can be used for food/refreshments; a line item added for "Branch meeting snacks" under Building Fund column (\$60 per meeting)

Jane or Barbara will contact Hospitality Chair, Dee Dee Catalano, and inform her that Hospitality Chair position will now be responsible for overseeing Branch meeting snack budget (not in the current job description)

**3. Motion Regarding Endowment Fund Earnings – Pat Ferrer**

"In accordance with Policies and Procedures 8.f. after consultation with the Treasurer, I recommend that NO Endowment Fund earnings be transferred to the Reserve Fund."

Seconded by Juliet Wurr Motion Passed

**4. Motion Regarding Five-Star Program – Jane Hansen**

"I move that AAUW Long Beach Branch Board of Directors agree to pursue collectively the Five Star Program status for the 2025-26 year."

Seconded by Herlinda Chico Motion Passed

## NEWS:

Our branch will be having a table at the **3rd Annual LB Women's Fair (Celebrating Women's Equality Day) on Tuesday, August 26 from 3pm-7pm.**

**The event will be held at Recreation Park (4900 E. 7th St. LB).** There will be 40+ booths of organizations, all in service to women and girls. It will be a great opportunity to network and meet members from like-minded organizations. Some of you were with us at City Hall last year for this event (and the year before.)



**We do need several more volunteers. Please let Frances Rozner, know by Friday, August 22 if you are interested in attending/participating in this event. [francesrozner@gmail.com](mailto:francesrozner@gmail.com)**

We plan to have an earlier and later shift for tabling, so please let her know your availability, as well. To stay healthy, we've opted to be outdoors under our EZ-up.

# BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Joining an interest group (or several) is a great way to get to know other members on a more personal level. Make new friends while participating in fun, informative and educational activities.

Interest groups are for the benefit of AAUW members only; guests may attend meetings a maximum of 3 times before they are required to join. To start a new group, submit a description to the Co-Presidents. They will help you move forward with your idea.



**The Book Chat group** is off to a fresh start. Lamis is kind enough to have all the meetings at her home. We will start up again the first Tuesday, September 2, 2025. We share about a book we have read, and tempt other group members to read it also. We try books one might not have considered. If a member prefers, she can share about a recent trip instead. Contact Lamis and join us for our Bookchat gathering at 10:00 am.

Contact: **Lamis Hashem** at 562- 221- 9361 / [theHashemFamily@gmail.com](mailto:theHashemFamily@gmail.com)



**Cultural Adventures & International Cuisine Group** plans trips to museums and other points of interest several times a year. It is usually a mid-week tour with lunch scheduled.

We also plan meals at different ethnic restaurants, usually dinner with an easy drive. Join a group that checks out museums, other interesting locations, and special restaurants.

Ideas for both groups are welcome!



Contact for Adventures: **JoAnn Kuroda** at 562- 429-6973 / [sojoinlb@aol.com](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com)

Contact for International Cuisine: **Faye Alperin** at 562-659-0051/ [fayealperin@gmail.com](mailto:fayealperin@gmail.com)



**Great Decisions Groups** are self-moderated groups that meet to discuss issues of world importance, guided by the Great Decisions book published annually by the Foreign Policy Association. This short-format publication highlights eight thought-provoking foreign policy challenges currently facing America. The program provides materials that help members share opinions and ideas on critical global issues. Each person pays for their own copy of the Great Decisions book. Books for 2026 will be available in January, and two groups meet starting in February:

One group meets in person every other Friday afternoon. Contact: **Deloris Mayuga**

Second group meets on Zoom every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact: **Carol Clanton**



**Literary Ladies Group** meets to discuss and compare thoughts on a selected book, fiction or non-fiction. The group comes together to hear thoughts and insights from others in the group. Each member takes a turn recommending

and leading the group. The book selection for September is *The Well-Lived Life* by Gladys McGarey. We share this information so even if you aren't able to join us, you have reading suggestions.

When: meets the second Monday of each month from 12:15—2:15 p.m. at a local restaurant

Contact: **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749.



**Public Policy** members prepare for our Branch's participation in state Lobby Days 2026. We meet with local and State elected representatives to learn their priorities for the coming year. We stay abreast of AAUW California's legislative agenda, and after three bills are identified for Lobby Days branch committee members research the issues. Our branch participates in Lobby Days either via Zoom or in Sacramento.

An authorized member of the LA County Interbranch Council, AAUW may collaborate with approved partner organizations to work toward common local and state goals. The group passes on knowledge and information to all branch members. Contact: **Juliet Wurr** at 202-716-4145 / [jwurr@hotmail.com](mailto:jwurr@hotmail.com)



**The Residential Rentals group** started in 2009! We discuss topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concern. We keep each other informed.

When: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: at the dining room table in our homes or ZOOM

Contact: **Ellen Mathis** [epmathis@verizon.net](mailto:epmathis@verizon.net).



## NOTE:

The **2025-2026 Yearbooks** will be available for pick up at each branch meeting for September-December. Unclaimed Yearbooks remaining after our December 6th holiday gathering will be mailed to home addresses.

**NEW! Please RSVP** by email to Reservations Chair Charlotte Joseph to let us know how you will attend. Use this email address !

[aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com)

**Deadline to RSVP is August 31**

You will receive an email reminder and details before the event.

Need some resources to share with others that highlight the AAUW mission and goals?

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

## AAUW BRANCH MEETING

**Saturday, September 6, 2025**

**9:30 am Social Time to Mingle**

**10:00-11:00 Business Meeting**

**11:00-12:00 Program**

**Place: Long Beach City College Room 208**  
4900 E. Conant St. LB 90808

Building O2 is on the southwest corner of Clark and Conant, behind and to the west of Rosie the Riveter Park. Enter Conant from Clark, turn left into the 1st driveway. Bldg O2 is the 2nd building on the right.

**Guests and /or Potential Members  
are welcome to  
RSVP and attend**



### AAUW Long Beach Branch

Send address changes for AAUW Vantage to P O Box 15023,  
Long Beach, CA 90815

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

