



Vantage

Take Action—Fight Project 2025

Celia Mejia and Erin Murphy, Program Co-Vice Presidents

AAUW California's Public Policy team has launched a powerful initiative to resist the sweeping proposals of Project 2025—an agenda that directly threatens the values of equity, education, and civil rights that AAUW has championed for over a century.

The "Take Action to Fight Project 2025" campaign provides a centralized hub of resources, including quick action items, litigation and legislation trackers, podcasts, and issue-specific materials. These tools empower members to engage in meaningful advocacy aligned with AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, such as protecting women's and LGBTQ+ rights, defending public education, supporting immigrant and DACA protections, and upholding democratic norms.

This initiative also highlights successful legal challenges and collective action efforts, offering both hope and a roadmap for effective resistance. For example, recent court rulings have blocked several Project 2025-related policies, demonstrating the power of coordinated legal and civic engagement.

At October's meeting, AAUW Long Beach will be welcoming **AAUW CA Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs Amy Hom and Dr. Missy Maceyko** to share the campaign's purpose and resources and to encourage members to take action at the local or national level in areas that resonate with their passions. Whether you're contacting legislators, joining a coalition, or simply staying informed, your voice matters.

Together, we can stand up for equity and ensure that the future reflects the inclusive values we believe in.



Plan to attend by reserving with Charlotte by September 30. Guests are invited to attend the program.

RSVP to Charlotte at:

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 Barbara Hall and Jane Hansen, Co-Presidents

Focus on Inclusion, Locally

As members of AAUW, we are empowered to take action toward justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity in our own spheres of influence. "Inclusion" refers to a community in which all members are and feel respected, have a sense of belonging, and can participate and achieve to their potential. One of our goals is to create welcoming spaces of belonging for all who attend our meetings and programs. There are many ways our branch can practice inclusion, and this year we will focus our attention on a few priorities:

1. Branch Member and Guest Accessibility

In FY 2025 an average of six members attended monthly branch meetings via Zoom, and some of them experienced frustration due to poor sound quality and lack of speaker visibility. To try to remedy this, over the summer LBCC upgraded audio equipment in the ceiling of our meeting room and eliminated outdated microphones. In addition, during meetings we will be more mindful to capture in-person speakers on camera or by identifying each speaker by name.

Our goal, at a minimum, is to improve the branch meeting experience for those who are unable to attend in person, but we also hope this leads to more Zoom participants and program viewers.

2. Invite members of historically underrepresented communities or organizations to a program, meeting, or to join.

3. Make sure all members have opportunities to share their perspectives on branch decisions or activities affecting the branch or community at large. Help them advance to leadership positions in the branch.

4. Easy ways for each member to get more involved: Spotlight a Local. Share stories, create flyers, or facilitate conversations highlighting how local women change-makers are advancing entrepreneurship, education, public policy, or social services.

For example, at the Long Beach Women's Fair on 8/26 I met the owners of Watch Me!, the first sports bar in California designed to showcase women's sports, as well as food and refreshments made by women-owned businesses. Those who enjoy watching the WNBA and other women's sports now have a local restaurant option!



Progress for 5 Stars in 2025-26

Progress towards 3 out of 5 criteria will be reported at monthly Board meetings and tracked by Barb Hall and Jane Hansen. Here is the link to National's FY26 Five Star Program criteria for your reference:

[Five-Star Program](#)

Congratulations on earning Five Stars in AAUW's FY25 Five Star Program! This distinction highlights your exceptional alignment with AAUW's strategic priorities and your leadership in advancing equity in your community.

Best wishes for continued success!

Tremayne A. Parquet (he/him/his)

Deputy Director of Advancement – AAUW National

Calendar Dates to Note

October 4	Branch Meeting
October 13	Indigenous People's Day
October 20	Diwali
October 31	Halloween
November 1	Branch Meeting

Contact Us

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For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com

AAUW Fund Long Beach Endowment Recipients

The National AAUW Fund is actually an umbrella of many different funds. Except for the Greatest Needs Fund, the other Funds are restricted to each particular type of Fund. This is why AAUW is emphasizing and seeking donations to the Greatest Needs Fund so AAUW can respond rapidly to emerging issues, support critical programs that don't fit a specific restricted fund, and maintain its reputation as a leader in gender equity issues.



The Long Beach branch has completed seven AAUW National endowments. This means that over the years, branch members have raised thousands of dollars to help women scholars and community projects to help women and girls.

There are hundreds of endowments. These monies are restricted to Fellowships and Grants. Only the interest is used to fund recipients. This allows the endowments to last into perpetuity. The interest can only be used once an endowment has been completed. In prior times, when interest rates were high, one endowment could fund a scholar....not anymore. Now it takes the interest from multiple endowments to fund one fellow or grant recipient

There are multiple types of Fellowships and Grants, as well as different award amounts.

For individuals: American Dissertation Fellowship, American Short-Term Publication Grant, American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, Career Development Grant, International Fellowship (Master's and Doctorate Degree), International Project Grant, International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, and Selected Professions Fellowship

For Organizations: AAUW Branch Affiliate and State Affiliate Community Action Grants, and Community Action Grants.

Educating
the mind
without
educating the
heart is no
education
at all.
— Aristotle

This year, AAUW has finalized matches for the R&P (Research and Projects) and American Fellow, but have not been able to finalize the International Fellow due to policy changes which have made it difficult for international students to secure visas. Additionally, for the first time for our branch, one of our fellows has requested her details not be shared publicly at this time. Her project is an organization based in Florida which provides community support to immigrant populations.

1193 Anna Stofflet Townsend International Fellowship (unnamed at present)
1652 Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship: Gursimran Dhillon
4412 Jean Aldrich Long Beach Branch American Fellowship: Lais de Lima Webber
1739 Joyce E. Clark Long Beach Branch R&P Endowment: unnamed
1835 Connie Wright Inskeep Long Beach Branch R&P Endowment: Deborah Manookin
4130 Ethel Black R&P Endowment: Doris Nord
4289 Long Beach Branch, Inc. R&P Endowment: T'erra Ross.

Learn more about AAUW Fellowships and Grants [HERE](#) Detailed Information about 2025-2026 recipients will be included in future editions of the Vantage and can be found on our branch website [HERE](#).

Membership Counts!

by Mary Ann Takamoto and Faye Alperin, Membership VPs



Juliet Wurr, our Public Policy chair, has experience in international affairs as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State. Making a difference in our community and state is what drew her to AAUW. Juliet traveled to Sacramento on behalf of AAUW to lobby our representatives in areas that affect us all. Juliet embraces our mission of equality for all. Next time you see her at a branch meeting or field trip, ask about her travels and interests in cultural and political activities.



Paola Plascencia is a CSULB Assistant Director of Student Life and Development and is the liaison to the College of Engineering. Under her broad umbrella of responsibilities she supports on-campus student organizations in the fields of aerospace, biomedical, and civil engineering.

Please thank Dr. Jeane Caveness for introducing Paola Plascencia to AAUW. They met when Jeane was the CSULB Associate Dean of Students and Paola was completing her Masters degree. Paola enjoys going to the movies, attending concerts and taking her Bernese mountain dog Sirius on camping trips. We look forward to getting to know Paola!

National News

Higher education and gender equity are facing mounting obstacles that demand urgent action. Across the country, financial aid is being slashed, student loan programs eliminated, and opportunities for women threatened at every turn. For the 2025–2026 academic year, AAUW is **investing over \$5.3 million** to support 228 women scholars and community projects. These grants and fellowships are lifelines — especially for women of color and those in STEM fields who continue to face systemic barriers.

Behind all of AAUW's work is a member, advocate, or supporter like you, who makes success possible. Women cannot afford to wait. The need is immediate, the challenges are mounting, and our work has never been more vital.

[Donate today — your gift powers AAUW's fight to keep higher education and gender equity within reach.](#) You are also supporting the 5 Star effort for our Branch.

Public Policy /Advocacy

from Juliet Wurr, Public Policy Director

Long time Long Beach Branch members know AAUW's Mission by heart: **To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.** At the 2025 Long Beach Board retreat, participants agreed that our branch would aim to achieve Five Star status. While the Public Policy requirements are not onerous, we decided to construct our activities to strengthen our advocacy. Inviting speakers to educate us about AAUW California's public policy priorities is a step in that direction.

We look to **AAUW-California's Public Policy Committee** for guidance in advocacy on State legislation. In addition to the annual lobbying days the AAUW-California Public Policy website provides "monthly action-items to engage in targeted and meaningful personal, interpersonal, and community-level activism and advocacy around issues that we care about." Our Branch website links to both AAUW-California Public Policy and AAUW-National's "Explore the Issues."

The AAUW-California tools for wider activism and advocacy, include the Take Action! Website, AAUW California on Bluesky, and the Trans Allyship Guide.

Ongoing advocacy through a petitions page via Resistbot, enables real-time responses to legislators.

Begin your advocacy education by perusing AAUW-California's Public Policy pages. If something interests you, or you'd like to begin thinking about spring's Lobby Days in Sacramento, let me know.

Step Up! New Members! Old Members!

We need volunteers to sign up to provide snacks for our meetings. Our budget allots up to \$60 and you will be reimbursed. It's extra easy and fun, you might want to share the job with someone! We do need snacks for October and June. It would be great to have some partners to help with February, March and April.

I am also looking for someone to help with hospitality. Join our little team to greet meeting attendees and guests and oversee snacks. It's a nice way to help out and meet new people and it's a limited time commitment for you.

Text, email, or call: Dee Dee Catalano, Hospitality Chair
catalanosmith@yahoo.com, 562-310-5292



Great Decisions—join now!

by Rita Powell, Coordinator

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Join in the Great Decisions discussions this Winter.

Here are the topics for Great Decisions for the 2026 year. It highlights many thought provoking foreign policy challenges facing America. The program provides materials that help people reach informed decisions on the current foreign policy process and world affairs. We will be ordering the books by the end of October 2025 in order to get a discount that also includes Vimeo access and the DVD's.

Please contact your group leader or Rita Powell for more information and to join a group. rriorita111@verizon.net

The Foreign Policy Association is pleased to announce the [topic selections for Great Decisions 2026](#).

The list of topics and descriptions can be found on our AAUW website.



AAUW LONG BEACH VISITS

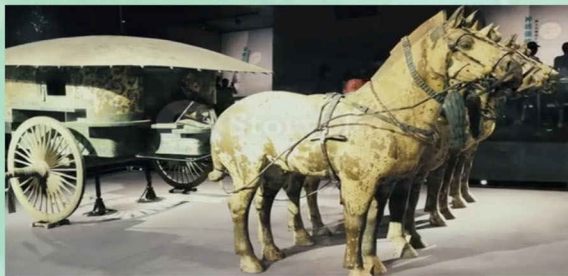
Bowers Museum

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 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 meet again on Tuesday October 7, 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



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

Contact for International Cuisine: **Faye Alperin** at 562-659-0051/ 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



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 3rd 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 or **Joan Gustafson**, jwg221@aol.com



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

Deadline to RSVP is September 30

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, October 4, 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

