



## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **Long Beach City Auditor's Office Earns Top National Award for Library Services Performance Audit *Audit Identifies Improvements for Library to Better Meet Diverse Community Needs***

Long Beach, CA – Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud including her audit team of Hannah Gardener and Stephanie Harper received the prestigious Exemplary Knighton Award for the Library Services Performance Audit from the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA). The Knighton Award is a highly regarded honor, because it recognizes the best performance audit reports issued by more than 300 local government audit organization members.

“This performance audit highlights the value of an independent review that identified areas for improvement for the Library to better understand the social, cultural, educational, and economic needs of each diverse community it serves and use that understanding to define the Library’s strategic goals and services,” said Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud. “The audit also identified ways the Library can expand its reach through partnerships and promotion.”

Judges determined the Office’s performance audit was the best of 2021. They noted that not only was the audit responsive to the needs and concerns of the public, but its focus was also on an impactful topic: equity. They also noted the effective use of the Report Highlights Sheet offered in different languages, the audit’s valuable visual aids such as the maps overlaid with demographic data and library locations, and the audit’s Recommendation Action Plan summarizing the 29 recommendations which were recognized as creative ways to address the issues.

“Libraries play a critical role in promoting literacy development, educational activities, digital skills, health information, and economic materials,” said Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud. “As such, they are resources of hope providing learning spaces, varied opportunities, and valuable services for everyone. I commend the Library for beginning to implement our recommendations to better meet the needs of our communities. Over the last year, the Library has expanded services which includes new digital resources such as the Tech To Go program with Chromebook and internet hotspot lending services, new online learning services with interactive classes for all ages, and new language resources through Khmer indexing and materials. The Library also launched a survey to obtain community feedback on preferences in a variety of service areas reviewed including library operating hours, library news, and adaptive technology.”

This is the eighth ALGA Knighton Award that Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud’s Office has received.

“Our Office is dedicated to improving City operations through performing quality audits like this one with recommendations which result in positive change for citizens,” said Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud. “I appreciate ALGA’s recognition of our impactful work.”

Detailed judges’ comments can be viewed [here](#), the Library Services Performance Audit can be viewed [here](#), and the Report Highlights Sheet can be viewed in English [here](#), in Spanish [here](#), in Khmer [here](#), and in Tagalog [here](#).

#### **About the Long Beach City Auditor’s Office**

The Long Beach City Auditor’s Office’s mission is to make Long Beach better through independent audits and fraud investigations. The Office works to provide assurance City funds are spent as intended, promote transparency and accountability of City operations, and prevent fraud, waste and abuse of City resources. For more information visit [CityAuditorLauraDoud.com](http://CityAuditorLauraDoud.com) and connect with the Office @LBCityAuditor on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Sign up to receive email [updates](#) and download the MyAuditor App at the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

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