

Untold Stories of Long Beach

Materials by Educators LBUSD/UCI Teacher Academy

part of the 2023 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

Uplifting Our Story Written Student Response

These artifacts are reflective of me because they show how my family and I are connected to Long Beach. I come from a line of immigrants who came here for a better life. The statistics show that my family tree is one of many that is part of the immigrant population.

Being a Long Beacher to me means having a culture that is mixed with the environment of Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians. Being surrounded by so many different people who have different traditions and ways of life opens you up to be more open-minded and see the world through other people's eyes. To me, being a Long Beach means you've been through the tough hardships of the city and you know what it's like to be down on your luck sometimes, but we persevere through it no matter what.

I feel like these sources just add to my perception of Long Beach's economy because it affirms my view of seeing so many different ethnicities, incomes, and living situations. The sources also show others that there is an intricacy to the economy in Long Beach because each individual has a unique situation, and the statistics show that Long Beachers typically are low-middle-class Citizens.

I think I can positively impact my community by doing big or small acts of service that serve our city, such as garbage clean-up, volunteering for organizations that give to the needy, and doing my best to get an education that can help me learn how to be a great person and citizen. I think my story connects to the idea of being an American because it's a very common story of coming from a lineage of Hispanics who came to America risking their lives for a chance at a safe home. I'm third generation like most of my peers and I've learned that my generation's way of being American is seeing our past family members and learning and growing from their mistakes and successes. I believe that being a true American in my generation means that you are a person who knows when things need to change.

I think our project reflects the American motto because we came together as a group of many to collaborate on one theme, one assignment, and one story. All of our sources come together to make a story that details what our environment and lives are like. I believe that we showed an understanding of how to demonstrate our "Long Beach life."