



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rancho Los Cerritos Receives California Humanities CARES Relief Grant**

**LONG BEACH, CALIF.** (September 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020) —Rancho Los Cerritos is proud to announce that out of 1,270 applicants it has been chosen to receive a California Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Grant funded by the California Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant will help the Rancho to safely keep the garden spaces open, continue to publish virtual content, and prepare the historic adobe home for reopening in the future.

The City of Long Beach has designated Rancho Los Cerritos as an essential resource for the health and well-being of the community during the pandemic. So, to provide a place of respite and relaxation for the community, RLC reopened its garden spaces on June 10<sup>th</sup> with COVID-19 safety measures in place. “The Rancho is so pleased to continue to have the outdoor garden spaces open to the public as a place of peace and meditation during these turbulent times. We continue to be so honored to be of service during this time and to offer more to our community.” says executive director Alison Bruesehoff. The community not only has a space to get some fresh air and exercise, but 83% of visitors say they felt “a reduction of stress or a mental health benefit,” after visiting the Rancho gardens. “During this time of uncertainty, special places like the Rancho gardens are needed now more than ever,” said board members Jean Bixby Smith & Barbara Bixby Blackwell.

The CARES Relief grant will allow staff to create more digital content; exhibitions, educational programming, and virtual events. RLC has been bringing nature and history to visitors' homes through their horticulture videos and virtual tours since March. RLC has put much of its *Long Ago Long Beach* after school education program online as a digital classroom resource for families and teachers. Thanks to the California Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the CARES funding will allow RLC to produce four more video lessons. Storytime will also be able to continue online and now reaches twice as many families as it did in person.

RLC has also been putting out content for all ages including a virtual summer concert attended by over 1,000 households. One virtual concert attendee wrote, “Thank you Rancho Los Cerritos for making Sunday so special during these difficult times. Bless you.”



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The Rancho will continue to be a cultural responder to the pandemic and be a comfort for families during these difficult times as it uses these funds to further the California Humanities' mission to connect Californians to ideas and one another in order to understand our shared heritage and diverse cultures, inspire civic participation, and shape our future.



NATIONAL  
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FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



**About Rancho Los Cerritos**

Rancho Los Cerritos is a local, state, and national historic landmark in Long Beach, California. It is operated by the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation in a public/private partnership with the City of Long Beach. The site echoes with the rich history of indigenous, Spanish, Mexican and American California. The five-acre site contains beautifully preserved historic gardens which are open Wednesday through Sunday for visitors to enjoy.

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, CA 90807

[RanchoLosCerritos.org](http://RanchoLosCerritos.org)

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