



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

March 19, 2024

Smart & Connected Communities Program
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear NSF Review Panel,

The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit organization operating on behalf of the tenants and commercial and residential property owners in Downtown Long Beach. It is dedicated to the management, marketing, security, maintenance, advocacy, economic and community development of its two assessment districts in cooperation with the City of Long Beach, as well as the public and private sectors.

If the proposal entitled, "Trust, transparency and technology: Building digital equity through a civic digital commons" submitted by Dr. Gwen Shaffer, Dr. Tyler Reeb, Dr. Norman Sadeh, Mr. Ryan Kurtzman and Mr. Omar Moncayo is selected for funding by NSF, it is our intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the project description section of the proposal.

In addition to the collaboration with the City of Long Beach Department of Technology and Innovation's Smart City educational tours and digital equity project, the Downtown Long Beach Alliance has partnered with City of Long Beach's Go Active Long Beach programs and infrastructure planning, helping to maintain and develop public realm and beautification projects with Public Works, assisting with data mining and community forum facilitation on Downtown Planning projects with Community Development, and much more. Additionally, the DLBA has also collaborated with California State University Long Beach's Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Center for Economic Development in educational programs, workshops, and competitions focused on small business creation and development.

For this proposed project, Downtown Long Beach Alliance intends to engage our constituents to participate in the proposed workshops and directly influence the design of the digital rights platform based on their perceptions about data collection, data use, accessibility, transparency, and accountability. Downtown Long Beach Alliance will focus on identifying Downtown Long Beach businesses, property owners, residents, and visitors who have been adversely impacted by civic technologies.

Engaged members of the community with access to information and resources on how government entities use civic technologies will be empowered to decide how they want to manage their personal data and to advocate to City officials for privacy protections. We believe that the expertise and lived experiences of the Downtown Long Beach community are essential to the success of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Austin Metoyer,
President & CEO