**Foundation of OLLI**

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is the senior university associated with California State University of Long Beach. Our doors originally opened in 1996 with 118 members and 9 classes; back then we were simply known as “Senior University.” Our relationship with the Bernard Osher Foundation began in 2003 when, in response to a call for applications, our Senior University, with the assistance of the CHHS Development Director here at CSULB, submitted a proposal which was funded the next year, in 2004.

Components of the proposal included partnering with University departments and other groups, increasing the number and variety of instructors and classes, partnering in intergenerational activities, increasing classroom space, community outreach, and grant and fundraising activities. These components continue to be a part of our strategic plan development.

In 2006 we celebrated our 10th anniversary and officially changed our name from Senior University to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University (OLLI at CSULB), becoming part of the network of 125 OLLI programs on university and college campuses across the United States, all endowed by The Bernard Osher Foundation. That same year we received our first endowment from the Osher Foundation, followed by a second in 2013 along with several grants. In the following years we have continued to grow, and now with the support of over 100 volunteers and only 3 paid staff, we manage well over 1000 members (and growing) and conduct 80 plus classes both on and off-campus, in-person, remotely and hybrid (combination in-person and via the internet) in 4 annual sessions.

**OLLI’s Mission**

OLLI at CSULB provides educational opportunities, encourages an active lifestyle, and promotes social opportunities for older adults.

# **OLLI’s Vision Statement**

We celebrate the positive aspects of aging through a community that fosters personal growth, promotes individual empowerment, and nurtures human potential through lifelong learning.

**OLLI at CSULB**

OLLI at CSULB is based on five foundational service pillars. These pillars best describe the foundational principles of OLLI as well as the experiences we hope to bring to our members as we develop our strategies for growth and support to our community. OLLI serves a broad and diversified base in the city of Long Beach and surrounding communities, and as we consider what classroom experiences we want to bring to our members we keep these pillars in clear focus.

**Leadership**

* We recognize that many of our members are leaders in their own community. It is therefore important that we recognize and nurture that experience by providing thought-provoking classes, historical context and stimulating discussions that help them hone their leadership skills developed over a lifetime of community service and business experience.
* Leaders visualize, plan, direct, and implement strategies to build consensus among members. OLLI at CSULB is committed to leadership development and is establishing programs for those interested in taking on additional responsibilities within OLLI as we grow.
* OLLI at CSULB has its own leadership structure; it operates under the guidance of the Governing Council which sets policies, approves budgets, and oversees all OLLI operations.
* OLLI holds elections every two years and members choose volunteers who run the Governing Council. OLLI leadership consists of its President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Members at Large.
* The Governing Council also includes Core Working Group Leaders who oversee and coordinate all the activities that keep OLLI thriving.

**Curriculum**

* OLLI exists for the love of Lifelong Learning (it’s even in our name!) There are no grades, tests or homework.
* Volunteers develop and teach courses on a wide variety of topics and formats including lectures, audience participation, dance and more.
* OLLI holds 4 sessions per year, roughly 2 months long each with a month-long break between.
* OLLI includes a variety of classes and activities, including history, current events, art, technology, music and cultural excursions. The membership determines any additional classes.

**Communications**

* Communication fosters collaboration among staff, volunteers, and board members, ensuring that everyone is aligned with OLLI’s mission and goals. Clear communication also improves decision-making and problem-solving, helping the organization run more efficiently.
* Our Executive Council, Governing Council, and the various Working Groups meet on a regular basis to conduct the business of OLLI, plan for classes and events and in general keep OLLI functioning smoothly and growing. Open and regular communication between and among all these teams is an important part of the fabric of our local OLLI.
* Communication is also crucial for building relationships with key stakeholders such as donors, community members, and OLLI members. It enhances the organization’s credibility, attracts funding, forms valuable partnerships, and engages volunteers—all vital for the OLLI’s sustainability and growth.

**Technology**

* Technology is an ever-expanding tool that can seem intimidating. At OLLI we feel it is important to both use it effectively as an instructional tool, and help our members incorporate it in their lives as well, so we offer classes on new technology.
* Although most of classes are in-person, as we recognize the value of gathering with other lifelong learners, we understand that some prefer the flexibility of learning from the comfort of their own home. Therefore we incorporate the latest technology into our courses, offering Zoom classes as well as hybrid Zoom/in-person classes when the subject matter and format lends itself.
* We do our best to stay current with changing technology so we can help our OLLI community stay on top of the devices they use in their homes.
* Depending on the session, classes have been made available on new operating systems, new equipment such as iPods, iPhones or tablets or cyber security.

**Financial Stability**

* OLLI’s ongoing financial wellbeing of OLLI is dependent on the generosity of its members.
* The finances are shepherded by our treasurer and overseen by the executive committee and governing council.
* Fundraising is coordinated by the Development Working Group.
* We encourage all of our members to consider a legacy gift to OLLI to sustain our ongoing activities.
* OLLI also regularly offers classes on financial management and investing, to help educate members on making wise financial choices to ensure their personal investments will last them throughout their retirement years.