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Historical Society of Long Beach

August 18, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Olympic Games Return to Long Beach:

### A Historical Retrospective on Olympic Legacy

Journey through Long Beach's Olympic past with powerful images  
and artifacts from the 1932 and 1984 Los Angeles Games

LONG BEACH, CA, 2025, AUG 21—"Olympics on the Golden Shore," the new exhibition about Long Beach's historic impact on the Olympic Games, opens at the Historical Society of Long Beach in Bixby Knolls on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 1:00PM. The exhibition opens without fanfare but it is free, and over 40 images and many artifacts are on display. The exhibition will remain in the gallery, and open to the public during regular business hours Tuesdays through Saturdays.

As we prepare for the 2028 Summer Games, the Historical Society of Long Beach (HSLB) proudly presents "Olympics on the Golden Shore" as part of the Olympic Legacy project supported by the City of Long Beach. This initiative explores Long Beach's pivotal role in the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games through comprehensive research and compelling imagery. Our exhibition chronicles infrastructure investments that transformed Long Beach into a world class city, examining the Games' lasting impact on our community. To understand this legacy, we traced more than a century of the Olympic movement from international origins to local implementation, revealing how the Games put our coastal city on the world's stage.

During the research phase, we discovered gaps in our artifact holdings. A community call yielded invaluable items that now anchor our exhibition, bringing authentic voices and tangible history to visitors. Carefully selected photographs, graphics, and artifacts illuminate Long Beach's Olympic journey. We highlight the remarkable 40-year campaign that secured the 1984 Games and showcase our city's contributions to Olympic trials, athletics, and aquatics competitions.

"Striking images and compelling artifacts bring the history of the 1932 and 1984 Olympics to life. We're proud to share the fascinating stories of how our community rallied together to support the Games, and how Long Beach's strategic infrastructure investments transformed our city, putting us firmly on the global map." —Julie Bartolotto, Historical Society of Long Beach Executive Director

For deeper exploration of athlete biographies and additional historical details, we encourage visitors to connect with the LA84 Foundation, *LB908* magazine, and the Long Beach Century Club—each offers unique perspectives and extensive resources about our Olympic legacy. Documenting every venue, athlete, and personal story challenges our resources, instead, we created a foundation for understanding Long Beach's Olympic heritage.

This exhibition illustrates the strategic planning and community spirit that made Long Beach an integral part of Olympic history.

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The Historical Society of Long Beach (HSLB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to connect people to the past and to the place they live by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting the material history of Long Beach. Through our programs and services, we help develop an inclusive community narrative that gives residents a greater understanding of their role in the story of their neighborhood and their city. The HSLB serves as an important resource for groups and individuals including preservationists, architects, historians, artists, filmmakers, authors, journalists, educators, researchers, students, policymakers, genealogists and the community at large.

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EXHIBITION HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 1-5pm, Thursday 1-7pm, and Saturday from 11am- 5pm