



ENGAGED CITIES AWARD

The Cities of Service Engaged Cities Award shines a light on cities that are collaborating with citizens to meet pressing local challenges in diverse and creative ways.

Engaged cities believe:

- Citizen collaboration is a force for good and local government works better when it is open to the ideas and talents of citizens.
- Citizen contributions can take many forms, from defining and prioritizing problems to generating ideas and volunteering time, creativity, and expertise.
- Citizens have deep expertise in their own lives and in what's best for their families and communities — and this expertise can be leveraged to deliver better services and solve public problems.

Each year, through our Engaged Cities Award, Cities of Service identifies and elevates city-led strategies that most successfully engage citizens to help create and implement solutions to pressing local problems. We recognize cities that are effectively involving their citizens to reduce community violence, produce better budgets, create safer streets, and build stronger communities.

In 2018, the inaugural year of the award, Cities of Service received more than 100 applications from cities across the Americas and Europe. With help from a panel of experts, we selected three winning cities and recognized them at a dinner hosted by Michael R. Bloomberg. We celebrated the work of the 10 finalists at the first-ever Cities of Service Engaged Cities Award Summit the following day. The inaugural award was underwritten by Bloomberg Philanthropies, with support from additional sponsors for the Summit.

The strategies of the Engaged Cities Award winners and finalists are models for other cities around the world to learn from, adapt, and improve upon. Cities of Service shares their ideas and strategies in a variety of formats with our coalition and other cities to help them address similar challenges.

2018 FINALIST CITIES

Bologna, Italy, Winner
Santiago de Cali, Colombia, Winner
Tulsa, Oklahoma, Winner
Boston, Massachusetts
Fort Collins, Colorado
Hamm, Germany
Helsinki, Finland
Huntington, West Virginia
Mexico City, Mexico
San José, California

2018 AWARD SPONSORS

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2018 ENGAGED CITIES AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS

BOLOGNA, ITALY

Winner

Bologna adopted new regulations allowing residents to partner with the city to revitalize public spaces, and established district laboratories where city staff and residents connect to co-design initiatives. More than 400 community projects have been implemented, helping to revitalize communities across the city.

SANTIAGO DE CALI, COLOMBIA

Winner

To combat violence, Santiago de Cali created 15 local mesas, our councils, comprised of residents. The mesas launched more than 200 initiatives to build community trust and reduce conflict, including rehabilitating parks and staging arts events. The homicide rate is now at its lowest in 25 years.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Winner

Tulsa united city staff and citizens to analyze data and better understand local challenges, such as income disparity and blight. The program has engaged over 120 community volunteers and city staff and helped the city address more than a dozen public problems, including improved assessment of street repairs and programs to increase graduation rates.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Boston engaged citizens to provide data online about unsafe streets and developed a competitive gaming app that encouraged residents to improve their driving behaviors. For active users of the app, phone distraction dropped by 47 percent and speeding dropped by 35 percent.

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

In response to rising costs and a desire to include the community in spending decisions, Fort Collins launched a program to educate residents about the budgeting process and incorporated citizens into review teams to create a budget that aligned with community priorities. Citizen satisfaction rose by 6 percent and city services were expanded.

HAMM, GERMANY

The shutdown of the mining industry left the western district of Hamm suffering from isolation and economic hardship. The city collaborated with residents to develop more than 540 acres of abandoned land into a public park that physically and emotionally reconnected residents.

HELSINKI, FINLAND

To better integrate the city's expanding immigrant youth population, Helsinki used a human-centered design approach to rapidly prototype and implement programs and services. The project resulted in five new programs, including mentorship for 1,300 students and a jobs program connecting immigrant youth with 15,000 hours of work experience.

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

In response to a growing health crisis, the mayor of Huntington engaged citizens to create a healthier city. The city worked with residents to develop initiatives that fostered healthy choices, such as a community-led farmers market and exercise programs. They reduced the obesity rate from 49 percent to 35 percent.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Mexico City created a campaign to elicit citizen opinions and proposals for the city's new constitution using a citizen working group and online petitions. Citizens submitted 341 proposals, receiving 400,000 votes. The new constitution includes 14 articles based on citizen submissions.

SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA

San José invited citizens to submit solutions to city challenges in a citywide competition. The city worked with the winners and partners to develop their idea into a scalable, marketable solution. In the first year, the competition focused on graffiti removal and resulted in a drone prototype capable of removing graffiti in difficult-to-reach places.



BY CITIES OF SERVICE

2018 REVIEW COMMITTEE

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