

CITY LIVABILITY AWARDS
40 YEARS!
CITY LIVABILITY AWARDS



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



"For the past 40 years, the City Livability Awards Program has been one of the most competitive programs sponsored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Each year mayors and their city governments submit applications for a wide range of programs to compete for the honor of "Most Livable City." Cities are the economic, cultural and social engines of America. It is through our partnership with Waste Management, Inc. that we are able to showcase and celebrate the best practices and great leadership of these mayors who have developed innovative programs to improve the quality of life for city residents."



TOM COCHRAN

CEO and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

"It is truly a great honor to partner with the USCM and champion the City Livability Awards over the past 30 years. Our country's Mayors work tirelessly to ensure their communities are vibrant, healthy and livable. At Waste Management, we have the same hopes and goals, and alongside our Mayors and through our network of 21 million customers and 42 thousand employees, we embrace the opportunity to help make communities safe, resilient and sustainable."



JIM FISH

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.





TAMPA BAY



"There is no greater investment than in our youth and with the success of **Stay & Play** we've been, not only able to keep kids off the streets, but able to provide programming that offers educational and recreational learning experiences that they wouldn't necessarily otherwise receive. We look forward to continuing and expanding this program and hope to inspire similar programs in cities across the country."

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn

BROKEN ARROW



"Receiving the City Livability Award is a tremendous honor for Broken Arrow. Not so long ago, Main Street was almost derelict, with very few businesses and zero foot traffic. Today, residents and visitors will find a vibrant downtown with unique restaurants, local artisan products, entertainment and cultural experiences that have transformed our **Rose District** into one of the most popular destinations in the region. Thanks to the vision of city, school and chamber leaders, along with the citizens of Broken Arrow, the heart of our community is now thriving, with planned private investments of more than \$60 million yet to be realized. Thanks to the U. S. Conference of Mayors for honoring Broken Arrow with this award and recognizing the hard work behind our community's downtown renaissance."

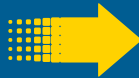
Broken Arrow (OK) Mayor Craig Thurmond

GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING YOUR CITY LIVABILITY ONLINE APPLICATION

Eligibility for Participation in the 2019 City Livability Awards Program

Every municipality in The United States is eligible to nominate one or more city government programs in any policy area, regardless of whether the municipality has applied for or received a City Livability Award in previous years. All programs initiated by the city government are eligible, including those developed and implemented in conjunction with private sector and/or community group participation.



WHAT AWARD-WINNING MAYORS AND THEIR CITIES RECEIVE

- ★ A hand-crafted, engraved City Livability Award sculpture, suitable for public display as a symbol of the city's award;
- ★ Permission to use the exclusive City Livability Award logo on municipal flags, stationery, street signs, t-shirts, etc.;
- ★ Press releases for winning cities as well as being the focus of a national media campaign by the Conference of Mayors and Waste Management to publicize cities' achievements in their winning programs;
- ★ Publication in U.S. Mayor, the twice-monthly news publication of the Conference of Mayors, and a description of winning programs on the Conference's internet web-site; and
- ★ Assistance in planning and conducting a local ceremony, in which the City Livability Award will be presented again to the mayor by representatives from the Conference of Mayors and Waste Management.

CITY LIVABILITY AWARDS: TWO POPULATION CATEGORIES

The 20 City Livability Awards are presented in two population categories — ten awards for cities of fewer than 100,000 people, and ten awards for cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants. In each category ten awards will be presented:

One First-Place City Livability Award;

Five Outstanding Achievement Awards; and

Four Honorable Mention Citations.

HOW TO APPLY

Cities participating in the 2019 City Livability Awards Program will complete an online application at: <https://www.usmayors.org/city-livability/>. Applications are due on **Friday, March 15, 2019**. 20 finalists will be selected and notified by **Friday, May 17, 2019**.

Award winners will be announced at the 87th Annual Conference of Mayors in Honolulu June 28 - July 1, 2019. Enclosed is the form for the 2019 City Livability Award, as well as information to assist you in completing your application. The City Livability Awards are open to USCM members and non-members. However, membership in good standing will be one of the factors the judges will consider.

APPLICATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & QUESTIONS

Please submit a one-page Executive Summary of your program. Briefly describe your program and explain how is this program outstanding or innovative? How has the Mayor engaged with this program? How is the project or program replicable. *(600 words max)*

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CITY'S PROGRAM BY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

How is this program innovative or unique? How does the program improve quality of life for residents? Why did your local government identify the need for this program? What were the challenges you faced and overcame to implement it? Please indicate when the program began and why it was created. *(600 words limit)*

What was and is the role of the mayor and city government in this program? How has the mayor engaged and/or provided leadership? *(500 words limit)*

How was the program financed? Please include general information about the financing provided by your city government as well as specific information about any other sources of funding. If possible, please include numbers as well as percentages of total costs and rank the funding sources starting with the largest contributor to the least. *(Option to upload pdf document or input information)*

What are major lessons your local government has learned from the program that would be helpful to other mayors and cities who would like to replicate it? *(500 words limit)*

How has your program improved the quality of life of your community? Share results and examples of how the program has been successful. Please be as specific as possible. *(300 words limit)*

EXHIBIT MATERIALS

Cities may include exhibits materials in support of their application. Please upload the following supplementary material with your application – these can be YouTube links for videos, digital files (pdf or jpg) for newspaper clippings, photographs, brochures, as well as copies scanned copies of city ordinances, etc. *(8 file upload maximum)*

- You may select as many programs within your city as you wish to nominate, but a separate application must be completed for each program.
- Date application is due. Your online application must be received in the Conference of Mayors' offices on or before **Friday, March 15, 2019 at midnight EDT**
- Please do not call to ask if we have received your application. When applications are submitted both the designated mayoral contact and mayor email addresses will receive a message of confirmation to serve as acknowledgement.
- **If the application is submitted prior to the Friday, March 15, 2019 deadline, cities may use the application link sent to the designated email addresses to make corrections.** After the deadline has passed no changes can be made to the submitted application.

TIMELINE

JANUARY 24-26, 2019	2019 Announcement and Application Launch
MARCH 15, 2019	Applications Due
MAY 17, 2019	2019 Award Winners will receive notification
JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2019	City Livability Awards Announced in Honolulu at the 87th Annual Conference of Mayors

SELECTION OF FINALIST CITIES

Last year we switched to an online only application process. Cities will provide information about their program, and can upload up to 8 files or links for supplementary materials such as a document with bulleted links to youtube videos, news or media clippings and photos. Applications will be due on midnight Friday, March 15, 2019.

INDEPENDENT PANEL OF JUDGES WILL SELECT THE AWARD WINNERS

An independent panel of judges will select the 2019 City Livability Awards. The judges are all former mayors from small, medium and large cities. The panelists are selected on the basis of their extensive knowledge, experience, and background in municipal government, urban planning, economic development, and related fields. The Judges will meet in May and make their determinations. **All award winning cities will be notified by Friday, May 17, 2019.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Announcement of the City Livability award-winning mayors will be made at the Annual City Livability Awards Luncheon at the 87th Annual Conference of Mayors in June 2019 in Honolulu. The Conference of Mayors will notify the 20 winning mayors in May, so they can plan to attend the Annual Conference of Mayors meeting luncheon.

WHAT AWARD-WINNING CITIES MUST DO

When making the decision to participate in the 2019 program, please take into consideration the following requirements of Award winners:

- All First Place Award winning mayors and Outstanding Achievement Award winning mayors must attend or send a designee to the Annual Luncheon of the 87th Annual Conference of Mayors in Honolulu in June 2019.
- The two First-Place Award winning cities must hold a local ceremony within 90 days following the announcement of the Awards in June. Conference of Mayors' and Waste Management representatives will assist in planning the local ceremony and will be attendance to re-present the Award to the mayor.
- All Outstanding Achievement Winning Cities are also expected to hold local ceremonies.

SUMMARY OF AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS



FIRST PLACE (Populations 100,000 and above)

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn's **Stay and Play Program** was created to reach at-risk teens and help curb the rising tide of violence that plagued east and central Tampa. The Stay and Play Program provides a safe and productive environment for teenagers at parks and recreation facilities during the summer. Since 2015, 70,369 teens have enjoyed free admission to 13 community centers and pools, from 6 pm to midnight during their summer vacation. The benefits have been enormous, with a reduction in drugs and gang violence in East Tampa resulting in an 8.9% drop in the crime rate.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (Populations 100,000 and above)

Austin Mayor Steve Adler

The **Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP)** is an innovative model for collaborative partnerships for planning, maintaining, and improving Austin neighborhoods. NPP provides a platform for neighborhood and community organizations to affect public improvements by sharing in the costs of those efforts with the City of Austin. Through the program, assistance is given to neighborhood groups in developing, resourcing, and executing small- to medium-sized improvement projects in the City's right of way or on City-owned property.

Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim

The **Mayor's Initiative for Reentry Affairs** serves ex-offenders and people who are being released to Bridgeport from prison. The program assists and provides resources for employment readiness and placement, housing, mental health and addiction services, and education. In 2003, Mayor Ganim resigned after being convicted on federal felony corruption charges. After serving 7 years, Mayor Ganim was re-elected to another term in 2015, demonstrating that second chances are possible for returning citizens.

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price

FitWorth is a family-focused grassroots initiative of Mayor Betsy Price to address the growing trend of childhood obesity in the city. This active campaign was strategically designed and carefully implemented to create a culture of wellness through physical activity and mindful eating. To engage and encourage citizens, Mayor Price launched an annual FitWorth Mayor's Challenge, a four-week healthy tracking challenge for youth with nearly 33,000 children participating at 113 Fort Worth I.S.D. elementary, middle, and high schools annually.

Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere

The **Plano Mayors Summer Internship Program (PMSIP)** provides rising juniors and seniors high school students with meaningful summer employment during an eight-week paid summer internship. In 2017, an innovative "Teacher Externship" partnership with the Plano Independent School District was added to the program. Revolving around teachers spending two to four weeks of their summer in local businesses and industries, these externships give educators the opportunity to experience real-work applications in fast-changing fields.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum

The **Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy (TFLA)** is an innovative eight-week summer employment program offered by the City of Tallahassee to provide eligible youth with an enriching summer work experience. TFLA is based on five foundational pillars: Job Readiness Training, Employment, College Exposure, Financial Literacy and Education, and Community Impact. In 2015, the inaugural class of 100 youth were employed within the City of Tallahassee Departments. The program has increased by nearly 50 or more participants each year. Now in the fourth year of programming, TFLA has served over 500 youth and provided over 460 professional certifications.

HONORABLE MENTION (Populations 100,000 and above)

Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan

The **Embracing our Immigrants & Refugees & the Natural Helpers Program** helps newly arrived men, women and children successfully integrate into the Aurora community and American society. Through the Natural Helpers Program, newly arriving immigrants and refugees are provided with the tools needed to address linguistic and cultural barriers, partner with law enforcement agencies, reach for opportunity, and learn about city resources.

Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan

Fort Campbell supports the 5th largest military population in the Army and the 7th largest in the Department of Defense with approximately 29,000 active duty, 50,000 family members, 112,600 retirees, 4,000 civilian employees and 18,000 reservists. The **Fort Campbell Warrior Transition Battalion Education and Employment Initiative** assists soldiers employment readiness as they transition into civilian life. The City and Fort Campbell entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to partner in the effort to train soldiers as they prepare for transition from the military.

Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss' **Digital City Hall** is a municipal website redesign effort to provide effective digital services on the Grand Rapids City website. Mayor Bliss wanted to offer a new way for the community to interact with city government, and knew enabling digital self-service on the new website would be the centerpiece of the 24/7/365 customer service transformation. The new site offers the community access to city services and information on any device, on any browser, at any time, from any place.

Warren MI Mayor James Fouts

"Operation Clean Sweep" is a program to improve Warren's older neighborhoods, where blight had lowered property values and led many residents to move. A well-organized program of intensive house-to-house and business-to-business inspections and cleanup were conducted in older neighborhoods. A task force comprised of representatives from city departments, including police, public service, building/property maintenance, sanitation and communications executed weeklong sweeps of targeted neighborhoods. Follow-up inspections showed 95 percent compliance.





FIRST PLACE (Populations 100,000 and below)

Broken Arrow (OK) Mayor Craig Thurmond

The Saving Historic Downtown - Birth of the Rose District is a redevelopment plan for a new arts and entertainment area in the historic part of the Broken Arrow, which over decades had become a neglected and economically challenged area. Many new businesses, with expenditures of over \$25 million, relocated into this once declining district. These changes have elevated the quality of life for residents and brought more than 1,000 new jobs and over 70 new businesses into the area. Over the last six years, new development has resulted in an increase of almost \$4 million in local property taxes. Annual municipal sales taxes collected in the area during that same time-period have also gone up from about \$18,885.00, to over \$400,000 – a 2,025% increase.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (Populations below 100,000)

Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus

After a 2015-2016 King County Community Health Needs Assessment showed Auburn as having the highest percentages of behavioral/mental distress, obesity, smoking, diabetes, low

income, and unemployment and more. Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus created the **R.E.A.D.Y. (Real Emergency Aid Depends on You)** community health program to address the behavioral/mental health/substance abuse crisis in Auburn. To help improve the health of the community a one-hour course was created to help citizens understand the availability of the life-saving drug for opioid overdose – Naloxone. The second objective of the program was to increase awareness within the community about common behavioral/mental health/substance issues to remove the stigma.

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams

The **Quick Response Team (QRT)** is a collaborative effort among law enforcement, medical care providers, mental health agencies and university researchers to bring a rapid response to the opioid epidemic in Huntington, West Virginia. This multifaceted, multi-disciplinary team provides support to individuals within 72 hours of experiencing a drug overdose. Although it has only been in operation since December 2017, of the 128 clients with whom the QRT has successfully made contact, 45, or 35 percent, are now in treatment.

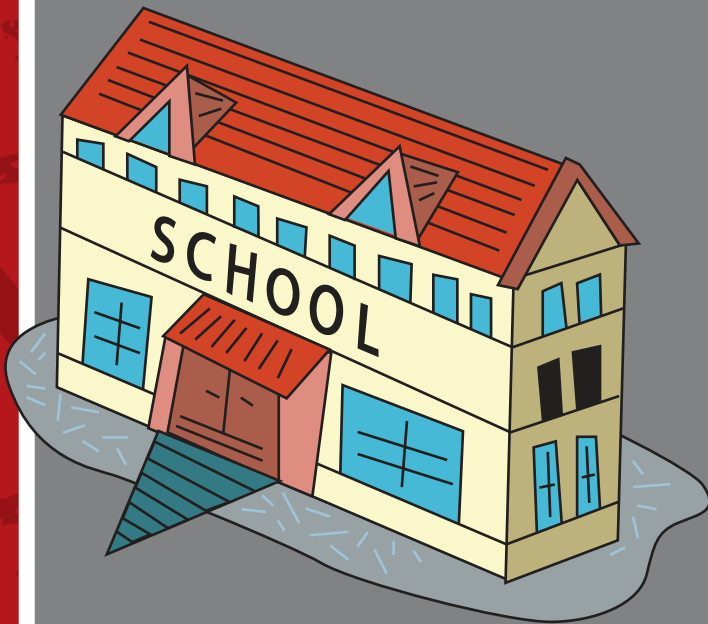


Lima Mayor David J. Berger

Lima Stadium Park is a twenty-year revitalization and repurpose of the severely deteriorated structure and land surrounding the historic stadium. The project revitalized five acres of land creating 3 acres of open green space to the existing stadium grounds. Meandering sidewalks, extended stadium viewing areas, enhanced public lighting, a new public restroom facility, a giant public splash-pad waterpark, and a grotto area which commemorates the five local high schools from over the years now contribute to an aesthetically pleasing, vibrant community space.

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul A. Dyster

The **Niagara Falls Zombie Fight Project (ZFP)** was created to address vacant homes (also known as zombie properties) and help expedite the process of specific properties stuck in lengthy bank foreclosures. The cause of the City of Niagara Falls' zombie and/or blighted vacant and abandoned property problem is population loss. The program began in April 2017, and as of February 2018, 55 properties have been inspected, 12 foreclosures/sales have been forced, seven are currently filing for expedited foreclosure, two have been demolished, and an expedited foreclosure settlement is currently pending.



Sumter Mayor Joseph McElveen.

When the local school district started freezing money for field trips and busing costs, Sumter Mayor Joseph McElveen realized that wanted a program for underserved students to attend live performances at the Opera House, so he created the **Y.E.S. (Youth Education Scholarship) Program**. Y.E.S. provides scholarships to the performances, which are available to any student who is on a free or reduced lunch program. Since its Fall 2016 inception, over 7,000 K-12 students from the Sumter School District have participated in the program. Through their participation, these youth were exposed to an otherwise inaccessible experience.

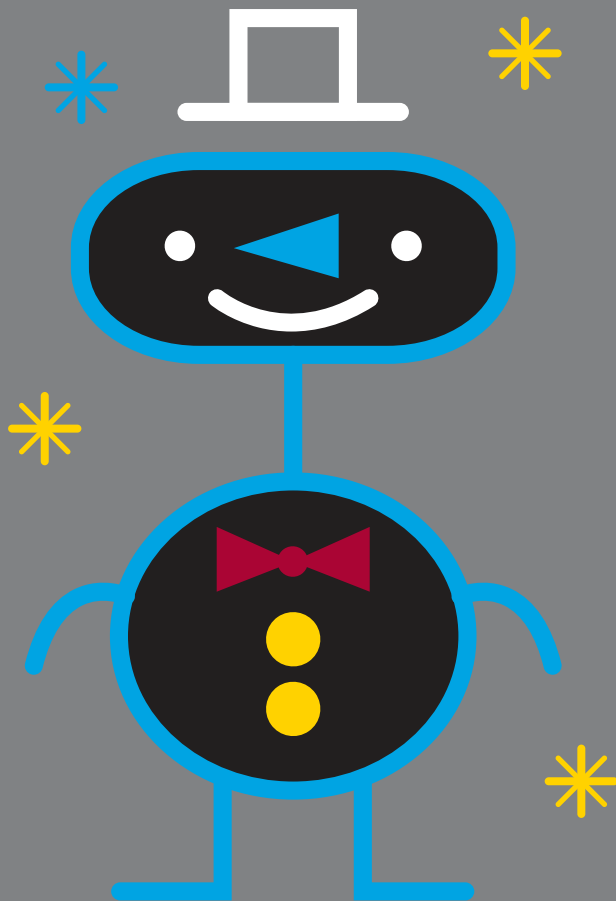
HONORABLE MENTION (Populations below 100,000)

Gloucester Mayor David Mayer

Project SAVE (Substance Abuse Visionary Effort) focuses police efforts and practices beyond the "first arrest" and instead combines policing initiatives into a more flexible and productive practice involving prevention and intervention. One of the most significant initiatives associated with Project SAVE, the SAVE Advocate, entails having a drug and alcohol professional in the Gloucester Township Municipal Court. Gloucester Township was the first in the state to add a professional licensed alcohol and drug counselor to its court. Since the implementation of Project SAVE in June of 2014, the SAVE Advocate has offered services to a total of 158 subjects. Of these 158 people involved in substance abuse, 131 (82%) have engaged in the project - meaning that they have participated in some level of treatment. Additionally, of these 131 people, 24 (18%) have fully completed treatment, which may consist of either in-patient or out-patient treatment. Seventeen (17) of the 24 (71%) have remained arrest free since completing the Project SAVE Program. Interestingly, 10 of the 24 that completed the program were on probation.

Dublin Mayor David Haubert

Valor Crossing is a centrally located affordable veterans housing establishment, which is also a key component of the City's downtown revitalization effort. Valor Crossing opened in May 2017 and consists of 66 total units (24 one-bedroom, 20 two-bedroom, and 21 three-bedroom units). These units are intended to be affordable to households making a total earning of 30-60% of the area median income, with a preference for veterans and their families. The City was able to leverage economic development tools to help make the project financially viable. By increasing the overall number of residential units in the downtown area, the City hopes to invigorate the area and increase demand for additional retail, restaurants and entertainment in the downtown.



Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes

Urban Living Room, A Community Project, began under the leadership of Mayor Billy Hewes. Fishbone Alley is a narrow, pedestrian-oriented street that is designed to focus on livability, instead of parking and traffic. One block long and 20 foot wide, located in historic downtown Gulfport. Before the alley was revitalized, it was a common place for illegal dumping, tons of trash; rodents were always present, as well as some other unsavory activities. With the addition of Fishbone Alley local businesses now have a sought after community and tourism destination. Fishbone Alley was conceived to be, not only a destination for visitors, but a heartbeat in the middle of downtown Gulfport, drawing the community to be part in creating the ultimate "Urban Living Room". Art programs, funded through the Gulfport Main Street Assoc., create an atmosphere of art in motion, an ever-changing diorama of sculpture, art and entertainment.

Marion Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

Marion, Iowa is no longer imagining how art might transform an underutilized alley in the heart of its commercial business district. The **ImaginArt in the Alley** project, now referred to as **Uptown Artway**, has given the district new life. The space features nine, permanent public art installations and serves as a pedestrian destination and community "living room," with new restaurants, pubs, gathering spaces and lighting to illuminate the night scene. The business district has experienced a rebirth with new businesses and residents recognizing the lure of this unique gathering space. Since the project began, five new businesses have been established in adjacent properties and five buildings have been purchased and restored.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) MAY OUR CITY SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION?

Yes, but you must complete a separate application for each program submitted.

2) SHOULD WE SUBMIT A PROGRAM IN THE PLANNING STAGES?

No. Programs must be one that is currently operating.

3) MAY WE SUBMIT EXHIBIT MATERIALS WITH THE APPLICATION?

Yes the application will allow 8 file uploads of a document with bulleted YouTube links for videos, digital files (pdf or jpg) for media or press clippings, photographs, brochures, as well as copies scanned copies of municipal ordinances, etc.

4) IS IT POSSIBLE TO SUBMIT LAST YEAR'S APPLICATION AGAIN?

Yes. You should update it to reflect any updates and changes over the past year.

5) IF THERE IS A LATE-BREAKING CHANGE IN OUR PROGRAM OR A MAJOR TYPO, SHOULD WE CALL THAT INFORMATION IN?

No. If the application is submitted prior to the Friday, March 15, 2019 deadline, cities may use the application link sent to the designated email addresses to return and make updates. After March 15, 2019 we will go with what you have already submitted.

6) CAN WE HAVE AN EXTENSION ON THE DEADLINE OF MARCH 15, 2019?

No.

7) CAN YOU START YOUR APPLICATION AND COME BACK OR DOES IT ALL HAVE TO BE COMPLETED AT ONE TIME?

You will see a save button on the button page which will enable you to work on the application at your discretion. You do not have to complete the program at one time.

8) WHAT ARE TIPS TO MAKE AN APPLICATION MORE COMPETITIVE?

Remember the judges will be reviewing numerous applications. Be to the point. Judges on the panel respond well to program results: number of people impacted, amount of money saved, city processes improved, number of volunteers and hours involved; and or other quantitative amounts which demonstrate the unique ways the program has enhanced the quality of life in your city. If similar programs exist in other cities use the narrative spaces to explain how your program is different.

9) WHAT IF THIS PROGRAM BEGAN UNDER A FORMER MAYOR? WHAT IF THE PRESENT MAYOR HAS ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE A FEW MONTHS OR DAYS?

Not a problem we encourage you to still submit the program. If you find it helpful, please describe the role of the previous mayor and the expected role of the present mayor. Please be advised only the current mayor in June will be recognized at the luncheon.

10) CAN I CALL EARLY TO FIND OUT WHO THE FINALISTS ARE?

No. Please wait for our announcement of Award Winning Cities at the 87th Conference of Mayors City Livability Luncheon in Honolulu. All award winning cities will be notified by Friday, May 17, 2019.

If you have any other questions or are having problems with your application: Please contact Jocelyn Bogen at jbogen@usmayors.org or 202-861-6727





**THE CITY LIVABILITY AWARDS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED
BY THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT.**

STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN, Mayor of Columbia, President The U.S. Conference of Mayors

JIM FISH, CEO Waste Management, Inc

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Tom Cochran

TOM COCHRAN, CEO and Executive Director
tcochran@usmayors.org

1620 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202.293.7330
www.usmayors.org