

First Place - Population over 100,000 (Large Cities)

Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere Plano Financial Literacy Initiative

The Plano Financial Literacy Initiative seeks to help Plano residents gain knowledge and skills to build financial capability. The Plano Public Library (PPL) serves City of Plano residents and employees with financial education resources, programs, displays/exhibits, and wealth building classes. In 2014, Mayor Harry LaRosiliere initiated the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program, which has since placed over 320 Plano high school students into paid internships at small and large companies, nonprofits and governmental agencies throughout Plano. A financial education element will be added to the program for summer 2019. In 2018, Mayor LaRosiliere launched a new component, *Plano Families First*, a large, day-long gathering supported by Plano businesses and the healthcare community to strengthen Plano families in need.

Outstanding Achievement (Large Cities)

Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan Akron Parks Challenge

The City of Akron maintains 161 parks encompassing over 3800 acres. In Spring 2018 a partnership with the Akron Parks Collaborative, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Akron Civic Commons, and the City launched the first-ever Akron Parks Challenge. The Akron Parks Challenge invited neighborhood residents, leaders and organizations alike to pitch their vision for their favorite park and how they could partner to achieve the change they wish to see. Through the City's 2018 capital budget, two winning parks were awarded up to \$100,000 per location to support implementation costs. A third park was also named a winner through local philanthropic support.

Arlington (TX) Mayor Jeff Williams Arlington City Center Project

Over the years Arlington's 150 year old Downtown had lost prominence as a commercial and residential area. However, several civic functions

remained, including the Central Library, located next to City Hall, both on large sites surrounded by parking lots in the middle of Downtown. The library was constructed in 1972, and by 2012, the building faced serious challenges providing new technologies and uses. This **Arlington City Center Project** project began under former Mayor Robert Cluck, who served from 2003 to 2015, and was continued under current Mayor Jeff Williams. The new development includes rental apartments, live /work units, retail/restaurant space, as well as a parking garage. A new, larger, state-of-the-art library would be constructed on a surface parking lot behind City Hall, with a public plaza and a new City Council Chambers situated in the middle, connecting City Hall and the new library, as well as the existing Arlington Museum of Art to the west, and the new mixed-use development to the east. The City Center Project has made downtown a commercial, residential and civic destination. The mixed-use development was completed in Fall 2017 and the Library opened in June 2018.

Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston Broome Cradle to K Program

Mayor Broome's **Cradle to K Program** is an early childhood initiative focused on strengthening the culture of parenting in Baton Rouge around three parenting pillars: Patience, Curiosity, & Conversation. The program, led by the Mayor's Office, is a community effort involving the active participation of over two dozen community partners. Cradle to K connects parents to information, resources, and opportunities. The Cradle to K initiative is made up of three primary strategies and also plays the role of a central hub of communication about resources and opportunities for parents and children. Cradle to K uses social media to amplify the voices of local parents and also to promote resources and opportunities. The Facebook page's engagement is by far the highest of any municipal program in the region. It's not unusual for posts about our parent clubs or pre-k enrollment events to be shared over 50 times.

Mesa Mayor John Giles Community Court

The City of Mesa has an existing Veterans Court, which helps streamline and diverts defendants into community and social service programs in lieu of incarceration. Mesa, with a population of nearly 500,000, has a homeless population centered around downtown, close to transit, parks

and the main library. According to annual surveys, there are 3,000 to 5,000 homeless living in Mesa. Using the Veterans Court model, **The Community Court** works across disciplines, jurisdictions and organizations to focus on the individual and issues that led them to becoming homeless. The Court saves the city money, and 575 people have entered Community Court and 65 have graduated. Those 65 people accounted for 3,400 police contacts and 1,300 arrests in the history of Mesa records management system. They accounted for more than 200 arrests in 2018 alone. Since graduating over the last 7 months, they have accounted for just three arrests. Patrol Officers are now spending less time on these 65 individuals freeing them to help others

First Place - Population under 100,000 (Small Cities)

Aguadilla Mayor Carlos Mendez Martinez Pintalto initiative

The **Pintalto** initiative, a collaboration of Aguadilla Mayor Carlos Mendez Martinez and architect Samuel Gonzalez, uses houses in the Cerro Cabrera area as a canvas to paint a mosaic of 14 murals which honor Aguadilla's fishermen. Mayor Martinez knew the program would transform the city through beautification and public art, but this was also an opportunity to help the residents heal from Hurricane Maria. The Pintalto initiative was a community rehabilitation program, which included vegetation cleanup, and the removal of illegal landfills and debris from abandoned houses. Tourism has increased in the city. Approximately 10,000 monthly visitors tour the Cerro Cabrera area since the mural was painted. Small businesses managed by local residents have also been launched and are taking advantage of the new interest in the area.

Outstanding Achievement (Small Cities)

Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes Brickyard Bayou Park

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many neighborhoods were ravaged by flooding. The Bayou View West neighborhood in the 34th St. area repurposed 40 acres to bring to Gulfport a Community Garden, a Dog Park,

a Nature Trail and Outdoor Classroom, a 17-acre Disc Golf Course and a 21-acre Bike Trail, all located at the new **Brickyard Bayou Park**.

The new Brickyard Bayou Park has been an uplifting project to the surrounding neighborhood, offering amenities not found anywhere else in Gulfport or on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and creatively conforming to FEMA's regulation. The goal of the park is to offer a completely unique tourist attraction that will have a positive economic impact on the community, as well as offer an improved quality of life through healthy living and educational activities for all of Gulfport's residents and visitors.

Lynn (MA) Mayor Thomas McGee Lynn's High Rock Starry Starry Night

Lynn's Starry Starry Night program is designed to promote tourism and education while affording inner-city, low-income, children and residents the opportunity to utilize and enjoy a wonderful, unique publically owned and run observatory at the top of High Rock Tower in the City of Lynn. High Rock Tower not only sits atop the City of Lynn seal, but also in the heart of Lynn's downtown, on the peak of a large hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The Starry Starry Night program is run by volunteers and is 100% free of charge. It is designed to introduce people of all ages to basic astronomy while promoting the City of Lynn. People from all over Massachusetts travel to High Rock on any given night to enjoy the views and utilize the program to see objects such as the Rings of Saturn, various Nebula, the details of the moon's crust or Jupiter and her Moons.

Plainfield (NJ) Mayor Adrian O. Mapp Mayor's Quality of Life Task Force

The Quality of Life Taskforce was created to make the process of addressing code violations at vacant and abandoned properties more streamlined. It's a multi departmental and multi-agency task force. Before the taskforce was created, if an abandoned or vacant home was reported to the city, each department would go out at different times to make an assessment and provide a report. With the creation of the Quality of Life Taskforce, each department involved – Police, Fire, Inspections, Health, Public Works, Community Development and Bulk Division of the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority (PMUA) – are at the location at the

same time. Each department can assess all risks both to the property and the community and quickly determine the next steps that need to be taken.

West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
West Sacramento On-Demand: Mobility for All

West Sacramento On-Demand, is a first-of-its-kind municipal micro-transit service that has demonstrated measurable success. A cross between a bus and Uber, West Sacramento On-Demand - a unique partnership with private ridesharing company, Via - enables users to request a shared ride at the touch of a button and travel citywide for a flat-fare. To book a ride, users simply open an App or make a call and a colorfully branded Mercedes Benz van arrives in minutes. West Sacramento On-Demand brings convenience and a high quality user experience to the previously underserved or transit dependent, while preserving critical social functions of public transit by safeguarding accessibility across ages, incomes and abilities. Nearly a year into service, ridership has exceeded expectations by almost double, with monthly ridership approaching 10,000 and over 60,000 rides completed since launching in 2018.