



## 2017 CITY LIVABILITY AWARDS

### FIRST PLACE (Populations 100,000 and above)

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**  
**City of Los Angeles**  
**Program: CleanStat LA**

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's CleanStat Program, modeled after CompStat, is a cleanliness assessment tool, which provides data on the cleanliness of Los Angeles city streets and alleys. CleanStat employs quarterly, block-by-block cleanliness assessments of the entire city to build data and identify trends for "where the trash is" – and staff is able to learn over time what factors may be contributing in particularly impacted areas. CleanStat data helps make decisions about what resources to deploy, and helps provide a rationale for the most strategic deployment of resources to ensure equity in the Mayor's priority outcomes of cleanliness and livability. All data is made open to the public, updated regularly, and is available on an interactive map where residents can see any street's scores. The City's Bureau of Sanitation drives all of LA's 6,500 miles of public streets and 800 miles of alleys on a quarterly basis, and gives each block a "cleanliness score". Since its launch in April 2016, CleanStat has completed four (4) quarterly Citywide assessments, which the City has used to deploy crews, organize cleanups, and focus most on the neighborhoods most in need of these services. Still in its first year, CleanStat is already yielding results: According to a Los Angeles Times analysis, "During the first (CleanStat) survey in early 2016, more than 370 miles of streets and alleys... were so dirty they required immediate cleanup. By the end of last year, that figure had fallen to 91 miles, or about 1% of city blocks."

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**  
**(Populations 100,000 and above)**

**Mayor Donald Wagner**

**City of Irvine**

**Program: Community Ice Facility at the Orange County Great Park**

The former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro in Irvine is being regenerated as the Orange County Great Park. At nearly 1,300 acres, the Orange County Great Park is taking shape as a world-class regional amenity for recreation and culture, driving meaningful improvements to livability for residents of Orange County. The Orange County Great Park is the Community Ice Facility, approved by the Irvine City Council in 2016, is a 280,000 square foot facility which will be built and operated by an affiliate of the Anaheim Ducks National Hockey League (NHL) team and will offer 4 NHL or Olympic sized ice rinks. Over 90% of the ice time will be reserved for public use supporting the region's rapidly growing youth hockey programs, as well as, figure skating, learn-to-skate programs, adult ice sports, and open ice time. The facility is under construction and will bring over \$100 million in private investment to the City of Irvine.

**Mayor Shane Bemis**

**City of Gresham**

**Program: Clean Start Team**

The Clean Start Program provides paid, mentored work experience for individuals transitioning out of homelessness by engaging them as a team dedicated to cleaning up the impacts of homelessness in public spaces in the community. Started in April 2016 Mayor Bemis and the local nonprofit Central City Concern ("CCC") partnered to address the issue with new solutions that simultaneously disrupt the causes and effects of homelessness. A trained CCC staff person serves as the supervisor and mentor on the team. Trainees are individuals coming out of homelessness who, through the participation in this program, gain valuable work experience. The team cleans up trash generated in areas impacted by homelessness. In its first 8 months, the Clean Start program has removed 5607 bags of trash, 1190 needles, 66 drug paraphernalia, cleaned 186 bio-hazards, 306 unlawful campsites, made 600 contacts with homeless individuals, responded to 268 dispatch calls and removed 432 shopping carts.

**Mayor Greg Stanton**

**City of Phoenix**

**Program: Phoenix Transportation 2050 Plan (T2050)**

Phoenix Transportation 2050 (T2050) initiative is a \$31.5 billion, 35-year comprehensive transportation plan intended to improve existing transit services, such as local bus and Dial-a-Ride, expand high capacity transit in Phoenix with light rail, bus rapid transit, and streetcar, as well as bolster street improvements. This plan makes a more mobile, livable city by providing connections to diverse destinations across metropolitan Phoenix. Mayor Stanton led an unprecedented formation of the Citizens Committee on the Future of Phoenix Transportation, a 34 member group of transportation, financial and community experts led by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, to review public transit and street transportation needs citywide and to gather resident input obtained through a variety of public engagement methods for all generations in all mediums.

**Mayor Frank Ortis**

**City of Pembroke Pines**

**Program: Creative Placemaking at Pembroke Pines' City Center**

The City Center Creative Placemaking Project incorporated Community Engagement Design Activities and Innovative Arts Program Planning in the development of the new Pembroke Pines City Center cultural complex and its arts venues. After more than a decade of community visioning and planning, and two years of construction, the City Center Cultural Complex opened in early 2017. Home to City Hall, City Commission Chambers, a Great Hall performance space, and The Frank Art Gallery, City Center's facilities all face a one-acre Plaza that is designed to provide open space and outdoor performance opportunities to residents of surrounding neighborhoods. City Center also serves as the cornerstone of Pembroke Pines' new 130-acre multi-use, pedestrian-friendly downtown, which is currently under development.

**Mayor Gregory J. Oravec**

**City of Port St. Lucie**

**Program: Forum on Race Relations & Inclusion**

Across our country, acts of violence stemming from racial tensions, terrorism, intolerance and hate, are resulting in deaths, loss, fear and civil unrest. In an effort to avoid these negative outcomes and to continue to deliver on the promise of being a safe and prosperous community, Port St. Lucie held its first Forum on Race Relations & Inclusion on November 5, 2016. Mayor Gregory J. Oravec convened a daylong forum to bring the citizens of Port St. Lucie together to listen, share concerns, learn, plan, act and report on progress in maintaining and enhancing inclusion. For those who could not attend, keynote sessions were broadcast live on Facebook. More than 200 people registered to attend this event. The Forum

became a launching point for future workshops on topics and issues identified by participants; and internal changes needed within the city organization. Overall, feedback indicated that the event was an eye-opening and valuable experience for the entire community.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**(Populations 100,000 and above)**

**Mayor Joe Ganim**  
**City of Bridgeport**  
**Program: Mayor's Initiative for Reentry Affairs**

Launched in August 2016, the Mayor's Initiative for Reentry Affairs serves people who are being released to Bridgeport from prisons or ex-offenders living in the city. The program assists and provides resources for employment readiness and placement, housing, mental health and addiction services, and education. There are approximately 10,000 individuals within the City of Bridgeport who have criminal convictions, and 1,000 people who are released from custody annually into the city. While there are some community groups that provide services for formerly incarcerated individuals, local government had not established a rapport with these groups, nor was there a sense that local government was invested in re-entry. In 2003, during his fifth term as the Mayor of Bridgeport, Mayor Joseph Ganim resigned after being convicted on federal felony corruption charges. After serving 7 years, Mayor Ganim was re-elected by the citizens of Bridgeport to another term of Mayor in 2015, demonstrating that second chances do exist when returning citizens demonstrate and turn-around in their lives.

**Mayor Carolyn Goodman**  
**City of Las Vegas**  
**Program: Mayor's Faith Initiative**

The Mayor's Faith Initiative, founded in 2012, connects faith leaders, volunteers from the community and representatives from non-profit organizations, local, state and federal government agencies to address six high priority community issues. For each of these issues, there is a workgroup that meets monthly. Mayor Goodman has played an integral role in initiating, implementing, and championing the initiative. In 2012, she convened a meeting of faith leaders, which resulted in identification of the six key issues and creation of the workgroups. The six high priority community issues: addictions, strengthening the family, RECAP/Community Unity, education, homelessness, and human trafficking. Each workgroup is chaired by a faith leader and the meetings are led by a city facilitator.

Workgroup participants include representatives from the faith community, social service providers, non-profit organizations, government, and skilled professionals. The workgroups use a variety of strategies to achieve the purpose of the initiative:

- Host events relevant to the issue area, such as special topic workshops and conferences.
- Connect volunteers from houses of worship and the community to nonprofit organizations with resources, programs and services.
- Connect faith leaders, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and representatives of local, state, and federal government agencies in a regional effort, where everyone speaks the same language, planning is achieved through collaboration and more effective distribution of services and resources is accomplished.
- Create a bridge between all faith initiative groups.
- Create a network of resources with ethical partners.

**Mayor Ed Pawlowski**  
**City of Allentown**  
**Program: Cultural Community Center**

In response to the increasing needs of its diverse Allentown residents, the City expanded the reach of its Office of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs through an innovative Cultural Community Center that brings together city government, local non-profits, and numerous cultural groups, establishing a home for them in one centralized location. Many of the Allentown's residents were born outside of the U.S. while countless more are first generation offspring of immigrants. Through the Cultural Community Center, cultural groups have a very low payment lease that affords them quality office space, electric, telephone, internet service, and parking, as well as access to a commercial kitchen for food preparation for events, large gymnasium, and common space where they can hold meetings, fundraisers, and other small cultural events. The Center will also provide meeting space for attorneys and representatives from international consulates to meet with residents in need of advice and services. Seven groups on board to sign leases at the Center are: Jamaican Cultural Organization; Liberian Community Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Puerto Rican Cultural Preservation Inc.; Interlace Cultural y Desarrollo Integral Mexicano; Dominican Cultural Organization; the Indian American Association of the Lehigh Valley; and the Kenyan Community in the North East.

**Mayor Harry LaRosiliere**  
**City of Plano**  
**Program: Plano Public Library System: Art in the Library**

Art in the Library was created to expand the array of art programs, and to diversify the cultural and creative experiences offered to the community by the Plano Public Library System (PPLS). The libraries provide multi-faceted art initiatives engaging all ages in the diverse community. Engaging the community in art activities also provides opportunities for citizens to discover the breadth of services and programs available at the library. PPLS is an active proponent of STEAM-based learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) and has thoughtfully added impactful art programs to diversify and enrich the experience for Plano residents. Art in the Library initiatives include: the 18st AIRSpace (Artist in Residence) program, annual bookmark art contest, rotating art exhibits in all five libraries, youth, family and adult participatory art programs, and new art-themed STEAM kits. These programs enable residents to explore all facets of local art in a welcoming and community-centered environment.

**FIRST PLACE**  
**(Populations 100,000 and below)**

**Mayor Johnny DuPree**  
**City of Hattiesburg**  
**Program: Hattiesburg Reads**

The Hattiesburg Reads Initiative is a restaurant based literacy program where young people can enjoy their favorite meals at local restaurants while reading their favorite books within installed Library Lounges. The reaction of children and adults to earlier education initiatives encouraged leaders to pursue more unique and practical opportunities to foster literacy. Hattiesburg Reads was officially launched on February 19, 2016, within a local Burger King Restaurant followed by the two remaining Burger King restaurants in the area. The mission to open the gateway to literacy and the opportunities that come along with it prompted O'Charley's Restaurant & Bar and McAlister's Deli franchises to partner with the City of Hattiesburg Mayoral Office and Construction Department to build and install Library Lounges. Hattiesburg Mayor, Johnny DuPree, purchased the first set of books for each restaurant and the city has funded Hattiesburg Reads puzzles, pens, pencils and fans. Children are not only able to read the books in the Library Lounges; they are encouraged to take them home along with other Hattiesburg Reads-related items. Local restaurants reward children with ice cream or a snack of their choice upon completing a book.

## **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (Populations 100,000 and below)**

### **Mayor Carlos Méndez City of Aguadilla Program: One to One**

The One-to-One program started in Aguadilla through the initiative of Mayor Méndez, Hewlett Packard, volunteers from non-profit organizations and both the private and public sector. Nearly 100% of the youth participants reach their goal from the results of this collaborative effort. One-To-One started in 2012 with the objective of improving the quality of life of junior high school students who were performing extremely poorly in school. Participants were identified as potential school dropouts, delinquents or as future menaces to society. The pilot program takes place in the San Antonio Community, where the percentage of high school graduate is 43.9% in contrast with the 86.7% nationwide according to the US Census. A mentoring program with volunteers would guide and motivate these youths in educational, recreational and social matters in an intimate atmosphere of one-to-one. The great majority of these children come from dysfunctional families, in many occasions in a single parent household living in poverty conditions. The mentors help students after school with their homework, and participate in program activities and initiatives. The mentor supervises educational progress through "Escuela Virtual" (virtual school-Internet site) and "pointchecks" carried out through periodical meetings with a coordinator and/or the school director.

### **Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez City of Doral Program: Get Fit Doral**

The Get Fit Doral program was created and implemented in 2006 by Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, as a citywide initiative to promote health & wellness and encourage healthy living amongst residents and businesses in the City of Doral. The goal of the initiative is to create awareness of health related issues that affect the community and provide a series of programs and events that consist of screenings, seminars, lectures, classes, sports programs and activities to educate and promote a healthy lifestyle for the Doral community. Additionally, this program focuses on improving access to healthy food, increasing opportunities for physical activity, decreasing tobacco consumption, increasing awareness, and educating the public. A main feature of this program is the annual Get Fit Doral challenge. This challenge is a free program designed to encourage Doral residents to achieve their personal health and wellness goals for a fit body, mind and spirit.

During the three-month duration, residents are divided into male and female categories with top winners in each receiving prizes and recognition during a Doral City Council Meeting. Throughout the challenge participants are able to take part in special free fitness classes offered at city parks and discount memberships at local fitness facilities. This program is City run and financially supported program with sponsorship and support from local businesses in the community.

**Mayor Roy Buol**

**City of Dubuque**

**Program: Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project**

Dubuque's Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation project (BBWFMP) is a multi-phased, green infrastructure investment to mitigate flooding, improve water quality, stimulate development, and enhance quality of life. The project catalyzes community economic, social and environmental capital to create resilient neighborhoods, foster economic opportunities, and balance resources. The BBWFMP involves the daylighting of 4,500 feet of buried storm sewer and reconstructing 240 alleys in the watershed to "green alleys" utilizing permeable pavers to reduce the risk of flash flooding. The project consists of the creation of an open waterway from the Mississippi River levee system to Comiskey Park and the creation a linear parkway connecting Dubuque's historic riverfront and urban core to reduce stormwater runoff within the watershed by up to 80%. The restored creek includes a hike/bike trail, rain gardens, walking paths, lighting, benches, pervious pavement, an amphitheater, and over 1,000 trees and other plantings. By engaging citizens in the final creek daylighting design, care was given to reduce how many structures were removed, and preserve "neighborhood anchors" such as local businesses, schools and churches. Only 100 properties were voluntarily acquired and deconstructed. Creative reuse of salvaged material resulted in over 1500 tons diverted from the landfill. This 12-phase, \$219 million project addresses the severe and frequent flash flooding experienced in the watershed. The project will reduce the volume of stormwater, slow the rate of stormwater through the upper watershed, increase the safe conveyance of stormwater through the flood-prone areas, provide floodwater protection to the City's water treatment plant and prevent an estimated \$582 million in damages over the project's 100-year design life.

**Mayor Lester E. Taylor, III**

**City of East Orange**

**Program: Don't Dump On EO**

The "Don't Dump on EO" Campaign was created to address the growing problem

of illegal dumping in backyards, vacant and abandoned properties, lots, schools and highways in East Orange. This illegal dumping degraded properties and created unsafe and unhealthy conditions for residents. In a city that is only 3.9 square miles, this illegal dumping plagued the city for decades, mainly by individuals outside city limits who had no regard for the quality of life for local citizens. The Don't Dump on EO campaign focused on embracing cleaner neighborhoods by educating the community on the harmful dangers dumping has on the overall health and perception of the city. The multi-platform program targeted the entire population with educational interactive activities such as our annual Don't Dump on EO and Live, Breathe, Think – Clean & Green poster contests, campaign lawn signs informing drivers in our corridors to not dump in East Orange, and an informative video produced by students in the summer youth work program. During our annual Community Wide Clean-Up Days, held during the spring and fall, residents receive "Don't Dump on EO" materials containing property maintenance housing regulations, how to report on illegal dumping activities and vacant and abandoned properties regulations. The Don't Dump on EO has expanded to include lawn signs, peel and stick stickers, t-shirts, plant and flower giveaways, outdoor clean up tool giveaways – all to promote neighborhood beautification.

**Mayor Errick D. Simmons**  
**City of Greenville**  
**Program: Worship on the Water**

Worship on the Water (WOW) is an innovative faith-based racial reconciliation initiative. The goal of this initiative is to foster community and promote unity in Greenville. The fifth Sunday of the month Mayor Simmons hosts an interfaith, interracial ecumenical service at Schelben Park on Lake Ferguson. Mayor Simmons's vision is to bring people together regardless of racial identity or religious affiliation. WOW fosters community by rekindling conversations in hopes that the community can move toward greater equity, forward thinking, and reduced racial tensions. During the service, a minister is partnered with a choir of a different race. Greenville, Mississippi, is in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, where our faith is an intricate part the culture. Because faith can be divisive, Worship on the Water strategically uses faith to meet people where they are. WOW fosters tough conversations and heals old wounds, thereby uniting the community with a renewed vision for the future of Greenville.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**(Populations 100,000 and below)**

**Mayor Robert Donchez**

**City of Bethlehem**

**Program: Southside Bethlehem Keystone Innovation Zone**

The Southside Bethlehem Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) was established in 2004 and is now in its 13th year of operation. It is the mission of the KIZ to foster innovation and create entrepreneurial opportunities by aligning the combined resources of educational institutions, the public sector, and the private sector. The KIZ has had a profound impact on innovation and entrepreneurship in Bethlehem by offering critical financial resources and assistance to early-stage startup companies. To date, the KIZ has invested over \$7 million dollars in 90 companies. Companies that satisfy the following requirements are considered as KIZ Companies: Located within the geographical boundaries of the KIZ; Operational for less than 8 years; and Operating within one of the State-approved industry clusters. Mayor Donchez is responsible for setting the priorities for his administration and one the highest priorities is economic development within the City. Numerous KIZ Companies have grown from the startup stage to generating millions in revenue and hiring local employees. Examples of this success include: EcoTech Marine, Viddler, Texas Instruments Lehigh Valley, Saladax Biomedical, and ViiHealth.

**Mayor James Brainard**

**City of Carmel**

**Program: Center for The Performing Arts**

Center for the Performing Arts was created as a vital cultural element in Carmel's vibrant downtown called City Center. The Center provides world-class performances and unparalleled educational outreach programming for the region. It houses three venues showcasing music, theater and dance – the 1,600-seat Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington Theater and the 200-seat Studio Theater. It is also home to the Great American Songbook Foundation, Museum and Archives – the passion of the Grammy-nominated performer Michael Feinstein, who resides in Carmel and serves as the Artistic Director for the Center. The Palladium's landmark design is unique in the area and because it stands alone, visible from all four sides, it was fashioned after Palladio's Villa Rotunda in Italy. Its hosted great performances from Tony Bennett, B.B. King, Joshua Bell, Yo-Yo Ma and Harry Connick Jr., to world-class symphony orchestras and international dance companies. The Center has been an economic driver with additional dollars spent in the community from arts patrons, direct and indirect increase in jobs and

adding to our ability to attract companies to Carmel. It has also been an integral part of the success in the nearby Arts & Design District and the redevelopment of the adjacent Midtown area.

**Mayor Michael Bodker**  
**City of Johns Creek**  
**Program: Johns Creek DataHub**

Data has long been employed in the private sector to derive insights into an organization's core business and customer base. These insights drive efficiency, improve service delivery, and build customer retention and brand loyalty. While these concepts are critical for long-term growth of any business, they are often overlooked by the public sector. In early 2016, Mayor Bodker and the City's executive management team had a vision of utilizing data that's similar to private industry. The goal was clear: organize data collected and developed at the City to "enable us to answer the questions we don't know to ask yet." Up to this point, the most central location for data within the City government was the Geographic Information System. This initiative was informally called "Project Octopus" due to the striking resemblance between the far-reaching tentacles of the octopus and the need for GIS to develop methods of data identification, extraction, and delivery to City staff and citizens. Over the past year, Project Octopus has successfully liberated dozens of datasets residing in stand-alone systems across the City's operations. Datasets that are now available cover nearly all aspects of the City's operations including building permits, code compliance cases, police incidents and responses, fire department incidents, public works tasks and accompanying work orders, and business locations.

**Mayor Daniel McLaughlin**  
**City of Orland Park**  
**Program: Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum (OPSAF)**

Beginning in 2014, the village recognized the need for action after discovering the dramatic increase in the number of opiate overdoses and deaths. While Orland Park provided a mix of programs and assistance, there was a need for a concerted community effort to fight substance abuse in the Orland Park. The Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum (OPSAF) is unique in that over forty stakeholders (elected officials, school personnel, first responders, mental health professionals, addiction specialists, and medical providers) in the Orland Park community came together to address the heroin epidemic that has plagued the Chicago land area. Each stakeholder played a vital role in addressing the problem through their own specialized skill sets in education, identification and intervention, enforcement and treatment. These specialists have offered unmatched firsthand perspectives and

know what is happening in communities across the nation. The OPSAF team faced the challenge of reducing the stigma of addiction an individual may face in an affluent community. The Treatment and Recovery committee addressed that issue head-on by hosting a free popcorn, soft drink and movie event at a local theater. "The Anonymous People", a feature documentary film about the over 23 million Americans living in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs was aired to over 250 guests. At the completion of the movie, members of the audience openly spoke about their successes and others of their struggles with addiction.