

# MIAMI BEACH

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City of Miami Beach Chosen as a Finalist for All-America City 2018**

— *Recognized for its Innovation and Cross-Sector Collaboration* —

**Miami Beach, FL** – The City of Miami Beach was recently selected by the National Civic League (NCL) as a finalist for All-America City (AAC) 2018. The prestigious designation recognizes cities that lead the nation in addressing today's current issues in innovative ways, while addressing equity and actively engaging residents throughout the action-planning process.

The city was evaluated in the areas of: community vision and pride, public participation, civic engagement, inclusiveness, community story and diversity. In particular, the city was recognized for its community-driven projects in the areas of education, transportation and resiliency.

"I'm proud to see our great city recognized for our proactive efforts and build the momentum in our community as we move forward in the competition," expressed City Manager Jimmy L. Morales. "This designation truly presents a unique opportunity to evaluate our efforts in addressing our community's challenges and gain support by fostering new community partnerships."

Like America itself, the All-America City Award has changed over the years. In the beginning, winning cities were often those that demonstrated local government reform and efficiency including housing and infrastructure improvements. Today, the cities are an extension of the ground-level efforts – embodying the true diversity and innovative action in America.

"These finalist communities are building local capacity to solve problems and improve their quality of life," shared National Civic League's President Doug Linkhart. "The National Civic League is honored to recognize these communities, and views their efforts as critical in addressing the challenge to communities issued by the 1968 Kerner Commission, to make good the promises of American democracy to all citizens – urban and rural, white, black, Spanish surname, American Indians, and every minority group."

Sharing a bond of working to create more equitable communities through inclusive civic engagement, the 19 other finalist range from large cities to small communities including:

Springdale, Arkansas; Placentia, California; Stockton, California; Longmont, Colorado; Decatur, Georgia; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Battle Creek, Michigan; Las Vegas, Nevada; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cincinnati, Ohio; Beaverton, Oregon; Allentown, Pennsylvania; Columbia, South Carolina; Kershaw County, South Carolina; Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; El Paso, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; Pasco, Washington and Tacoma, Washington.

The final competition will take place at the NCL conference in Denver, Colorado from June 22 to 24. At the conference, the city's chosen representation will present to the AAC jury its future vision and community action -- showcasing its culture and diversity in the process. Ranging from students to elected officials, the passionate group will also participate in interactive workshops and important dialogues throughout the weekend in an effort to empower these crucial parties to implement their extraordinary ideas in their own community. Only ten winners will be chosen as an All-America City.

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