

James C. Howland Awards for Municipal Enrichment

2005 Award Winners

CH2MHILL



National League of Cities

POPULATION UNDER 50,000

Gold Winner



City of Alpharetta, Georgia

North Metro Miracle League Adapted Sports Complex

Bob Regus, City Administrator

678.297.6012

Babe Ruth, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, and countless others will forever remain the greatest legends of baseball, but for the close-knit community of Alpharetta the true baseball hero is John McLaughlin. A retired Delta Airlines pilot, McLaughlin was looking for a way to spend his glory years when he happened to catch a "Real Sports" documentary on HBO that forever changed his life. The film's highlight was the Miracle League Association, an organization that provides disabled children the opportunity to play baseball. Although not experienced in fundraising, dealing with disabled children, or running a baseball league, McLaughlin and his wife, Merrily, hit the ground running.

In 2002, the North Metro Miracle League (NMML) was formed. The organization quickly found a friend in the city of Alpharetta that provided a home for the group. On Saturday mornings, North Park's field nine is crowded with 20 to 30 kids. While that may be a larger crowd than the typical crew of nine, NMML games are anything but typical. Each game consists of two innings, with each player taking a turn in the batting rotation and covering an area of the field. Players are assigned a volunteer "buddy" to provide field assistance. The field may seem crowded, but everyone enjoys the camaraderie.

McLaughlin and his crowd of supporters have helped raise enough money to build the Adapted Sports Complex, complete with a rubberized surface baseball field, handicapped accessible playground, and large pavilion. The City of Alpharetta contributed the land at North Park; acquired a grant to help build a multipurpose building that will house restrooms, meeting space, and concession stand; and loaned the NMML enough money for the timely completion of the entire project.

The NMML's Website claims, "A community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all." The partnership between the City of Alpharetta and the NMML guarantees a community where every member counts thanks to the dreams of one local hero.

POPULATION 50,001 - 150,000

Gold Winner



City of Fayetteville, North Carolina

Fire Station No. 14 Partnership

Benny Nichols, Fayetteville Fire Chief

910.433.1726

The City of Fayetteville is building a new fire station unlike any other station in North Carolina. Fire Station No. 14, completed in October 2005, serves as a residence for Fayetteville State University interns who attend classes and receive hands-on training from firefighters as part of FSU's new fire science curriculum. The station is the result of a collaborative effort between the city and FSU, one of the oldest predominately black universities in North Carolina. The \$3.4 million fire station, which is located adjacent to FSU, fulfills several of the city's needs.

Fayetteville has a population of 130,762 and ranks as the sixth largest municipality in North Carolina. Because of its large, diversified population, the city faces many unique challenges, especially within its fire department. One crucial challenge for the fire department is building enough fire stations to adequately provide service to the ever-growing city. The fire department's other challenge is recruiting and maintaining minority firefighters. Minorities and women make up about 11 percent of the city's firefighters. Yet, according to the 2000 U.S. Census – the most current census information available for Fayetteville – about 51 percent of the population is nonwhite.

In the late 1990s, the Human Relations Commission of Fayetteville-Cumberland County began hosting Study Circles seminars, during which city and county officials, residents, and community leaders could meet to discuss ways to improve the quality of life for all residents.

During one particular seminar, Fire Chief Benny Nichols was serving as a facilitator when participants began discussing the need for a career-mentoring program for minority students through the school system. Chief Nichols took that suggestion and developed a proposal whereby FSU would develop a fire science curriculum and the city would build a fire station on the university's land. The proposal is now reality, and the fire department has a station in a much-need area of the city and is able to effectively recruit and hire more minorities and women.

POPULATION 150,001 - 500,000

Gold Winner



City of Colorado Springs, Colorado

Transportation Education

Sue Skiffington-Blumberg, Director, Public Communications
719.385.5906

As directed by the city manager, the Public Communications Department was charged with addressing the growing transportation and infrastructure problems in Colorado Springs.

Local infrastructure was in a state of critical decay. It was not negligence, but rapid growth and severely limited budgets that catalyzed the problem. The population in Colorado Springs has grown 52 percent over the last 20 years. Over the same time, centerline miles of road have increased by 53 percent. It has always been the city's goal to maintain 10 percent of its roadways every year, but in recent years, there has only been budget to maintain 5 percent. That means that of the 1,574 existing miles of road in Colorado Springs, the city is only able to maintain about 70 miles a year. With miles and miles of new road being added every year, 5 percent is covering less and less.

In light of this, the Public Communications Department delivered a two-phase plan, Transportation Education, that led to a successful ballot initiative passed by voters in April 2005.

Phase I of the plan focused on educating the public about the declining status of integral city infrastructure. Through a series of three media tours, citizens were introduced to the problems facing the city's bridges, drainage systems, and roadways. A direct response to this primary education phase was a Transportation Summit in January 2004. Led by local business leaders and the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, citizens formed a coalition of over 30 community organizations and hosted a public information summit. At the meeting, a ballot initiative was proposed and endorsed by media and citizens.

Phase II was a collaborative effort between the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board, Pikes Peak Area Council Governments, and the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce to mobilize citizens to lead a successful ballot initiative effort.

The Pikes Peak Regional Transportation Authority (PPRTA) 1 percent sales tax was passed with 54.9 percent approval. The PPRTA is the first funding source dedicated solely to infrastructure and transit improvements in the Pikes Peak Region.

POPULATION 500,001 +

Gold Winner



City of San José, California

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

Jane Light, Library Director, San José Public Library

408.808.2150

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in San José is a co-managed, integrated academic and municipal library, offering many technology-based resources. Four hundred public access computer workstations and nearly 600 laptop ports offer access to the online catalog and/or the Internet at various points in the building. Many serve specific user groups; e.g., an area for children's online learning, a teen center with Internet café, San José State University student laptop zones and an adaptive technology center enabling university students and faculty with disabilities to pursue an academic career. Soon-to-be-implemented wireless service will increase access still further.

Other features include a teleconferencing center and four computer labs. A full-service online branch—www.SJLibrary.org—allows 24/7 access to a wide range of library services, including databases and the online catalog. Using the online catalog, both public and academic users can search, request, and borrow seamlessly from the combined citywide public and university collections. University users share the convenience of being able to request pickup at library branches in their home neighborhoods, while public users gain added depth in available reference material.

The addition of neighborhood oriented policing has overcome the budgetary limitations of the city library in that area, enabling those who are interested to take part in discussions with well-known authors, scholars, and policy makers. Unique special collections such as the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies, the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, and the inspired collection of public art—*Recolecciones*—offer an enriched atmosphere that draws visitors from around the world. The result of collaboration between the city and San José State University, the King Library is located on the campus perimeter in the city's downtown area, ensuring that both residents and students can access its resources. By deliberate design, youth entering the library from the public entrance can see the university through the campus entrance directly across the floor, thus reinforcing the message that "a college education is only one step beyond your public library." A detailed operating agreement outlines the responsibilities of the city and the university, defining everything from maintenance obligations to dispute resolution.

POPULATION UNDER 50,000

Silver Winner



City of New Brighton, Minnesota

Poly Partners ~ A Coalition for Quality of Life

Matt Fulton, City Manager

651.638.2041

During the past several years, New Brighton Public Safety has focused much of its prevention efforts on a small community within our community. This section of the city is called Polynesian Village Apartments. This community went from being a crime-ridden apartment complex that residents feared to being a set of organized crime watch neighborhoods that care about each other. The transformation came about because of the innovative partnership between New Brighton Public Safety, the apartment management team, and the residents at the 364-unit complex.

New Brighton's struggle with Polynesian Village Apartments dates back to the 1990s. The complex was acquired and Low Income Housing Tax Credits were used to fund property improvements. As a condition, 70 percent of the units were reserved for families with incomes below 30 percent of the median metro income level. The owners also began accepting Section 8 Rental Housing Vouchers. With these changes, the demographics in the complex shifted significantly. New Brighton Public Safety began seeing a dramatic increase in the number and severity of calls for service. Calls went from those typically seen by suburban police forces to "inner city" crimes like open air drug dealing, curbside prostitution, and assaults. The increase in crime at the complex spread to surrounding neighborhoods affecting the quality of life of lifelong residents.

New Brighton's "neighborhood orienting policing" approach became a major part of the strategy for improving the quality of life at Polynesian Village. The city developed a team of people called Poly Partners dedicated to improving life in the complex. The city passed an ordinance designed to make management accountable for the actions of the residents in their properties. They created a position called the Crime Free Multi Housing Officer to serve as a liaison between Public Safety, the property owners, managers, and residents.

In a follow-up survey conducted by an independent foundation 2 years after the initiation of these strategies, Polynesian Village could boast significantly lower crime rates and more engaged citizens in the complex. The community-oriented policing and the coalition building paid off with better quality of life and highly satisfied residents.

POPULATION 50,001 - 150,000

Silver Winner



City of Casper, Wyoming

Road to Reuse

Alice Kraft, Administrator,
Amoco Reuse Agreement Joint Powers Board
307.472.5591

The old Amoco refinery of Casper, Wyoming, was at one time a leading producer of gasoline. When Amoco decided to close the refinery in 1991, the community stepped forward to demand a process to clean the property and make it useable. The "Road to Reuse" project is an innovative example of brownfield redevelopment. Beginning in 1998, this project included a collaborative process involving representatives and experts from BP (formerly Amoco), the Amoco Reuse Joint Powers Board, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and the general public. The collaborative process was used to conduct investigations and risk assessments, and to make decisions for the redevelopment.

The redevelopment project could serve as a template for other brownfield sites in the country. The implementation of cutting edge remediation technology to support an 18-hole world class golf course, a river kayak park, walking paths, picnic areas and a business center is the result of the efforts of many. The "Road to Reuse" project has essentially changed a historic property in the center of Casper from a field of toxic waste into an attraction that is helping to redefine the community. The cleanup agreement included the acceptance of innovative cleanup techniques, as well as a commitment to funding the approved redevelopment plan, and the continuing observation of the defined sites and all adjoining properties. The ongoing monitoring addresses any long-term effects of underground contamination from the old refinery site, a former tank farm, and a man-made lake used as a contamination dump site.

POPULATION 150,001 - 500,000

Silver Winner



City of Des Moines, Iowa

It Started with Pots

Matthew S. Rosen, Horticulture Manager,
Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department
515.323.8901

A greening / urban beautification program that started 20 years ago as a partnership between the city of Des Moines, Iowa, and many of the officially recognized neighborhood associations within its boundaries has steadily grown in scope, each year acquiring more partners in the corporate, educational, and citizen sectors. This has resulted in the development of an urban landscape ethic that has softened the streetscape by providing masses of foliar and floral color. Although a small quantity of plants may have been given away a couple of years earlier, beginning in 1985, the city started to distribute annuals free of charge to neighborhood associations. Grown in the Park & Recreation Department's greenhouses, the annuals are planted on public property like turfed islands by members of the associations who maintain the plantings over the course of the growing season.

Program growth has been a straight line up. In 1985, the city grew 85,000 annuals, 25,000 of which were given to neighborhood associations. Two decades later, the number of annuals produced increased to 468,000, with more than half of the plants earmarked for use in floral displays on public property that are made possible by two- and three-party partnerships.

Landscape enhancement is only one of the benefits of the plant giveaway program. Of equal or greater importance is the opportunity that the program provides for the city to work closely with its citizens, both corporate and individual in a positive activity that has citywide impact. From the time the seed is sown in the city greenhouses through the close of the growing season, volunteers and special populations like court sentencing individuals play a key role. In any given year, more than 90 percent of the seedlings are transplanted by these groups, making the giveaway program affordable while at the same time providing a mechanism by which individuals, ranging from elementary school-aged children to senior citizens, can interact with city government in a way that elevates the quality of life.

POPULATION 500,001 +

Silver Winner



City of Austin, Texas

Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Redevelopment Project

Pam Hefner, Project Manager,

Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office

512.974.3511

The ambitious project to redevelop Robert Mueller Municipal Airport (Mueller) into a mixed-use urban village has helped Austin create new models and chart new directions for urban growth and city planning. The Mueller vision includes well-planned sustainable land use that combines civic goals and needs with economic development and value for the private sector.

The 700-acre Mueller site was vacated when Austin's airport relocated in 1999. At project completion, the site will contribute to the city's vitality and prosperity, becoming home to 10,000 residents and 10,000 jobs, providing thousands of units of affordable housing and 140 acres of public open space and other community amenities. Mueller will be a showcase of transit-oriented and pedestrian-friendly development, a model of the sustainability principles for which Austin has long been a leader and a laboratory for innovative approaches to community development and governance.

The City of Austin and Catellus Commercial Development Corporation (Catellus) as master developer structured a business plan for Mueller that is financially sound and self-sustaining. The City of Austin offered public financing, supported primarily by project-generated revenues, to offset the cost of initial infrastructure; thereby providing Catellus and its future sub-developers a competitive rate of return on their investments. Strategies such as a tax-increment reinvestment zone will allow Mueller to achieve substantial community goals without burdening local taxpayers with equally substantial financial obligations.

The creation of the Mueller community has already begun, with the construction of the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas and the success of the Austin Studios filmmaking complex at the site. These elements of the Mueller effort, the award-winning Mueller master plan, and the ambitious Master Development Agreement between the City of Austin and Catellus, are the culmination of a citizen-driven effort to reuse the old airport property to create a new model for urban living in Central Texas. The City of Austin, Catellus and their professional partners, the citizens of Austin—especially the neighbors of the Mueller site—are equal and powerful players in the Mueller project.

POPULATION UNDER 50,000

Nominees



Ada, OK	Explore Ada
Albemarle, NC	City Lake Park
Avondale, AZ	Healthy Avondale 2010
Batavia, NY	Route 5/Main Street Reconstruction Project
Beverly Hills, CA	Entrepreneurial Development
Buffalo, MN	Implementation of the E-Government Vision & Philosophy
Burien, WA	Burien SW 152nd Street Enhancement Project
Camden, AR	Adams Avenue Redevelopment
Coral Gables, FL	When Traffic Challenges Quality of Life: Coral Gables' Approach to Traffic Calming
Cornelius, NC	Cornelius Compass
Dunedin, FL	Communities for a Lifetime
Eules, TX	Arbor Daze
Eules, TX	Eules Main Street Renovation
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Mack Avenue Water Main Replacement Project
Kent, OH	Bicentennial Plan
Logansport, IN	River Bluff Trail
Miamisburg, OH	A Downtown Turnaround: Collaborations Spur Success
Muskogee, OK	Oklahoma Historical Black Tours
Normal, IL	Children's Discovery Museum
Picayune, MS	Proud Program/Senior Patrol
Queen Creek, AZ	Desert Mountain Park
Richmond Hill, GA	Richmond Hill Water Initiative
Scotland Neck, NC	Developing Our Own Resources (DOOR) Initiative
University City, MO	Youth Initiatives in Action
Upper Arlington, OH	Environmental Mediation Program
Wilkes-Barre, PA	Healing Fields
Winter Park, FL	Railroad Avenue Residences and Swoope Water Treatment Plant

POPULATION 50,001 - 150,000

Nominees



Albany, NY	Truancy Abatement Program
Apple Valley, CA	Emergency Operations for Animals
Bellevue, WA	Access Downtown
Bellevue, WA	MyBuildingPermit.com
Bolingbrook, IL	Regional Stormwater Management and Golf Club
Cambridge, MA	Eastern Cambridge Planning Study
Cedar Rapids, IA	Lean Process Initiative
Coral Springs, FL	Citation System Improvement Team
Dubuque, IA	America's River
Eugene, OR	The Telecommunications Act of 1996 -- What It Meant To Eugene, Oregon
Fargo, ND	A Community Toolbox to Fight Meth
Fayetteville, NC	Cape Fear River Trail
Fontana, CA	Community Assistance Program (CAP)
Gaithersburg, MD	Cops in Shops
Greeley, CO	City Supported Quality of Life Initiative
Greenville, SC	Falls Park on the Reedy
Greenville, SC	LADDER (Lifelong Advancement through Diligence, Determination, and Employment Resources)
Hammond, IN	City of Hammond Legal Aid Department
Hartford, CT	Organizational Initiatives for Change
Hollywood, FL	CA\$H FOR TRASH
Hollywood, FL	Local Minority Business Enterprise and Local Small Business Enterprise Program
Kansas City, KS	Good Neighbor Training/Blue Card Program
Lakewood, CO	Belmar Phase I
Largo, FL	Reconnecting the Community
Loveland, CO	Public/Private Partnership Mixed Use Community
Lynwood, CA	Alley Beautification Program
Maple Grove, MN	Growth Management Plan -- Infrastructure and Project Points Systems

POPULATION 50,001 - 150,000

Nominees



North Richland Hills, TX

Neighborhood Initiative Program

Palatine, IL

Palatine Opportunity Center

Palm Bay, FL

City Garage Sale Website
(www.palmbaygaragesales.com)

Roanoke, VA

Formation of the Western Virginia Water Authority

Santa Rosa, CA

Prince Memorial Greenway

South Bend, IN

A. J. Wright Distribution Center

Sugar Land, TX

Sugar Land Town Square

Syracuse, NY

SyraStat: Delivering Top-Notch Services at the
Lowest Possible Cost

Syracuse, NY

Urban Redesign of Downtown Living

POPULATION 150,001 - 500,000

Nominees



Albuquerque, NM	Explora Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque
Albuquerque, NM	Isotopes Park
Arlington, TX	Landfill Competitive Services Initiative
Birmingham, AL	Birmingham Homeownership Initiative
Colorado Springs, CO	Meth: A Social Plague
Fort Lauderdale, FL	Waterworks 2011
Fresno, CA	The New Normal
Glendale, AZ	Community Partnership Programs
Glendale, AZ	Innovative Public-Private Partnership
Laredo, TX	Laredo International Sister Cities Festival
Pembroke Pines, FL	Pembroke Pines Charter School System
Rochester, NY	Investigator Mentor Program
Scottsdale, AZ	Paiute Neighborhood Center
Scottsdale, AZ	Scottsdale Teens on a Mission for Progress (STOMP)
St. Petersburg, FL	Mayor's Mentors and More
Stockton, CA	Bob Hope Theatre Renovation
Tallahassee, FL	Frenchtown Revitalization
Winston-Salem, NC	New Hope Initiative

POPULATION 500,001 +

Nominees



Austin, TX	University Neighborhood Overlay
Baltimore, MD	CitiStat
Columbus, OH	Linden Area Traffic Management Plan
Indianapolis, IN	Indianapolis Water Public/Private Partnership
Las Vegas, NV	EVOLVE
Los Angeles, CA	Environmental Justice Task Force
Los Angeles, CA	MacArthur Park Project: A Catalyst for Neighborhood Change
Louisville, KY	Cornerstone 2020 Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code
Louisville, KY	Partnership for a Green City
Phoenix, AZ	South Mountain Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy
San Diego, CA	Sewer Spill Reduction Program
San Jose, CA	Strong Neighborhoods Initiative