

Partners for Places: Just Over \$4 Million Granted in 10 Grant Rounds

Partners for Places grant program matches funds for projects that improve U.S. and Canadian communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability leaders and place-based foundations. National funders invest in local projects developed through these partnerships to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents.

The full Partners for Places 2016 Annual Report can be accessed [here](#). The following summarizes highlights from this report.

In 2016, Partners for Places celebrated the completion of ten rounds of grants for over \$4,000,000; there have been nine rounds of grants in the general program for \$3,945,906 and one round of grants for the Equity Pilot Initiative for \$210,981 totaling \$4,156,887. Relationships were not only fostered through collaborative proposal development and project implementation, but also through follow up collaborations and partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based funders, many of which have continued after the grant ended.

Of new grants made in 2016, 75% of the projects address climate change in a number of ways, such as supporting climate mitigation or climate resilience. And when we look at the 2016 general grants from the perspective of equity in sustainability, we see that 75% are advancing equity by providing benefits or reducing disparities for disadvantaged residents.

2016 Partners for Places Grants

Project Description	Amount	Lead City	Grant Foundation Partner
Spring 2016 Round 8 Grants			
To create green jobs for unskilled workers through a training program that employs residents from one of the city's oldest neighborhoods on an urban, aeroponic farm.	\$75,000	Atlanta, GA	The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
To bridge the solar divide and ensure that all Berkeley residents have access to renewable energy sources by providing solar installations for low-income communities, including multifamily affordable housing developments, and offering free hands-on solar job training.	\$35,000	Berkeley, CA	The San Francisco Foundation, and The East Bay Community Foundation
To provide green job training in urban farming to young returning citizens and offering healthy, fresh	\$50,000	Boston, MA	The Boston Foundation

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produce to residents in underserved neighborhoods.			
To engage residents in developing a plan to create more tree canopy, open spaces and stormwater solutions that will reduce flooding in a low-income area of this city.	\$45,138	Bridgeport, CT	The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
To improve the water quality in Lake Champlain by developing pilot stormwater management projects on public schoolyards.	\$30,000	Burlington, VT	The Linthilhac Foundation
To make Ithaca more energy efficient by evaluating the policy tools the city can use to incentivize or mandate green building standards for new construction.	\$51,970	Ithaca, NY	The Park Foundation
To provide more open space in underserved communities in Los Angeles—a city where only 33 percent of children are within walking distance of a park—by transforming nine schoolyards into parks for use during non-school hours.	\$75,000	Los Angeles, CA	The Goldhirsh Foundation
To bring the public back to the long-industrial waterfront through community outreach and a greening of the city's Harbor District.	\$75,000	Milwaukee, WI	The Brico Fund, and The Fund for Lake Michigan
Fall 2016 Round 9 Grants			
To expand a successful program that helps low-income neighborhoods – which use 43 percent more energy per square foot during the winter than the city's average home – increase their energy efficiency. Residents will be encouraged to create their own locally-based solutions.	\$40,000	Chattanooga, TN	Benwood Foundation & Lyndhurst Foundation
To create an action plan that helps the city scale sustainable approaches across all initiatives – from transit oriented development to building demolition, energy efficiency in older buildings, vacant land reuse, green jobs and more. These design approaches can save money and resources while better positioning the city for the future.	\$25,000	Detroit, MI	The Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
To create a sustainability director position for the city and a climate action plan that comprehensively addresses energy, land use, transportation, waste and water usage. The plan will look at the root cause of climate change, including ways to improve	\$125,000	Hartford, CT	Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Partners for Places: Just Over \$4 Million Granted in 10 Grant Rounds

air quality and reduce flooding, to improve the health and well-being of all residents.			
To provide critical shade along public transit routes in two tree-deprived neighborhoods, so that the low-income residents can comfortably walk to – and wait for – the bus. This effort expands the successful Partners for Places-funded SHADE project and makes riding the bus a more viable option, by creating a humane, comfortable and safe waiting experience for the bus rider.	\$50,000	Miami-Dade County, FL	Health Foundation of South Florida
To strengthen the local food system by helping Minneapolis' 35 farmers' markets work together, collect metrics on their impact and conduct a joint "Minneapolis Buy Local" marketing campaign. In addition, the program will expand an innovative program at the West Broadway Farmers Market's that incentivizes low-income residents to purchase healthy foods by having doctors give patients food prescriptions.	\$75,000	Minneapolis, MN	Greater Twin Cities United Way
To help this city ensure that its successful efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly benefit low-income neighborhoods by supporting a resident-led Community Energy Plan in the Cully neighborhood. Portland has seen impressive results from its carbon-reduction efforts – in 2014 per person emissions were 40 percent below 1990 levels – and seeks to support historically underserved communities in implementing low-carbon investments and solutions.	\$50,000	Portland, OR	Meyer Memorial Trust
To implement the city's Equity & Environmental Agenda, a roadmap to ensure that people of color, immigrants, refugees and those with low-income and limited English proficiency both lead and benefit from the city's environmental progress. Unveiled in April, the agenda provides goals and strategies so that the city, funders, environmental organizations and the private sector can work together with the community for change. Funding will support community participation in a new Environmental Justice Committee and support pilot	\$75,000	Seattle, WA	The Bullitt Foundation, The Russell Family Foundation and the Seattle Foundation

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projects with communities of color that demonstrate environmental justice in action.			
To help the mostly Latino residents of the La Doce neighborhood strengthen their food-based economy by having citizen folklorists trained in ethnographic research assess local needs. The study will look at the informal economy and what home-based food businesses exist, how they and local supermarkets are faring, and what these businesses need to thrive. As UNESCO named Tucson a City of Gastronomy last year, honoring its rich food culture, the city wants to enhance the local food economy in neighborhoods.	\$74,862	Tucson, AZ	Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
2016 Equity Pilot Initiatives Awards			
To ensure social equity is a key consideration and lens in updating and implementing the city of Baltimore's sustainability plan, in addition to becoming a model that can be replicated and used across departments.	\$35,000	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore Community Foundation
Working with the Change Center Jobs Initiative and the City of Knoxville Save Our Sons Initiative to strengthen career pathways for young adults of color by expanding employment and job-training opportunities, mentoring students and entrepreneurs, promoting diversity and inclusion in the private sector and building the capacity of local government to address equity through a wide variety of projects.	\$74,000	Knoxville, TN	Anonymous
To launch a community engagement project in eight underserved neighborhoods that gathers neighborhood-level data and stories, and then brings residents together with city staff to address institutional barriers to equity in community development, climate preparedness, and emergency planning.	\$51,981	Las Cruces, NM	Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico: Doña Ana Communities United initiative
To better understand the needs of the city's most vulnerable, address them in an updated sustainability plan and make equity a fundamental part of Providence's Office of Sustainability's work.	\$50,000	Providence, RI	Rhode Island Foundation