



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Florida League of Cities Announces 2021 Florida Municipal Achievement Award Winners

Boca Raton, Clearwater and Jacksonville Beach all recognized for innovation and excellence

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced the winners of the 2021 Florida Municipal Achievement Awards. Hosted annually, the Florida Municipal Achievement Awards provide municipalities the opportunity to receive deserved recognition for superior and innovative efforts in three award categories: City Spirit, Florida Citizenship and Environmental Stewardship.

This year’s winners and their projects are:

- **City Spirit Award** – City of Boca Raton, “StoryWalk Program”
- **Florida Citizenship Award** – City of Clearwater, “Placemaking Program”
- **Environmental Stewardship Award** – City of Jacksonville Beach, “#CleanDarkFlat Public Awareness Campaign”

“Throughout the pandemic, Florida’s local governments have demonstrated their ability to adapt, innovate and create,” said **FLC President Tony Ortiz, Commissioner** for the **City of Orlando**. “Whether it is municipal operations and finding local solutions or providing services and engaging the community, our cities, towns and villages are constantly evolving to better serve their communities. And that’s exactly what this awards program aims to recognize. On behalf of the League, we’re proud to recognize this year’s award winners and celebrate their exceptional efforts. Congratulations!”

The **City Spirit Award** recognizes a specific citywide effort that successfully addresses a local need. The **City of Boca Raton’s** winning entry, **StoryWalk Program**, was launched during the coronavirus pandemic to provide a safe outdoor activity for residents that simultaneously provided the library’s educational and literary programming. A collaborative effort between the City of Boca Raton Public Library and the Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department, the StoryWalk Program places a children’s book along a popular walking route in the community. Pages of the book are featured in enclosures mounted on posts spread throughout the entire walking route. By the time participants finish the route, they’ve completed the book. Boca Raton has experienced tremendous success with the new program and plans to continue providing it for the community.

The **Florida Citizenship Award** recognizes a city project or program that increases civic awareness and education and promotes active participation in local government among residents. This year's award is presented to the **City of Clearwater** for its **Placemaking Program**, a citywide initiative that engages the community in a series of public art projects. The City launched the program with the goals of providing opportunities for community members to work together; increasing citizen engagement; building relationships between city staff and residents; offering equitable and inclusive opportunities for participation; and engaging directly with residents and community organizations while beautifying public spaces. Some of the public art projects offered through the City's Placemaking Program include Paint the Pavement, Signal Box Art, Sidewalk Rain Art, Storm Drain Murals, Sidewalk Poetry and Little Free Libraries. With dozens upon dozens of public art projects completed by hundreds of participants, the program's success has exceeded the City's expectations.

The **Environmental Stewardship Award** recognizes a city program that promotes conservation, improves and protects environmental conditions, and/or provides environmental education and outreach programs. This year's award is presented to the **City of Jacksonville Beach** for its **#CleanDarkFlat Campaign**, a public awareness campaign aimed at protecting sea turtles during the 2020 nesting season. Launched in partnership with Beaches Energy Services, a local municipal utility, the campaign highlights the importance of keeping beaches clean of any litter or trash, dark without any light at night and flat without any holes. This allows the sea turtles to safely and successfully make it from their nest to the ocean. The campaign's primary objectives included raising awareness of sea turtle nesting season; educating residents on safety practices to protect nesting sea turtles; engaging local business to promote the campaign; and actively engaging the community at large in local efforts to protect nesting sea turtles. The campaign contributed to the success of the 2020 nesting season, which saw no sea turtle deaths on the City's beaches. Jacksonville Beach plans on continuing the campaign for the 2021 nesting season.

All three winning cities will receive a trophy and be featured in the League's award-winning magazine, Quality Cities (QC), as well as on the League's website and social media outlets.

For more information on the 2021 award winners, [click here](#).

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.