



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Florida League of Cities Announces 2022 Florida Municipal Achievement Award Winners

Gainesville, Miami Shores Village and Orlando recognized for innovation and excellence

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)**, celebrating its 100th anniversary as the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced the winners of the 2022 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 Gainesville, “Edible Groves Program”
- **Florida Citizenship Award** – Village of Miami Shores Village, “Brockway Library: A Conduit for Historical Preservation”
- **Environmental Stewardship Award** – City of Orlando, “Kidz Zone Sustainability Adventure Program”

“Florida’s local governments are constantly finding new and innovative ways to better serve their communities,” said **FLC President Phillip Walker, Commissioner** for the **City of Lakeland**. “This year’s award winners are shining examples of that. On behalf of the League, we applaud these municipalities for their outstanding efforts and congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition.”

The **City Spirit Award** recognizes a specific citywide effort that successfully addresses a local need. This year’s award is presented to the **City of Gainesville** for its “**Edible Groves Program**.” Launched in 2020, the program is the result of an idea produced during a city workshop in 2019. The program’s primary goals are to improve access to fresh produce in parts of the City that have low access to healthy food, encourage visits to city parks and community spaces and increase knowledge of food-bearing plants and trees that are well adapted to the City’s local environment. To date, roughly 175 fruit and nut trees have been planted, including plum, persimmon, pear, nectarine, fig and chestnut, among many others.

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 **Village of Miami Shores Village** for “**Brockway Library: A Conduit for Historical Preservation**.” The Brockway Library has been a major civic institution in Miami Shores Village since its

opening in 1949. In 2002, the library acquired the Village's historical holdings, which inspired many of the library's current collaborations and programs between the library, local historians and village leadership and staff. As a result of these collaborative efforts, the library now has a robust historic preservation program that provides a rich offering of resources including a digitized archive, ongoing lectures, storytelling programs, tours and exhibits. All of the library's efforts are made in service to its overarching goal: to raise awareness, promote historic preservation and encourage civic engagement among village residents of all ages.

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 Orlando** for its "**Kidz Zone Sustainability Adventure Program**," which provides Orlando youth with enriching outdoor experiences while educating them on sustainability initiatives and careers within Florida. The program allows young people living in some of Orlando's poorest neighborhoods to learn sustainability principles and how to put them into practice on a small and large scale. In addition, the program allows participants to learn about innovative sustainability practices, participate in hands-on service projects that improve the local environment and explore potential career paths.

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 2022 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.