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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partners for Places Funds Sustainability Projects in Six Communities in the U.S. and Canada

New round of matching grants will fund nearly \$900,000 in projects focused on resilience and climate action

Coral Gables, Fla. — Six cities across the United States and Canada will receive nearly \$900,000 dollars for sustainability efforts that focus largely on empowering and engaging low-income neighborhoods — communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change and extreme weather.

These sustainability efforts will take place in cities both large and small, from a project in Indianapolis, Ind., that will recruit neighborhood “resilience ambassadors” to ensure grassroots outreach to a solar-power effort in Oak Park, Ill., that includes a climate radio show researched and produced by local teens. Three of the communities occupy especially vulnerable waterfront geographies: Honolulu, Los Angeles and Miami are embarking on efforts to either craft or refine resiliency plans and strategies. And in Edmonton, Canada, Partners for Places will help fund efforts to include low-income, immigrant and indigenous communities in plans to move to a low-carbon future.

The funding is made possible through the [Partners for Places](#) matching grants program, which pairs city governments with philanthropy to support sustainability projects that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents.

“Communities across this country are already tackling the threat of climate change with passion and purpose,” said Arturo Garcia-Costas, Environmental Program Officer, New York Community Trust. “These projects showcase their ingenuity and vision, and exemplify how philanthropy can support the vital partnerships we need to create safer, stronger and more resilient communities.”

Partners for Places, led by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities in partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, will provide \$443,344 in funding to these six cities through its general grant program, which will be matched by local funders. That means a total of \$886,688 will be leveraged to fund sustainability projects in these selected cities.

The program is supported by five investor foundations: The JPB Foundation, The Kendeda Fund, The New York Community Trust, The Summit Foundation, and Surdna Foundation.

The latest Partners for Places grant recipients and their matching funders are:

- **Edmonton, Canada (\$59,883):** To work with low-income, immigrant and indigenous communities to ensure they are consulted and included in energy transition programs focused on a low-carbon, energy sustainable future. (Matching funder: Edmonton Community Foundation)
- **Honolulu, Hawaii (\$75,000):** To create a clear, ambitious, achievable climate action and adaptation plan that addresses unique cost of living and climate impact vulnerabilities of Oahu — the island that is home to the state's capital city of Honolulu — and serves as a model for climate planning throughout the Hawaiian Islands. (Matching funder: Hawaii Community Foundation)
- **Indianapolis, Ind. (\$146,711):** To create a comprehensive, equitable, and socially just sustainability, climate action, and resilience plan for Indianapolis, with actions initially implemented within revitalization-focused neighborhoods. (Matching funders: McKinney Green Initiatives, a Central Indiana Community Foundation fund, and Indianapolis Power & Light)
- **Los Angeles County, Calif. (\$87,500):** To actively include community voices in a countywide sustainability plan by employing innovative engagement strategies and building meaningful community partnerships — including working with low-income communities and communities of color that are often the most vulnerable to climate change, urban heat island impacts, and poor air quality. (Matching funders: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and LA n Sync at the California Community Foundation)

- **Miami, Fla. (\$25,000):** To develop a resilience strategy that is integrated with the city's strategic plan and land-use policies, with a strong focus on engaging low-income and underserved communities. This includes a community engagement consultant that will assist in workshops to uncover the best and most innovative ideas for increasing resilience in these communities — and the city as a whole. (Matching funder: The Miami Foundation)
- **Oak Park, Ill. (\$49,250):** To drive continued action, education and outreach on solar development and procurement in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding communities, including a local radio show produced by teens, and influencing and inspiring similar efforts in other Chicago metro area counties and communities. (Matching funder: The Communityworks Fund of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation)

To date, Partners for Places has awarded nearly \$6 million across North America in this successful matching grant program, leading to nearly \$12 million in investments.

Partners for Places will open a new round of funding for the general grant program in early summer. The Round 13 RFP will be released on June 5, 2018, and proposals will be due on July 31, 2018.

About Partners for Places Partners for Places

A joint project of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities and the Urban Sustainability Network, Partners for Places is a successful matching grant program that improves 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. Through these investments, Partners for Places fosters long-term relationships that make our communities more prosperous, livable and vibrant. For more information on Partners for Places, visit fundersnetwork.org/partners-for-places.

About the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities

The Funders' Network is a mission-driven network of grantmakers across North America, working to inspire, strengthen and expand funding and philanthropic leadership that yield environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, and economically prosperous regions and communities.

About The Urban Sustainability Directors Network

The Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) is a peer-to-peer network of local government professionals from cities across the United States and Canada dedicated to creating a

healthier environment, economic prosperity, and increased social equity. Our dynamic network enables sustainability directors and staff to share best practices and accelerate the application of good ideas across North America.

*For additional information and media inquiries, contact: Tere Figueras Negrete,
Communications Director at the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities,
tere@fundersnetwork.org*