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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eight Cities Promote Sustainability with New Funding from Partners for Places

Coral Gables, Fla.—Working to promote urban agriculture, advance stormwater solutions, and provide green jobs for low-income workers, eight projects received \$437,108 in funding today from Partners for Places.

These sustainability efforts will take place in cities large and small, and focus primarily on low-income communities. They include a Boston project to train returning citizens for work in urban farming, and a Milwaukee effort to create a welcoming green space on the city's historically industrial waterfront.

Partners for Places pairs city governments with local and national funders to support sustainability projects that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy and well-being for all residents. The matching grant program is led by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities in partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. Six investor funders make up Partners for Places: [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), [The JPB Foundation](#), [The Kendeda Fund](#), [The New York Community Trust](#), [Summit Foundation](#), and [Surdna Foundation](#).

“From helping low-income households benefit from solar energy to preparing coastal cities for climate change, Partners for Places brings together city officials with funders to develop some really dynamic sustainability projects,” said Arturo Garcia-Costas, the New York Community Trust's program officer for the environment. “This kind of collaboration can form the lasting relationships that help create vibrant, thriving communities.”

To date, Partners for Places has awarded more than \$3.5 million across North America in this successful matching grant program.

The Partners for Places recipients in this round are the cities of:

- **Atlanta, Ga. (\$75,000):** 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. (Partner: The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta)
- **Berkeley, Calif., (\$35,000):** 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 multi-family affordable housing developments, and offering free hands-on solar job training. (Partner: The San Francisco Foundation and The East Bay Community Foundation)
- **Boston, Mass. (\$50,000):** To provide green job training in urban farming to young returning citizens, and offer healthful fresh produce to residents in underserved neighborhoods. (Partner: The Boston Foundation)
- **Bridgeport, Conn., (\$45,138):** 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 areas of the city. (Partner: The Emily Hall Tremain Foundation)
- **Burlington, Vt., (\$30,000):** To improve the water quality in Lake Champlain by developing pilot stormwater management projects on public schoolyards. (Partner: The Linthilhac Foundation)
- **Ithaca, N.Y. (\$51,970):** To make Ithaca more energy-efficient by evaluating policy tools to incentivize or mandate green building standards for new construction. (Partner: The Park Foundation)
- **Los Angeles, Calif. (\$75,000):** To provide more open space in underserved communities in Los Angeles — a city where only 33 percent of children live within walking distance of a park — by transforming nine schoolyards into parks for use during non-school hours. (Partner: The Goldhirsh Foundation)
- **Milwaukee, Wis. (\$75,000):** To bring the public back to the waterfront through community outreach and a greening of the city's historically industrial Harbor District. (Partner: The Brico Fund, and The Fund for Lake Michigan)

Partners for Places will open a new round of funding this summer, with applications available in June 2016. To attract additional interest in urban sustainability projects beyond those funded, the program also houses an [Idea Bank](#) on the Funders' Network website, which provides summaries of past project applications.

For more information on Partners for Places, visit the Funders' Network website at <http://www.fundersnetwork.org/partnersforplaces/>. Funders interested in becoming a part of Partners for Places should contact [Ann Wallace](#) at the Funders' Network.

About Partners for Places *Partners for Places, a project of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, 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*

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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.

About the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities *The Funders' Network exists to inspire, strengthen and expand funding and philanthropic leadership that yield environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, and economically prosperous regions and communities. The vision of the Funders' Network is to be the leading resource in philanthropy for interdisciplinary and transformative thinking and action that gives all people the opportunity to live in more 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.*

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