



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Florida League of Cities Announces 2023 Florida Municipal Achievement Award Winners

Dunedin, Groveland, Miami Beach and Jupiter recognized for innovation and excellence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2023

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced the winners of the 2023 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 four award categories: Economic Advancement, Environmental Stewardship, Local Action and Public Engagement.

This year’s winners and their projects are:

- **Economic Advancement Award** – City of Miami Beach, Make a Bold Move
- **Environmental Stewardship Award** – City of Groveland, Dark Sky Initiative
- **Local Action Award** – City of Dunedin, Gladys E. Douglas Preserve
- **Public Engagement Award** – Town of Jupiter, Passport to Jupiter

“Florida’s cities, towns and villages are committed to developing innovative programs and services that enhance their communities,” said **FLC President Jolien Caraballo, Vice Mayor for the City of Port St. Lucie**. “These projects are an excellent example of the services cities provide that contribute to their residents’ quality of life. On behalf of the League, we’re proud to recognize this year’s award winners and celebrate their well-deserved success!”

The **Economic Advancement Award** focuses on a city program that supports, highlights or partners with a city’s local business community to improve the economic well-being of a city. The **City of Miami Beach’s** winning entry, **Make a Bold Move**, is a business attraction campaign highlighting why Miami Beach has become an attractive location for entrepreneurs and businesses seeking to expand their operations or establish new ones. The campaign was executed across digital and social media channels to encourage business owners in specially targeted industries, such as finance and technology, to relocate to Miami Beach through the City’s Job Creation Incentive Program (JCIP). The campaign highlighted the aspects of Miami Beach that make the City the ideal destination for business relocation and remote working, including a focus on arts and culture, existing infrastructure and a qualified workforce. The campaign delivered nearly 6 million impressions and over 71,000 clicks on the business website.

The **Environmental Stewardship Award** focuses on a city program that promotes environmental sustainability, improves and protects environmental conditions or provides environmental education and outreach programs. The **City of Groveland's** winning entry, **Dark Sky Initiative**, is a partnership between the City, residents and businesses committed to reducing light pollution. Groveland is the first Dark Sky Community in Florida designated by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The City's Dark Sky Lighting ordinance aims to curb light pollution, safeguard wildlife and their habitats and preserve the natural charm of the night sky. New developments must meet dark sky standards, and City staff spend time educating applicants to ensure compliance with the ordinance. The City is preparing to retrofit all city-owned lighting within five years and is installing dark sky pedestrian-scale lighting and streetlights downtown.

The **Local Action Award** is given to a city for a specific, single citywide effort that successfully addresses a local need. The **City of Dunedin's** winning entry, **Gladys E. Douglas Preserve**, is a collaboration between the City, Pinellas County and the community to protect the largest remaining natural area in the County. The preserve was originally the homestead property of Gladys E. Douglas, a local resident widely known for her philanthropy. After her passing, the property fell under contract to a developer. When the developer walked away, the City and County had a short amount of time to raise the necessary funds to purchase the property. More than 1,700 individuals donated their time, efforts and monies to the cause. The community raised \$4.5 million to protect and preserve this environmentally sensitive area. In addition, the City and County reallocated \$5.5 million in land preservation funds in the middle of a fiscal year during the financially tumultuous pandemic.

The **Public Engagement Award** focuses on a city program that builds a more vital, participative community. The program develops civic awareness, increases education and knowledge of local government functions or promotes active participation among residents, businesses and visitors. The **Town of Jupiter's** winning entry, **Passport to Jupiter**, encourages residents and visitors to visit locations in the Jupiter area to drive public engagement. Sites are broken into categories: Parks and Recreation, Historic Locations, Natural Areas, Beaches and Waterways, Entertainment and Culture, and the Jupiter Riverwalk. After visiting 30 of the 71 locations using the passport, the participant can bring their passport to the Jupiter Town Hall to receive a prize. The passport is available in a booklet with stickers to serve as the passport stamp and an app for mobile devices that stamp the passport by geolocation services.

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

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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.