



PARTNERS FOR PLACES

2018 Annual Report

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Fund by Numbers. Partners for Places strives for progress in the following 5 goal areas:



Continuous Improvement

- 80% of all awards exhibit operational commitment to engaging disenfranchised communities
- 83% of all awards are led by USDN members and their local foundations



Inspire Interest

- 17% of local funders providing the match in 2018 awards are new to the fund
- 50% of local governments receiving 2018 grants are new to the fund



Build Relationships

- 33% of 2018 proposals exhibit relationships fostered by Partners for Places outreach efforts
- 34% of 2018 proposals address a topic identified through fund interactions as a shared priority



Align Priorities

- 23% of all awards exhibit goal alignment around field-advancing network priorities
- 79% of all awards center on planning for community alignment



Coordinate Collaboration

- 59% of all Partners for Places partnerships continue beyond the grant period
- 11% of 2018 proposals received Partners for Places technical assistance

Additionally, 47% of awards support climate mitigation or adaptation; 56% support equity-specific work, and 7% of awards are advancing green stormwater infrastructure work. Additional performance data is in Table 3.

Fund Overview. [Partners for Places](#) is a matching grant program designed to improve 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. The program is housed at the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities (TFN), which has legal and fiduciary responsibility for its management. Since 2012, TFN and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) have worked closely with a group of national funders and USDN members to develop, shape, and implement the Partners for Places grant program. During this time, Partners for Places has funded 111 proposals (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Partners for Places Grantee Distribution.

Governance Committee Members. Partners for Places is guided by a Governance Committee charged with executing the fund's [2018-2023 strategy](#). Current members are geographically distributed in Figure 2:

1. Leah Bamberger, Sustainability Director; Providence, RI
2. Dana Bourland, JPB Foundation; New York City, NY
3. Stuart Clarke, Town Creek Foundation; Easton, MD
4. Jill Fuglister, Meyer Memorial Trust; Portland, OR
5. Arturo Garcia-Costas, New York Community Trust; New York City, NY
6. Diane Ives, Kendeda Fund; Washington, D.C. – *co-chair*
7. Kumar Jensen, Sustainability Director; Evanston, IL
8. Maria Koetter, Sustainability Director; Louisville, KY
9. Nils Moe, USDN; Berkeley, CA – *co-chair*
10. Sheena Solomon, Gifford Foundation; Syracuse, NY
11. Kellie Terry, Surdna Foundation; New York City, NY
12. Ann Fowler Wallace, TFN; Boston, MA

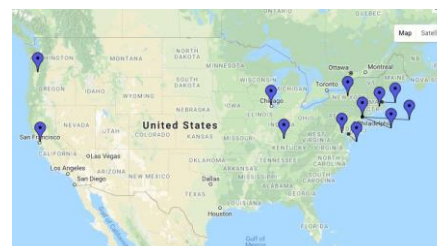


Figure 2. Governance Committee Distribution.

Selection Committee Members. Partners for Places awards are determined by a Selection Committee (Figure 3) comprised of local practitioners, foundation investors, and TFN's director of programs. 2018 committee members are as follows:

1. Eric Avner, Haile Foundation/US Bank Foundation; Cincinnati, OH
2. Lee Hayes Byron, Sustainability Director; Sarasota County, FL
3. Robin Cox, Sustainability Director; Huntsville, AL
4. Larry Falkin, Sustainability Director; Cincinnati, OH
5. Dan Guilbeault, Sustainability Coordinator; Washington, D.C.
6. Diane Ives, Kendeda Fund; Washington, D.C.
7. Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Director; Surrey, BC, Canada
8. Sudha Nandagopal, Equity and Environment Program Manager; Seattle, WA
9. Ann Fowler Wallace, TFN; Boston, MA
10. Darryl Young, Summit Foundation; Washington, D.C.



Figure 3. Selection Committee Distribution.

Investments to Date. In 2018, Partners for Places celebrated the completion of fifteen rounds of grants that have provided \$6,346,690 US dollars to North American communities, so that they can advance their urban

sustainability goals. With the local match, total investment to date is \$13,794,824. There have been:

- Thirteen rounds of grants in the general program totaling \$5,730,709; and
- Two rounds of grants for the Equity Pilot Initiative, totaling \$615,981.

2018 Investment Summary. In 2018, Partners for Places made twelve awards in its two general grant rounds. The total 2018 fund investment is \$950,803. Of this amount, \$139,959 supports Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects and \$810,844 supports general awards. In the spring 2018 funding round 12, six awards were made, shown in Table 1. Six awards were also made in the fall 2018 funding round 1, shown in Table 2.

Table 1. 2018 Round 12 Partners for Places Program Awards.

Spring 2018 Round 12 Grants			
Project Description	Amount	Lead City	Foundation Partners
To ensure that communities and organizations with low income, immigrant, and Aboriginal citizens will be consulted and included in programming goals and action in energy transition programs.	\$59,883	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Community Foundation
To create a clear, ambitious, achievable climate action and adaptation plan that addresses O‘ahu’s unique cost of living and climate impact vulnerabilities, and serves as a model for climate planning throughout the Hawaiian Islands	\$75,000	Honolulu, HI	Hawaii Community Foundation
To create a comprehensive, equitable, and socially just sustainability, climate action, and resilience plan for Indianapolis, with actions initially implemented within revitalization-focused neighborhoods.	\$146,711	Indianapolis, IN	McKinney Family Foundation
To employ innovative, empowering engagement strategies to build meaningful community partnerships that reverse oppression to provide input into a cutting-edge sustainability plan.	\$87,500	Los Angeles County, CA	Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Liberty Hill Foundation
To align Miami’s Strategic Plan with the resilience priorities, initiatives and performance measures identified in regional resilience strategy development and the City’s updated Comprehensive Development Plan.	\$25,000	Miami, FL	The Miami Foundation
To build upon Oak Park’s legacy of being a forerunner of sustainability and drive outcomes related to solar energy and GHG reductions in Oak Park’s Comprehensive Plan and support the 25% renewable energy procurement by 2020 goal established within PlanItGreen’s Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest.	\$49,250	Oak Park, IL	Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

Table 2. 2018 Round 13 Partners for Places Program Awards.

Fall 2018 Round 13 Grants			
Project Description	Amount	Lead City	Foundation Partners
To engage diverse voices to co-create and implement a community climate action plan with innovative strategies that balance equity, efficiency, economic development, and meaningful climate benefits.	\$42,500	Bend, OR	Oregon Community Foundation
To maximize the benefits of a major green infrastructure investment by ensuring community-driven place making and traffic safety are core to design and result in long-term stewardship.	\$74,959	Denver, CO	The Colorado Health Foundation
To provide critical support in building capacity for a larger, comprehensive green infrastructure effort to secure the long-term resilience of Hartford.	\$65,000	Hartford, CT	Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
To advance climate resilience in two New Bedford Environmental Justice communities through Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness results implementation by piloting neighborhood Resilience Hubs and Community Alert System.	\$25,000	New Bedford, MA	Island Foundation
To implement the Living Cully Community Energy Plan, including a suite of community-led pilot investments, over the next two years.	\$150,000	Portland, OR	Meyer Memorial Trust
To empower human services and environmental non-profits to focus limited funds on their program’s mission through energy efficiency and renewable energy roadmaps and facility improvements.	\$150,000	Sarasota City and County	Gulf Coast Community Foundation; The Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation

These awards are made possible with the generous support from the following foundation investors—The JPB Foundation, The Kendeda Fund, The Kresge Foundation, The New York Community Trust, The Pisces Foundation, The Summit Foundation, and The Surdna Foundation. Local place-based foundations matched these 2018 grants, bringing the total investment in local sustainability projects to \$1,939,636. TFN and USDN thank the investors, local matching funders, and community partners. Without this support, Partners for Places would not be able to aid communities as they strive towards their sustainability goals.

Performance Summary. In 2018, Partners for Places completed a comprehensive grant portfolio review to assess impacts of the fund since inception. A new metrics system was developed to collect quantifiable programmatic impact data that aligns with the fund’s 2018-2023 strategic plan. Table 3 shows the fund’s new performance goals and the data baseline for each goal. In 2019, performance targets are set 2% above this baseline, and supported by actions in the fund’s [strategic work plan](#).

Table 3. Partners for Places Performance Metrics 2018 Assessment.

Goal	Metric Target Statement	2018 %	2019 Goal
1. Continuous Improvement	a) % of Partners for Places awards that exhibit operational commitment to partnerships that engage traditionally disenfranchised communities	80%	82%
	b) % of Partners for Places awards led by USDN members and their local foundations	83%	50%
2. Inspire Interest	a) % of new local funders providing the match in Partners for Places proposals	68% *	70%
	b) % of new local funders providing the match in Partners for Places awards	17% *	19%
	d) % of new local governments applying for implementation and planning grants	68% *	70%
	e) % of new local governments being awarded implementation and planning grants	50% *	52%
3. Build Relationships	a) % of proposals that exhibit relationships fostered by Partners for Places outreach efforts	33% *	35%
	b) % of proposals that address a topic identified through Partners for Places interactions as a shared priority	34% *	36%
4. Align Priorities	a) % of awards exhibiting obvious goal alignment and strong topical knowledge around shared field-advancing network priorities	23%	25%
	b) % of awards that center on planning for community alignment	79%	81%
	c) % of awards with clear potential for field-building impact that can be broadly shared	77%	79%
5. Coordinate Collaboration	a) % of Partners for Places partnerships that continue beyond the grant period	59%	61%
	b) % of Partners for Places grantees who base proposals on previous work	23%	25%
	c) % of proposals that received Partners for Places technical assistance	11% *	13%
	d) % of awards supporting climate mitigation or adaptation	47%	49%
	e) % of awards supporting equity-specific work	56%	58%
	f) % of awards allocated to advancing green stormwater infrastructure work	7%	9%

** denotes an annual calculation rather than a full portfolio assessment due to a shifting annual data baseline for these metrics.*

2019 Forecast. Partners for Places continues to operationalize the 2018-2023 strategic plan. The Governance Committee meets face-to-face in February. The Selection Committee announces Round 14 awards in May and Round 15 awards in November. The program remains adaptive and responsive to the changing priorities and needs of local government sustainability leaders and funders, while continuing as a catalyst for both sectors to build relationships with each other. The fund will explore methods in 2019 to build capacity to scale sustainability in equitable ways. Partners for Places impacts will be shared on webinars, through the posting of lessons learned in each completed grant on the USDN website (publicly accessible [here](#)), and in meetings.