

76th All-America City Award Finalist Packet

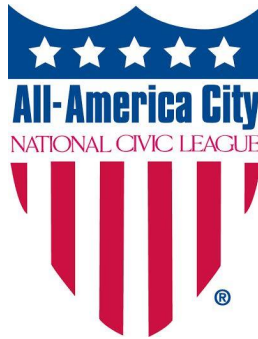
Congratulations!
Your community is a finalist for the
All-America City Award
June 27-29, 2025

All-America City Award is the flagship program of the National Civic League.
Contact: 303-571-4343 (office); 571-512-2379 (cell); or rebeccat@ncl.org.

ACTIONS FOR FINALISTS

76th All-America City Awards in Denver, CO, June 27-29, 2025

- Review **entire** Finalist Packet – **Now**
- Register for AAC Finalist Webinar. **(pg. 11)**
 - [Wednesday, April 16th](#) at 12pm ET (11am CT, 10am MT, 9am PT) **OR**
 - [Friday, April 18th](#) at 3pm ET (2 pm CT, 1 pm MT, 12 pm PT)
- Schedule your community's one-on-one call **(pg.11) – Now**
- Meet with your local AAC Planning Team to develop strategies for: – **Now**
 - Press release and media coverage.
 - Delegation composition.
 - Presentation format/content.
 - Fundraising strategy.
- Connect your media/communications staff person (if you have one) with Isa Chudzik (isac@ncl.org), cc: rebeccat@ncl.org – **ASAP or by Monday, May 5th**
 - Provide preferred social media handles (Facebook).
 - Send email addresses of local media contacts for press releases.
 - Send photos to include in your project summaries for the website.
 - Send photos to include in the welcome video for the opening ceremony.
- Make initial housing block request through Connections Housing **(pg. 23) – Monday, May 5th**.
- Make travel arrangements **(pg. 25) ASAP! ***
 - This year all finalists will be receiving four free roundtrip flights on Southwest Airlines.
- Complete event registration for your delegation **(pg. 19) – May 26th**
- Presentation preparation:
 - Review rehearsal schedule **(pg. 9)** and presentation schedule **(pg. 10)**.
 - Review presentation guidelines **(pg. 16)**.
 - Prepare and rehearse jury presentation and prepare for questions and answers.
 - [View previous presentations](#) for ideas.
- Sign up for the Cultural Entertainment Showcase **(pg. 14) – May 26th** (optional)
- Prepare for the Civic Action Fair **(pg. 12)**
- Submit nomination for the Youth Leadership Award **(pg. 26) – May 26th** (optional)
- Sign up to participate in the social media contest **(pg. 27) – May 26th** (optional)
- Ship materials for presentation and/or Civic Action Fair for arrival on **June 25 or 26**
 - [FedEx Office Print & Ship Center](#)
- Consider buying an ad in the AAC Event Program **(pg. 28)**, – **May 5th** (optional)
- Consider buying AAC T-Shirts for the event **(pg. 29) – May 26th** (optional)
- Summary of deadlines **(pg. 31)**
- Call or email Rebecca Trout or Isa Chudzik with any questions:
 - Office: 303-571-4343
 - Cell: 571-512-2379
 - Email: rebeccat@ncl.org or isac@ncl.org



2025 All-America City Award Finalists
in alphabetical order by city

Akron, Ohio
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Austin, Texas
Carrboro, North Carolina
Chelsea, Massachusetts
Delray Beach, Florida
Denver, Colorado
Fort Collins, Colorado
Hampton, Virginia
Jacksonville, North Carolina
Kinston, North Carolina
Leominster, Massachusetts
Memphis, Tennessee
Petaluma, California
Port St. Lucie, Florida
Seattle, Washington
Snyder, Texas
Statesboro, Georgia
Tallahassee, Florida
Western Riverside Region, California

76th All-America City Award Contacts

General Information:

Rebecca Trout
National Civic League
Phone: 571-512-2379
rebeccat@ncl.org

Isa Chudzik
National Civic League
isac@ncl.org

Hotel Reservations:

Eric Cole-Layton
Connections Housing
Phone: 404-842-0000
eric@connectionshousing.com

76th All-America City Award Event
Strengthening Environmental Sustainability through Inclusive Community Engagement

Grand Hyatt
1750 Welton St, Denver, CO 80202
June 27-29, 2025

Thursday, June 26, 2025

6:00pm – 8:00pm <i>Floor</i>	Registration	<i>Lobby, 2nd</i>
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Friday, June 27, 2025

7:30am – 4:00pm <i>Lobby, 2nd Floor</i>	Registration and Help Desk
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7:15am – 7:45am <i>Yale</i>	Finalist Delegation “Captain” Briefing	<i>Mt.</i>
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Daily in-person briefings are an opportunity to go over the day's agenda and for delegation captains to ask questions to keep delegations informed and on time.

8:00am – 4:15pm <i>Ballroom</i>	Finalist Presentation Rehearsals	<i>Colorado</i>
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9:00am – 1:00pm	Democracy Innovations Workshop	<i>Capitol Peak</i>
	<i>Ballroom</i> <i>The League's Center for Democracy Innovation is offering a free supplemental workshop for All-America City Award attendees, exploring new techniques and tools to enhance community engagement in participatory and deliberative governance. Others interested in attending can register separately.</i>	

11:00am – 12:30pm	Finalist Roundtable:	<i>Mt.</i>
	<i>Columbia</i> Matching Solutions to Shared Challenges <i>Communities nationwide face diverse challenges but also possess a wealth of community-based resources to address them. In this interactive workshop, attendees will engage in facilitated conversations and brainstorm solutions to shared concerns. Rotating between tables, participants will explore topics such as environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster preparedness, creating belonging amidst political divisions, homelessness, economic vitality, youth engagement, among others.</i>	

12:30pm – 2:00pm	Lunch on Your Own
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2:00pm – 3:00pm	Mapping the Healthy Democracy Ecosystem for	<i>Mt.</i>
	<i>Oxford</i> All-America Cities	

As an All-America City finalist, your community is at the forefront of civic

innovation and collaboration. The Healthy Democracy Ecosystem Map is a powerful tool to help you expand your impact by connecting with allies, strengthening civic infrastructure, and activating citizens. This workshop will show you how to leverage the Map to build partnerships, enhance engagement, and drive lasting change.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| 3:15pm – 4:15pm | Funding the Future:
<i>Oxford</i>
Navigating the Evolving Sustainability Funding Landscape
With federal funding for climate and sustainability initiatives becoming increasingly scarce, communities must adapt and explore new funding strategies to sustain their efforts. This workshop will provide practical insights into assessing the current funding landscape and brainstorm alternative resources. Participants will hear from experts and peers who have successfully navigated these challenges, leaving with actionable strategies to sustain and expand their environmental initiatives. | <i>Mt.</i> |
| 4:15pm – 4:55pm | Civic Action Fair Setup
<i>Aspen Ballroom</i>
Communities are invited to bring their booth materials from storage and set up in the Aspen Ballroom for the Civic Action Fair. Each community will be assigned a designated table positioned along the perimeter of the room. | <i>Aspen</i> |
| 5:00pm – 6:00pm | All-America City Opening Ceremony
<i>Colorado Ballroom</i>
Kick off the 2025 All-America City Award with an inspiring evening celebrating this year's finalists! Former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, a leader in clean energy and sustainability, will deliver the keynote address, sharing insights from his time in public office and the clean energy sector. A dynamic local emcee will guide the festivities as we honor the communities leading the way in environmental sustainability and civic engagement. | <i>Colorado</i> |
| 6:00pm – 7:30pm | AAC Civic Action Fair &
Civic Vending Machine Launch
<i>Aspen Ballroom</i>
Tour exhibits showcasing this year's finalist communities, highlighting their history, culture, and innovative local initiatives. Bring items from your hometown for a fun swap! Plus, be part of the exciting launch of the Civic Vending Machine—a unique crowdfunding initiative designed to support democracy efforts nationwide. | |

Saturday, June 28, 2025

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|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 8:00am – 8:30am
<i>Yale</i> | Finalist Delegation “Captain” Briefing | <i>Mt.</i> |
| 8:00am – 4:00pm
<i>Lobby</i> | Registration and Help Desk | <i>2nd Floor</i> |
| 9:00am – 12:00pm
<i>Ballroom</i> | Jury Presentations | <i>Colorado</i> |
| 12:00pm – 1:00pm | Lunch on Your Own | |

1:00pm – 4:00pm **Jury Presentations** Colorado
Ballroom

4:30pm – 6:00pm **An All-America Night of Entertainment and Celebration**
Hear from keynote speaker TBA and help us celebrate the recipients of the prestigious Hall of Fame & All-America Leader Awards. Following these highlights, immerse yourself in the Cultural Entertainment Showcase, where talented individuals and groups from finalist communities will dazzle the audience.

Sunday, June 29, 2025

8:00am – 8:30am **Finalist Delegation “Captain” Briefing** Mt.
Yale

Daily in-person briefings are an opportunity to go over the day's agenda and for delegation captains to ask questions to keep delegations informed and on time.

9:00am – 12:00pm **Jury Presentations**

12:00pm – 1:30pm **Lunch on Your Own**

1:30pm – 3:30pm **Festival of Ideas**
During the jury's deliberation period, finalists will engage in an informative exchange with their peers. Each community will showcase one of their projects, offering an invaluable opportunity to explore other finalist initiatives and gain insights on implementing these innovative ideas in your own community.

Group 1 (Mt. Sopris A)
Austin, TX
Seattle, WA
Denver, CO
Memphis, TN

Fort Collins, CO
Hampton, VA
Jacksonville, NC

Group 2 (Mt. Sopris B)
Albuquerque, NM
Western Riverside
Region, CA
Port St. Lucie, FL
Tallahassee, FL

Group 4: (Mt. Oxford)
Delray Beach, FL
Petaluma, CA
Leominster, MA
Chelsea, MA

Group 3 (Mt. Columbia)
Akron, OH

Group 5 (Mt. Princeton)
Statesboro, GA
Carrboro, NC
Kinston, NC
Snyder, TX

3:45pm – 4:45pm **Elected and Appointed Officials Dialogue** Mt.
Sopris B
interactive
Calling all elected and appointed municipal officials! Join us for an
session aimed at fostering idea exchange and problem-solving for local

challenges.

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Pre-Awards Reception

Capitol Peak Ballroom

Unwind before the big night and connect with your fellow finalists at a pre-award reception featuring light hors d'oeuvres. Held in the stunning Capitol Peak Ballroom on the 38th floor, this space offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Colorado Rocky Mountains—an unforgettable setting to kick off the celebration.

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Colorado Ballroom

Awards Ceremony

Don't miss the big reveal! The ten 2025 All-America Cities will be named, along with the winners of the Youth Award and Social Media Award. Don't miss this thrilling announcement! Featuring remarks from keynote speaker TBA.

8:00pm – 9:30pm

Peak Ballroom

Awards Celebration and Music!

Capitol

Join us for the closing reception featuring a lively DJ and dancing! Let loose and make the most of your final evening at AAC—everyone's invited!

2025 ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

All rehearsals will take place in the Colorado Ballroom

Friday, *June 27, 2025*

8:00am-8:20am	Akron, OH
8:25am-8:45am	Albuquerque, NM
8:50am-9:10am	Austin, TX
9:15am-9:35am	Carrboro, NC
9:40am-10:00am	Chelsea, MA
10:05am-10:25am	Delray Beach, FL
10:30am-10:50am	Denver, CO
10:55am-11:15am	Fort Collins, CO
11:20am-11:40am	Hampton, VA
11:45am-12:05pm	Jacksonville, NC
12:10pm-12:30pm	Kinston, NC
12:35pm-12:55pm	Leominster, MA
1:00pm-1:20pm	Memphis, TN
1:25pm-1:45pm	Petaluma, CA
1:50pm-2:10pm	Port St. Lucie, FL
2:15pm-2:35pm	Seattle, WA
2:40pm-3:00pm	Snyder, TX
3:05pm-3:25pm	Statesboro, GA
3:30pm-3:50pm	Tallahassee, FL
3:55pm-4:15pm	Western Riverside Region, CA

2025 ALL-AMERICA CITY PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

All presentations will take place in the Colorado Ballroom

Saturday, June 28, 2025

Block 1

9:00am – 9:10am	Jury Introductions
9:15am – 9:35am	Akron, Ohio
9:40am – 10:00am	Albuquerque, New Mexico
10:05am – 10:25am	Austin, Texas

Break

Block 2

10:45am – 11:05am	Carrboro, North Carolina
11:10am – 11:30am	Chelsea, Massachusetts
11:35am – 11:55pm	Delray Beach, Florida

Lunch

Block 3

1:00pm – 1:20pm	Denver, Colorado
1:25pm – 1:45pm	Fort Collins, Colorado
1:50pm – 2:10pm	Hampton, Virginia
2:15pm – 2:35pm	Jacksonville, North Carolina

Break

Block 4

2:50pm – 3:10pm	Kinston, North Carolina
3:15pm – 3:35pm	Leominster, Massachusetts
3:40pm – 4:00pm	Memphis, Tennessee

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Block 5

9:00am – 9:20am	Petaluma, California
9:25am – 9:45am	Port St. Lucie, Florida
9:50am – 10:10am	Seattle, Washington

Break

Block 6

10:25am – 10:45am	Snyder, Texas
10:50am – 11:10am	Statesboro, Georgia
11:15am – 11:35am	Tallahassee, Florida
11:40am – 12:00pm	Western Riverside Region, California

Finalist Informational Webinar

To help you prepare for the event we have informational conference calls scheduled on April 16th and 18th. You or someone from your community needs to attend only one call. Both calls will have the same content; we are offering two separate times to hopefully accommodate everyone's schedule. You will need to register for your preferred option.

Finalist Webinar Offerings:

- Option 1: Wednesday, April 16th at 12pm ET (11 am CT, 10 am MT, 9 am PT)
 - [Register](#)
- Option 2: Friday, April 18th at 3pm ET (2 pm CT, 1 pm MT, 12 pm PT)
 - [Register](#)

Community-Specific Calls

We will also be scheduling individual phone calls with each community to address your specific questions about the event and provide feedback on your written application to help you prepare your jury presentation. To schedule your call, please use Rebecca's [Calendly link](#). Feel free to share the invitation with anyone from your team you'd like to include. We recommend choosing a time during the weeks of May 5th or May 12th.

Description of Events

All activities will be held at the Grand Hyatt, 1750 Welton St, Denver, CO 80202

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony celebrating this year's finalist communities will be on Friday, June 27, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Come and cheer for your community! Doug Linkhart, President of the National Civic League will provide insights and the jury will be introduced. Activities will include a welcome video featuring your community, acknowledgement of all the delegations, a special keynote speaker, and surprise emcee.

The dress is casual; some communities will choose to wear matching t-shirts. You can also bring things from your community (lapel pins, etc.) to trade with your fellow finalists!



Civic Action Fair

On Friday evening, we will have a reception, along with this year's Civic Action Fair. The Civic Action Fair gives communities an opportunity to exchange information and tell your story to each other.

For the Civic Action Fair, each community will be assigned a "booth" space with only one table (6ftx30in) and two chairs. Your community's space is limited to 1 table, and no backdrops will be provided. All other materials need to be furnished by your community or arranged in advance with the hotel. You will have time to set up your booth on Friday from 4:15 pm to 4:55 pm.

In the past, communities have displayed a wide variety of items at their exhibits. Some communities bring professionally designed displays, while others bring pictures. Some communities show videos, others pass out samples of their native cuisine or local products. The point is to showcase your culture and share information about your community and to learn about the other finalists. Pamphlets, literature, T-shirts, baseball caps, traditional **pre-packaged** local food, and any other items that represent your community, make excellent handouts. **Only pre-packaged food or drinks are allowed. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.**



Your Civic Action Fair booth can be fun and creative. If you have any questions about what is appropriate, please contact Rebecca.

Daily Delegation “Captain” Briefings

The daily in-person Delegation Captain briefings will be held each morning (check your schedule for exact times) to review each day’s agenda and answer any questions. These are opportunities for you to ask questions and help keep your team on track and on time. The first one will be on Friday, June 27. Please send your delegation “captain” or someone who can disseminate the information to your entire delegation on a regular basis. You’ll also hear from some of the League’s partners who have some perks to share for being finalists.

Rehearsals for the Presentations

Every finalist community will have **only twenty minutes** in the official presentation space to rehearse presentations. Rehearsals will be led by League staff and volunteers and will be held Friday, June 27. Please check the enclosed **rehearsal schedule (pg. 9)** for your community's rehearsal time. There will be no changes in scheduled times for either the rehearsals or presentations. You may NOT trade times for rehearsals or presentations.

Cultural Entertainment Showcase

On Saturday evening, the Cultural Entertainment Showcase will feature talented individuals and groups from finalist communities. Communities bring choirs, bands, poets, dance troupes, etc.

If you are interested in having community members perform in the **Cultural Entertainment Showcase (ten-minute slots)**, please email Isa Chudzik (isac@ncl.org) by May 26th to sign up. The 6 available slots will be given out on a first come, first serve basis.

Festival of Ideas

On Sunday afternoon, while the jury deliberates, finalists will participate in the AAC Festival of Ideas—an interactive exchange of innovative projects and best practices. Each finalist community will be assigned a group and present one standout project from their application in a brief, 5-minute talk, followed by Q&A with fellow participants. Handouts are welcome, though AV will not be available.

This festival is a unique opportunity to gain insights from other communities, discover actionable ideas to bring home, and engage in meaningful dialogue with local, regional, and national leaders. Each presentation will be interactive, encouraging participants to connect the topics to their own community goals and experiences. Because sessions run simultaneously, we encourage your delegation members to attend different groups to maximize learning and collaboration.

AAC Awards Ceremony & Celebration

The ten 2025 All-America Cities will be named at the awards ceremony on Sunday evening between 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. In addition, the winners of the Youth Award and Social Media Award will be announced at this time. Finalists will also be acknowledged. When your community's name is called, your delegation will come up to the stage to accept your award plaque; please choose a speaking representative to briefly accept your award.

The ceremony will be livestreamed to our [Facebook page](#), so encourage community members who were unable to make the trip to tune-in virtually! In past award ceremonies, communities have organized watch parties to celebrate as a group.

There will be receptions before (5:30-6:30) and after (8:00-9:30) the opening ceremony; receptions will be held in the Atrium tower at the Pinnacle Club—38th floor. Receptions will include hors d'oeuvres and cash bars. The closing reception will feature a DJ and dancing, everyone is invited to enjoy your last evening at AAC!

Finalist Bingo

Get to know your fellow finalists and attendees with our finalist bingo card. When you find a match, have the individual sign the square. Bingo cards will be available at the registration desk when you arrive.

This is all fun and games, so we're using the honor system. The first two individuals to turn in a completed (five up/down, across, or diagonally) BINGO card to the registration desk will get a special prize.

Tours and Information for Visitors

[Visit Denver](#) will offer helpful information about tours to sites in the area.

Family Vacation

As a final note, the hotel will be extending its discount rates three days before and after the event (depending on availability) for delegates wishing to bring their family and turn this event into a family vacation. Take time to explore Colorado's national parks, with legendary hiking, mountain biking and camping, or spend the day fly fishing on some of the most iconic rivers in the country. Or visit historic small towns and Denver's amazing shopping opportunities.

Presentation Guidelines

Each finalist community will be given **ten minutes** to make a presentation before the AAC Jury explaining why it should be named an All-America City. The presentations may follow any format; see past **in-person** (2024 & 2023) [presentations](#) for ideas. The jury will then take ten minutes to question the presenters. These time limits will be **strictly enforced. You have no more than 2 ½ minutes to set up your presentation and have all delegates on the stage, and no more than 2 ½ minutes to take down your props, presentation etc., and have all delegates exit the ballroom.**

Communities will enter on the left side of the ballroom to the stage and exit the right side of the ballroom. NOTE: Musical or dance "entertainment" outside of the 2 ½ entrance time will be considered part of the 10-minute presentation. Plan to have your delegation in the holding area (outside the ballroom) and ready to move into the ballroom 15 minutes prior to your scheduled presentation time. Caution each speaker to have their comments timed so that all speakers will have the opportunity to present.

The following audio equipment will be available for your use: three (3) wireless handheld microphones with floor stands.

You may include a pre-recorded video for the first two minutes of your presentation; however, no additional AV or sound equipment is permitted, including slideshows, PowerPoint presentations, etc. Your video can feature community locations highlighted in your projects and/or testimonials from participants or organizers.

Please bring your video as an MP4 file on a thumb drive. During your rehearsal on Friday, you will hand your thumb drive to the AV technician, who will check to ensure it plays properly.

Props, speakers for background music, etc. are allowed; however, electrical outlets/extension cords will not be available, so don't forget your batteries and/or chargers! Check with [Rebecca Trout](#) at the National Civic League if you are unsure of what you are allowed to use.

When determining the content of your presentation, keep in mind the evaluation criteria:

1. **Shared Vision:** Is there a shared vision and long-term plan to address local challenges. Was the vision defined by the community?
2. **Civic Engagement:** Did the activity include comprehensive resident engagement in decision-making and action planning? Were there strong engagement efforts that sought to listen to, and learn from, residents in ongoing conversations and leverage those insights to shape the way the program/activity was administered, designed, and executed?
3. **Inclusiveness and Equity:** Was there intentional involvement of diverse segments and perspectives (ethnic, racial, socio-economic, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, people with disabilities, national origin, and

others) in activity/program decision-making? Is there evidence of increased equity of outcomes for residents based on demographics?

4. **Collaboration:** Was there cross-sector collaboration (business, academia, local government, nonprofits, military, etc.) and/or regional collaboration?
5. **Innovation:** Was there creative use and leveraging of community resources?
6. **Impact:** Is there demonstrable, significant and measurable achievements from the past 5 years (for example: increase in number and diversity of residents involved in engagement processes, reduced poverty rates, increased access to school health services, increased number of diverse leaders)?

Your ten-minute presentation should be substantive in nature, with particular focus on your civic engagement and the three projects described in your application. You may include as many people as you like in the presentation, and we encourage you to involve a broad cross-section of the community in presenting and responding to the jury's questions. What matters most is the sincerity and honesty of the presentation and the ability of the presenters to answer probing questions about the projects and the community. **It is very important that the presenters reflect the resident involvement and cross-sector collaboration of your projects. (Please note the size of the stage below when determining how many people to include in your presentation)**

Evaluation

The jury will be judging your presentation on its content. They will use your presentation, answers to the questions they ask, and your written application to determine the All-America Cities for 2025.

Two key rules:

1. You may not hand out extra materials (brochures, etc.) to members of the jury before, during, or after your presentation.
 - a. The only exception is if your presentation incorporates a language other than English; in this case, you can provide a printed translation to jury members.
2. Active lobbying of jurors is prohibited. There is certainly nothing wrong with being polite, friendly, and sociable with them, but we ask that you use careful judgment in your interactions with members of the jury.

Presentation Stage Dimensions

The width of the stage will be 36'. The depth of the stage is 24'. The stage is 3' high. There will be stair access from both right and left (however delegations must enter the stage from stage right) and a wheelchair access ramp stage right.

PLEASE NOTE: Your delegation **will be facing the audience** during the presentation. Unlike past years, the jury will be seated in the audience, so you will have use of the entire stage. When viewing presentations from past years, keep in mind that your stage setup will be different.

Recording & Livestream Information:

We will provide a designated spot for each community to record its own presentation. The National Civic League will also film each presentation, with official recordings available online about a month after the event.

We'll be livestreaming finalist presentations and the awards ceremony on our Facebook page, so encourage community members who couldn't attend to tune in virtually! In the past, communities have even organized local watch parties.

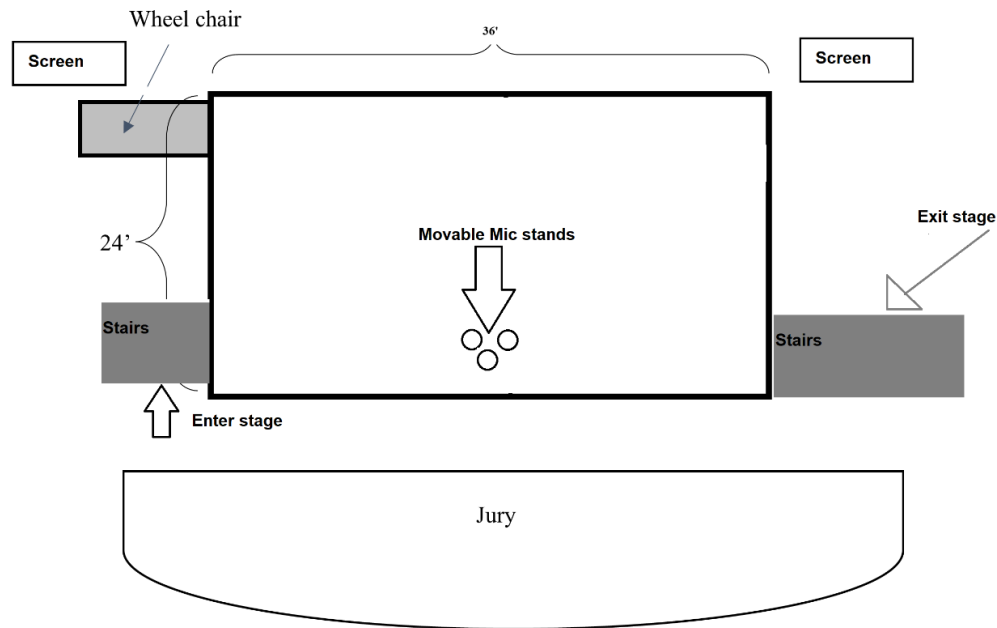
Attendance

Attendance at finalist presentations is strongly encouraged, as this event is centered around peer learning. A key objective of the All-America City Award is to spotlight promising practices nationwide, fostering cross-community learning and adaptation. We urge you to join your fellow finalists' presentations, where you can glean insights into the diverse innovations taking place across the country. **Also, the jury notices!**

ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to host an inclusive, accessible event that enables all individuals, including those with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Rebecca at rebeccat@ncl.org.

If your delegation will include non-English speakers, please let us know as soon as possible so we can arrange for an interpreter.



Delegate Registration (Due by May 26th)

Communities may send delegations of any size to make presentations before the jury. Previous delegations have ranged from 4 to over 100 (averaging 30). This is a great

opportunity for community members to get involved, to feel a part of the award effort, and learn from other communities. **And the more people you have there, the more momentum when you return to your community to implement new ideas!**

Of course, the people involved in preparing your community's application should make every attempt to be there. You should also bring along individuals involved in the three projects, stakeholders, recipients, volunteers, and a broad diversity of your community. Many times, elected officials play a crucial role in community applications, and we welcome them. However, make sure that *just plain folks* are a part of your delegation too. We especially like to see **youth** representatives from each community.

We invite you to bring along community artists to perform during the Cultural Entertainment Showcase on Saturday night. Previously, finalist communities have brought their step team, high school jazz band and mariachi band, poets, etc. See page 14 for details.

Registration Pricing

Registration Pricing

Individual registrations are \$150. Children 5 and under can attend for free but must be registered—email rebeccat@ncl.org for a comp code. Media representatives also receive complimentary registration; please contact rebeccat@ncl.org for a comp code.

Registration includes access to all jury presentations, All-America City workshops, The Democracy Innovations Workshop (new!), receptions, the Civic Action Fair, Cultural Entertainment Showcase, Awards Ceremony, and Post-Awards Event.

Registration Instructions

Your community's captain should complete the delegation registration by May 26th. This year, we'll be using the Whova event app for processing registrations. [Click here to register](#).

Each Finalist has a designated ticket type. Navigate to your ticket name and click "See More" to reveal your discount code, which will ensure no payment is required during registration. Select the number of tickets you need, then scroll down and enter the discount code where indicated. Click "Apply," and the total registration cost should update to \$0.

If you do not enter your discount code and pay through the Whova app, you will be assessed processing fees that we won't be able to recoup on your behalf.

Once your registration is complete, the League will send you an invoice. You can pay by card (with a 3.5% processing fee) or by mailing a check. Your registration list is due through the Whova portal by May 26th and we ask that you pay your registration invoice before checking-in to the event.

Screenshots: Applying Discount Code

Step 1:

Finalist Registration

Select tickets and quantity

Ticket	Price	Quantity
Akron Sales end on June 3, 2025 at 01:59 AM Select this ticket type if you are a member of Akron's Finalist Delegation. Use See More	\$150.00 + \$10.44 fee	0 <input type="button" value="v"/>
Albuquerque Sales end on June 3, 2025 at 01:59 AM Select this ticket type if you are a member of Albuquerque's Finalist	\$150.00 + \$10.44 fee	0 <input type="button" value="v"/> See More

Step 2:

Albuquerque Sales end on June 3, 2025 at 01:59 AM Select this ticket type if you are a member of Albuquerque's Finalist Delegation. Use code ALBUQUERQUE2025 at checkout to defer payment. An invoice will be sent after registration. See less	\$150.00 + \$10.44 fee	0 <input type="button" value="v"/>
Austin		

Step 3:

Tallahassee Sales end on June 3, 2025 at 01:59 AM Select this ticket type if you are a member of Tallahassee's Finalist Delegation. Use See More	\$150.00 + \$10.44 fee	0 <input type="button" value="v"/>
Western River Region Sales end on June 3, 2025 at 01:59 AM Select this ticket type if you are a member of Western River Region's Finalist Delegation. Use See More	\$150.00 + \$10.44 fee	0 <input type="button" value="v"/>

Copy

Ctrl+C

Copy link to highlight

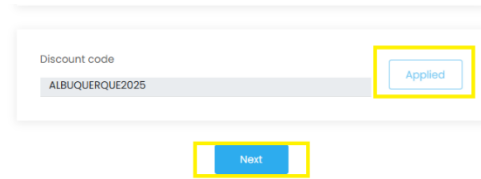
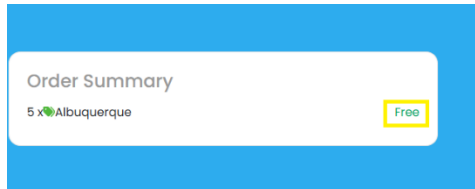
Search Google for "ALBUQUERQUE2025"

Discount code

ALBUQUERQUE2025

Apply

Step 4:



Registration Funding Ideas

Some municipalities choose to pay for their entire delegation's fees (hotel, travel, registration). But oftentimes, communities launch a fundraising campaign to pay for part of the expenses of the delegation. Groups have also asked employers to sponsor their employee(s) to help offset the travel cost.

Some finalists make a public announcement in their community, inviting anyone who can pay their way to go to the awards.

Often, community organizations, churches, businesses, and chambers of commerce sponsor members of the delegation. You can offer benefits to sponsors such as including their name and/or logo on optional materials such as your program ad, presentation props, and event shirts. Please feel free to contact your mentor and/or alumni to find out how they put their delegations together.

Registration Transfers

If after submitting your list a community member can no longer attend but would like to transfer the registration to another person, you may do so without charge. Please note that transfers are allowed, but refunds are not.

Event Check-In

The registration desk will be in the lobby of the second floor. Please note you will **not** need to print or bring any confirmation of registration. The League will have a name badge and event bag for all community members at check-in on Thursday, June 26th or Friday June 27th.

Also, we ask that one person picks up all registration materials for your community to distribute. Let your community members know who will be picking up the materials for your group.

Onsite registration and/or transfers will be available at the registration desk in the lobby of the second floor.

Deadline for Registration is May 26th

Hotel Details

National Civic League's All-America City Award Event Denver, CO June 27 - 29, 2025

The National Civic League, home of the All-America City Awards, requires your community to stay at the Grand Hyatt Denver and book through Connections Housing as it provides convenience and safety to your community as all events will take place in the hotel as well as numerous networking opportunities you can find nowhere else.

The National Civic League has negotiated and contracted discounted rates for your community available only to AAC participants. These contracts protect you in extenuating circumstances including weather.

All reservation requests must be made online at:

<https://connectionshousing.app/50899455>

Do not contact the Grand Hyatt directly to make your reservations.

**Grand Hyatt Denver
\$219.00* for one or two guests in a room
\$234.00* for three guests
\$249.00* for four guests**

*Please note rates do not include tax and that rooms may have either one king bed, one king bed and a rollaway or two double beds only. Rooms with three or four sleeping surfaces are not available. Rollaway beds are by request only and they are on a first-come, first-serve basis as there is a limited number.

Children under 18 years of age in a room with at least one adult are not considered additional guests and do not incur an additional charge.

Any reservation cancelled within 7 days of arrival will be charged a one night's room and tax penalty.

Any room vacated by all occupants earlier than the date agreed to at check-in will be charged an Early Departure Fee of one night's room and tax and any applicable fees.

Rooms, Amenities & Guest Services

Rest well in one of our hotel rooms and suites at Grand Hyatt Denver. Wake up to views of downtown before stepping out your door to discover the city, and retreat at the end of the day to upscale comfort with plush beds, luxurious bath amenities and tech enhancements.

Dining & Entertainment

Whether you are craving a classic burger, fine wine, or a house-made pastry and espresso, your choice awaits. Savor classic American dishes with locally sourced

ingredients at [Courier](#). Meet for drinks at [Fireside | The Bar](#), find your on-the-go selections in [Courier. Market](#), or order meals anytime in the comfort of your room. Courier, once home to one of Denver's oldest newspapers, features a private dining room for intimate celebrations or corporate gatherings. The Grand Hyatt Denver hotel restaurant and bars offer satisfying dining for travelers and locals alike.

Housing Deadlines and instructions:

Monday, May 5th, 2025 – Initial housing request made.

Once housing opens you have until May 5th to complete the [web housing form](#). This serves as an initial estimate of the total number of rooms you will require. Once the housing form is processed you will receive an additional weblink that will be specific to the # of rooms you are holding. This web link will also be where you make your individual reservation with the participant who will reside in the room. Please note, you can decrease the number of rooms after this date with no penalty and/or increase based on availability. A limited number of rooms are available with two beds, and these will be allocated on a first-requested basis as the initial housing forms are received.

Any rooms with two or three guests may be automatically placed into a room with one king bed and a rollway to accommodate the most requests. Rollaway beds are by request only and they are on a first-come, first-serve basis as there is a limited number.

Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 – Deadline to release any potential unused rooms.

Last day to request new reservations and initial rooming list due

All reservation requests after this date (subject to change based upon overall demand) may not be guaranteed at the discounted group rate and other AAC approved options may be offered.

On this day an initial rooming list is due to include names and payment guarantee details for each requested room. Every reservation must be guaranteed with a credit card as a guarantee. Nothing is charged prior to arrival and alternative forms of payment (group check, individual card, etc.) may be used after this date with no change penalty.

Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 - FINAL rooming list due.

On this day a final version of your rooming list is due with all individuals staying in each room required. Minimal adjustment after this date is permitted. Once your completed rooming list is received and sent to the hotel, individual hotel confirmation numbers generated and recognized by the hotel will be sent from Connections Housing. As with the total number of rooms, individual occupants' names, dates, requests, etc., may all be amended after this date with no penalty.

Cancellation penalty period- 7 days prior to arrival

Any reservation cancelled within 7 days of arrival will be penalized by a charge of one night's room and tax. Any room vacated before the date agreed to at check-in will be charged one night's room and tax and any applicable fees for early departure fee.

***Remember - until 7 days prior to arrival all requests, modifications, cancellations and information should be communicated to Connections Housing, not the Grand Hyatt.

Until June 5th, 2025 (subject to change) the hotel will not have a record of your reservation, and you will be directed back to Connections Housing for assistance.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: ERIC LAYTON at AACAwards@connectionshousing.com



Official airline of the
2025 All-America City Award

Travel to the Event

Thanks to Southwest Airlines, the official airline of the All-America City Award, we are excited to provide each finalist community with four roundtrip vouchers for Southwest flights. Please use these tickets to attend the event and, if possible, share them with a community member who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate.

For those of you who are local, consider creative ways to use your vouchers, such as offering them as prizes or giveaways to community members or delegation members.

To receive your voucher codes, please email Kathie Hamilton at kathieh@ncl.org; be sure to say that you are a finalist for AAC and provide your community's name. She will provide you with eight unique codes (one for each one-way flight). You can redeem these codes by following the instructions [here](#).

An Invitation to Apply for the John Parr Youth Leadership Award

Nominate a youth leader for the 2025 John Parr Youth Leadership Award. The winner will receive national recognition through the National Civic League's and All-America City Award's website and social media. Additionally, recipients will be recognized during the closing ceremony with a plaque and will receive two roundtrip vouchers on Southwest Airlines, the official airline of the 2025 All-America City Award.

This award was created in memory of the League's former President John Parr who highly valued youth leadership.

Eligibility:

Youth, ages 14 to 25, from 2025 All-America City Finalist communities are invited to submit applications or be nominated. Each community may only nominate one youth.

Application Process:

Submit a letter, not to exceed one page, single-spaced (1 letter of support can be submitted as well) describing how the nominated youth leader (ages 14-25) meets the following criteria. Youth may nominate themselves or they can be nominated by a community member. **The letter must be submitted by email to isac@ncl.org by May 26, 2025.** The youth leader must be part of a finalist delegation attending the 2025 All-America City Award event.

Criteria

1. Exemplifies the All-America City criteria of impact, inclusiveness, innovation, collaboration and civic engagement.
2. Has had an impact on the wider community (i.e. What difference did they make?).
3. Inspired others to get involved, to undertake comparable efforts.
4. Demonstrates the insight and courage to collaborate across lines that usually divide people.

Selection of the Winner:

A two-person committee will review the applications and interview finalists during the All-America City Award event. The winner will be announced Sunday night, June 29, 2025, at the All-America City Award Closing Ceremony.

For additional information contact Isa (isac@ncl.org).

AAC Social Media and Online Outreach Award

The All-America City Award is all about sharing your projects and ideas with problem solvers across the country. The National Civic League invites you to conduct a creative and far-reaching social media campaign featuring your community and its bid for the 2025 All-America City Award. The National Civic League will award the AAC Social Media and Online Outreach Award to one finalist community that best utilizes social media and online platforms. **Tell us your community is competing for this award by emailing your intent to compete to Isa Chudzik (isac@ncl.org) by May 26, 2025.**

This is all for fun and completely optional for each community. We will be looking for the community with the most creative use of online media and social networking before and during AAC and that involves a significant number of followers or participants (community size will be considered).

This award is also a way to share the experience with other members of your community and other AAC finalists from across the country. This is a friendly competition with the mutual goal of advancing the work being done in your communities; therefore, we ask that you be respectful with all online content.

Here are some ideas to get you started (follow us on twitter and like us on Facebook for more ideas):

- Share photos and/or videos about your application's featured projects and/or participants.
- Before coming to Denver update delegates and community members' profile pictures or cover photos with signs that say "(Community Name) is an All-America City finalist because _____"
- Offer prizes to people who participate in your social media campaign.
- Raise funds online for travel to AAC.
- Ask for community-wide input on your presentation.
- Film and share rehearsals of your presentation.
- Live tweet/post during workshops, the civic action fair, the cultural entertainment showcase, or presentations at the event.
- Share the National civic League's livestream of your presentation and ceremonies.
- Take photos of other City's presentations and share something you learned!
- **Be sure to use #AAC2025 and tag our accounts on all posts:**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/AllAmericaCityAwards>

AAC PROGRAM ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Reserve your ad for the printed program today!

Email ads to rebeccat@ncl.org by **May 5, 2025**.
We will send you an invoice after receiving your ad.

AAC Program Advertising

The program features summaries of all finalists and their projects. It's a collector's item for the attendees and their communities. Publication size is 7.5" x 9.687"

Ad Size	Specifications	Price
Full page	6.5" wide by 9" tall	\$2,500
Half page	6.5" w x 4.25" tall	\$1,000
Quarter page	3" wide by 4.25" tall	\$500

Ad File Type:

Please send ads in an ACROBAT PDF format with high-resolution 300 ppi on all photos, or high resolution (300 pixels per inch) JPEG CMYK. Ads have NO BLEED. Please do NOT include crop marks in your artwork. No Microsoft Word files, please.



Get Your Official All-America City Award T-Shirts!

Standard and customized options are available

Orders due to aac@ncl.org by May 26th

Official 2025 AAC T-Shirt

\$20 each

Front



Back



To order, complete this table and email aac@ncl.org by May 26th. An invoice will be provided.

Size (Available in XS-5XL)	Quantity
Total	

Customizable T-Shirts

1-10 shirts= \$35 each
11-20 shirts= \$30 each
21-50 shirts= \$25 each
51+ shirts= \$20 each
**Can customize shirt and font color*



To order, complete this table and email aac@ncl.org by May 26th. An invoice will be provided.
For further customizations, email rebeccat@ncl.org.

Size (Available in XS-5XL)	Quantity
Total	

Summary of Deadlines

**(Required)*

^ (Optional)

May 5th

- ☐ Make initial housing block request (pg. 22) *
- ☐ Optional program ads for the AAC Event Program due (pg. 27) ^
- ☐ Send the following to Isa (isac@ncl.org), cc: rebeccat@ncl.org *
 - Preferred social media handles (Facebook and Twitter).
 - Email addresses of local media contacts for press releases.
 - Photos to include in your project summaries for the website and opening ceremony welcome video.

May 26th

- ☐ Registration due (pg. 18) *
- ☐ Sign-up for Cultural Entertainment Showcase (pg. 13) ^
- ☐ Purchase your official AAC or customizable t-shirts (pg. 28) ^
- ☐ Submit nomination for the Youth Leadership Award (pg. 25) ^
- ☐ Sign up to participate in the social media contest (pg. 26) ^

June 4th

- ☐ Last day to request new reservations and initial rooming list due. (pg. 22) *

June 18th

- ☐ Final rooming list due (pg. 22) *



Celebrating Winning the All-America City Award

Each All-America City designee hosts a celebratory event to honor their designation. This celebration can either be part of an existing event or a standalone occasion. Examples include parades, picnics, or re-enacting the jury presentation.

Please coordinate your celebration with Rebecca—the League would be thrilled to send a representative to join in the festivities!

It's not too early to start thinking about how your community can celebrate upon your return from AAC. Things to consider:

- ☐ What will be the date? Does the date have a special significance to your community?
- ☐ What is the alternative date?
- ☐ What will the agenda look like? What will be the time span? One day, two days?
- ☐ What dignitaries should be invited?
- ☐ How can we draw in the media? Locally and beyond? What are those compelling stories that will catch the attention of TV, radio, and print?
- ☐ How can we build on the synergy from winning the 2025 AAC Award – to include all citizens and representatives from all sectors (public, private, and non-profit) of our winning community?
- ☐ How can we best recognize everyone who helped our community achieve our winning status?

BACKGROUND on the ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

In 1894, more than 100 educators, journalists, business leaders, and policy-makers met in Philadelphia to discuss the future of American cities. Attended by Theodore Roosevelt, Louis Brandeis, Marshall Fields, Charles Eliot, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the two-day conference would serve as a nationwide call for action.

American society had undergone a dramatic transformation since the years before the Civil War. What had been a primarily agrarian nation was emerging as an urban, industrial power. At the same time, political corruption, inferior housing, overcrowding, crime and poverty threatened to make American cities unlivable.

Before adjourning, the conference delegates resolved to form a national organization to help local reform groups learn from each other's successes and failures. The new organization was also charged with developing specific proposals for making city government more honest, efficient, and effective. So began the National Municipal League (now the National Civic League).

For more than 50 years, the League was known primarily for its publication of model city charters and research on local governance. Then, in 1949, Gideon Seymour, managing editor of the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, assigned reporter Jean James to cover the League's annual National Conference on Government (now known as the National Conference on Governance) in St. Paul. In addition to covering the event, Seymour charged James with asking Alfred Willoughby, chief executive of the National Municipal League, whether the League would support an award to recognize the best-governed cities in America.

Willoughby responded that it would be an impossible thing to do, since so many factors determine whether a community is well governed. Instead, he suggested the League recognize cities where citizen action has succeeded in making the community a better place to live. Thus was born the All-America City Award.

From the outset, the award was sponsored by publications owned by Cowles Publications, first the *Star-Tribune*, then *Look Magazine*, which remained the program's sponsor until its demise in 1971. At the time, *Look* sponsored an annual All-America Football Team. In the same spirit, the first All-America Cities were called a "team" and eleven were named each year.

George Gallup, Sr., the renowned public opinion pollster and Director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, played a key role in the early success of the awards. Gallup served as president of the National Municipal League and chairman of the jury that selected the winning cities.

Until the early 1980s, competition for the award was held in conjunction with the League's annual meeting held in November. Winners were announced by *Look Magazine* the following March, complete with articles and photographs of each winning city. Today, finalist cities are named in April and ten winning All-America Cities are announced immediately following the competition in June after presentations to a jury of

experts by the finalists. In the mid-1980s, when *USA Today* sponsored the awards, a tradition began of recognizing All-America Cities in a White House/Congressional ceremony.

Like America itself, the All-America City Award has changed over the years. In the beginning, the winning cities were often those that demonstrated local government reform and efficiency, as well as improvements in the city's infrastructure, including housing, public works and education.

More recently, the focus has shifted to broader community initiatives such as economic development, health and social service projects and efforts to improve race relations.

Ranging in population from 2,796,368 (St. Louis Region, Missouri/Illinois) to 555 (Town of Fossil, OR), AAC applicants tackled such issues as crime, affordable housing, high-risk youth, and neighborhood revitalization with community leadership, multi-sector cooperation, and plain old good citizenship.

Winning the All-America City Award reinvigorates a community's sense of civic pride. All-America City winners and finalists also experience heightened national attention – a proven boost for the recruitment of industry, jobs and investment to an area. But, perhaps as important as the tangible benefits of being named an All-America City are the benefits a community derives from completing the All-America City Award application. The application process presents a unique opportunity for communities to evaluate themselves and foster new community partnerships. And most importantly, All-America Cities teach and inspire communities throughout the nation who are struggling with similar issues how to face difficult situations and to meet those challenges in innovative and collaborative ways.

About the National Civic League

Mission: Advance inclusive civic engagement and promote innovations in democracy to make decision-making more participatory, equitable, and effective.

The National Civic League was founded as the National Municipal League following a gathering of civic leaders in 1894. This respected group of about 100 community leaders, including Teddy Roosevelt, Louis Brandeis, and Frederick Law Olmstead, came together to address “incompetence, inefficiency, patronage and corruption in local governments.” Local civic leaders needed inspiration and new models for governing and managing the nation’s cities.

During the next 120+ years, the National Civic League led major reforms in the way local communities were governed, including the professionalism of city services, the creation of the city manager system, the nonpartisan makeup of many local elected bodies, electoral reform and inclusive civic engagement. No history of American politics and civic engagement would be complete without a chapter on the National Civic League.

The National Civic League achieves its mission in several ways:

- Recognizing communities that leverage inclusive civic engagement to address local issues.
- Researching and measuring participatory democracy innovations.
- Delivering innovative programs that assist communities and demonstrate impact.
- Tracking and convening organizations to strengthen democracy.
- Providing everyday opportunities to learn about and engage in deliberative democracy.
- Delivering thought leadership through research and publications.

League Membership Information

Another benefit of applying for the All-America City Award is that your community automatically receives a one-year membership to the National Civic League.

This membership gives you access to a broad network of community, business, nonprofit and government leaders committed to strong communities through citizen democracy. Additional membership benefits include:

- The quarterly journal the *National Civic Review*
- Free NCL publications
- Access to the promising practices database