

**Media Contact:**

Anne Marie Cleary Rauker, Communications Officer, ICLEI USA, 720.356.0113, [am.clearyrauker@iclei.org](mailto:am.clearyrauker@iclei.org)

**State Department, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, and Partners Unveil Selected City Participants for *Cities Forward* Program**

The [U.S. Department of State](#), [ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability](#), [Resilient Cities Catalyst](#), and the [Institute of the Americas](#) are thrilled to announce the 24 cities selected to participate in the [Cities Forward](#) program, a flagship urban sustainability initiative. Launched at the Cities Summit of the Americas, this program is dedicated to assisting Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and U.S. cities in creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient futures through project consultation, co-design, and knowledge sharing.

With a strong response of 129 applications for just 24 places from cities across the Americas, we are inspired by the widespread commitment to urban sustainability, resilience, and inclusion. The cities that were not selected are eligible to participate in the virtual *Cities Forward* Academy to learn about the outcomes and best practices from the 12 city pairs.

"We are heartened by the overwhelming level of interest, which serves as a powerful testament to the significance of our joint efforts to foster equitable and inclusive sustainable urban development," shared Angie Fyfe, ICLEI USA Executive Director. "The enthusiasm exhibited by communities across the Western Hemisphere assures us that our collaborative journey has only just begun."

Congratulations to the selected cities with their pairings:

- Ambato, Ecuador + Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Cali, Colombia + Baltimore, Maryland
- Cartagena, Colombia + Denver, Colorado
- Fortaleza, Brazil + Hawai'i County, Hawai'i
- Freeport, Bahamas + Coral Springs, Florida
- Guatemala City, Guatemala + Dallas, Texas
- Hermosillo, México + Dubuque, Iowa
- Manaus, Brazil + Stockton, California
- Mérida, México + Austin & Travis County, Texas
- Montego Bay, Jamaica + Hoboken, New Jersey
- Renca, Chile + Evanston, Illinois
- Rosario, Argentina + Chattanooga, Tennessee



Over the next two years, U.S. and LAC participants will share successes and challenges in their priority areas of interest, including but not limited to:

- **Extreme Heat**
- **Watershed & Water Resource Management**
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Mobility/Transportation Access**
- **Green Infrastructure & Greenspaces for Underserved Communities**
- **Circularity & Plastics Pollution Control**

After two years, LAC cities will have high-impact, financeable project action plans based on shared insights gained throughout their collaborations with the U.S. cities, regional consultants and the project team.

U.S. and LAC cities will also be grouped thematically for efficient collaboration on systemic change approaches. They will share expertise and efforts in these areas, guided by Subject Matter Experts. Current thematic groups are as follows, subject to potential changes upon further review and discovery:

- 1. Implementation of District or Neighborhood Level Plans**
- 2. Water Corridor Based Green Infrastructure with Climate Adaptation**
- 3. Land Based Green Infrastructure, Prioritizing Low-Income Populations & Areas**

The *Cities Forward* team looks forward to working closely with the selected cities while continuing to engage and support all municipalities passionate about building a more sustainable future. For more information, visit <https://icleiusa.org/cities-forward/>.

###

#### **About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability**

[ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability](#) (ICLEI) is the first and largest global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments devoted to solving the world's most intractable sustainability challenges. The worldwide network is active in 125+ countries, focused on influencing sustainability policies and driving local action across five key pathways: low emissions, resilient, equitable, people-centered, nature-based, and circular development.

#### **About Resilient Cities Catalyst**

[Resilient Cities Catalyst](#) is a nonprofit, founded by members of the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) leadership team in 2019 to drive catalytic change to help partners solve their most pressing challenges.



Building on the pioneering legacy of 100RC, and in partnership with a community of urban resilience actors, RCC is helping cities build the capacities and partnerships needed to understand, prioritize and concretely address their risks and chronic stresses as they pursue their strategic goals or recover from a crisis.

### **About Institute of the Americas**

The [Institute of the Americas](#) (IOA) is a non-partisan, independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to be a catalyst for promoting economic development and integration, emphasizing the role of the private sector, as a means to improve the economic and social well-being of the people of the Americas. Throughout our 40-year history, the IOA has convened events of regional importance in an effort to support our mission of promoting better understanding and thought-leadership, surrounding critical issues in energy, climate change and economic development.

