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# Missouri City

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All-America City Finalist

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MEDIA NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — May 6, 2016**

**City Named All-America City Award Finalist by National Civic League;  
“Show Your Support” to Send Staff and Partners  
To Compete for Top Honor in Denver**

The National Civic League has announced Missouri City as one of 20 finalists for the 2016 All-America City Award (AAC). The City is one of only two Texas cities to earn the prestigious designation and the only one in the region. The award, given to 10 communities each year, celebrates and recognizes neighborhoods, villages, towns, cities, counties, tribes and regions that engage residents in innovative, inclusive and effective efforts to tackle critical challenges.

“We are honored to have received this recognition and are excited to work alongside our many partners as we prepare for the finalist presentation in June in Denver,” City Manager Anthony Snipes said. “This award recognizes all of the amazing work our City partners have accomplished throughout this process, and we want to acknowledge all of the many partners that were vital to Missouri City’s application.”

In the City's application, partners from AccessHealth, Fort Bend County Precinct 2, First Tee, Missouri City Green, the Mayor's Youth Commission, Men for Change, regional businesses and developers, Fort Bend Independent School District, civic organizations and homeowners' associations, were highlighted for the many innovative and community oriented programs they have founded, grown and flourished to make Missouri City worthy of All-America City status. Highlighting the many historic accomplishments and benchmarks throughout the City's 60 years of incorporation, the City's application focused on the municipality's transformation from a bedroom community to one that offers prime business locations, how local leaders and community members have embraced dynamic diversity, and how many programs within the City are a success due to the multiple citizen, commercial and volunteer partnerships.



Fort Bend Independent School District



AccessHealth



The First Tee

"This award recognizes trail blazing efforts to bring residents, local government, businesses and non-profit groups together to tackle the most pressing local issues. We will be going to Denver, Colorado in June, and we will be taking our partners with us to make sure that we do a good sales job," Missouri City Mayor Allen Owen said at his annual State of the City Address on Monday, April 25. "Our application showcased a wide range of commercial, community and stakeholder partnerships, including those with First Tee, Fort Bend Independent School District, Fort Bend County Precinct 2, AccessHealth, Homeowners' Associations, Men for Change and Missouri City Green."

### **Missouri City Fundraising:**

On June 17 – 19, Missouri City staff and All-America City Award partners will compete against teams of residents; leaders from nonprofit, business, and government; and young people from competing communities to present their story and programs to a jury of nationally recognized business, local government, and philanthropic leaders to become one of 10 All-America City finalists. Through workshops, Missouri City and representatives from its fellow finalists will share insights with innovators from across the country. The three-day event is every bit as much about learning and networking as it is about competing for the coveted All-America City title.

"All-America Cities are places where people are coming together to address important issues like youth success and racial equity," said Doug Linkhart, the President of the National Civic League. "These cities and towns are harnessing the power of community to build their own future."



*Images courtesy of Missouri City*

*All America City Award Delegates pose during a meeting in Council Chambers.*

*Pictured L – R: Randy Woods, Men For Change; Ebony Ghee, Mayor's Youth Commission; Keryn Miles, Fort Bend ISD; Cory Stottlemeyer, City of Missouri City; Rodney Toussaint, Men For Change; Doug Earle, First Tee; Joan Maresh, Fort Bend ISD; Margo Webb, Missouri City Green; Angie Wierzbicki, Fort Bend Cares and Missouri City Green Co-Founder; Adrianna Nixon, City of Missouri City; Charity Carter, Fort Bend Academy of Arts & Dance; Neethu Kalimkoottil, City of Missouri City; Stacie Walker, City of Missouri City; and Anthony J. Snipes, City of Missouri City.*

In the weeks leading up to the City's Jury Presentation in June, Missouri City staff and a group of delegates, each representing a partner highlighted in the City's award application, will be meeting to finalize an awards presentation and canvassing the City to raise trip and hotel funds.

"More than 50 delegates from Missouri City have dedicated to partner and present at the All-America City Award presentation in hopes of earning the City top honors, and any monetary donations from the public will be vital in ensuring that all partners will be present at the June celebration," Mr. Snipes said. "Our presentation will include a variety of youth participants and performers from the Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance and from Missouri City Middle School AVID and Choir programs, under the guidance of Principal Jerrie Kammerman. Please contact the City and let us know how you would like to help out with the award process."

Residents may also call 281.403.8500 for more information about the national presentation and how they may participate or donate.

### **About the All-America City Award:**

The focus of the 2016 All-America City Award is on communities that have taken innovative action to engage residents in ensuring that all children are healthy and supported to succeed in school and life. The goal of the 2016 spotlight is to raise up local examples of innovative and effective community problem-solving that recognizes all influences on the success of children and inclusively uses all sectors to address those barriers.

“Each year we use an extensive process with an expert jury to determine the All-America Cities,” said Linkhart. “All-America Cities aren’t perfect. There’s no such thing as a perfect community. The award honors cities that mobilize community partnerships to address local challenges. These stories inform and inspire other communities facing similar challenges.”

The finalists represent the diversity of American communities from the largest cities to the smallest towns, from east to west and north to south. Finalist communities include the 7th largest city in America (San Antonio) and a town of only 7,000 people (Hartsville, South Carolina). But the 20 finalists share a common bond of working to ensure that all their youth are healthy and supported in school and life.

**The 2016 All-America City Award Finalists:**

Avondale, Arizona	Woodbury, Minnesota
Marana, Arizona	Las Vegas, Nevada
Hayward, California	Asheboro, North Carolina
Indio, California	Salisbury, North Carolina
Whittier, California	Charleston County, South Carolina
Lakewood, Colorado	Hartsville, South Carolina
New Britain, Connecticut	Missouri City, Texas
Council Bluffs, Iowa	San Antonio, Texas
Fall River, Massachusetts	Norfolk, Virginia
Columbia Heights, Minnesota	Brown Deer, Wisconsin

Since 1949, the National Civic League (NCL) has recognized and celebrated the best in American civic innovation with the prestigious All-America City Award. CL also publishes the award-winning National Civic Review, the Civic Index, the Model City Charter, conducts research into fiscal sustainability and community innovation, and facilitates resident-centered strategic planning for organizations and local governments.

For updates, please watch the City website: [www.missouricitytx.gov](http://www.missouricitytx.gov), like us on Facebook—[fb/MissouriCityTX](https://www.facebook.com/MissouriCityTX), follow us on Twitter and Instagram—[@MissouriCityTX](https://www.instagram.com/MissouriCityTX), and watch Missouri City Television (**Ch. 16 on Comcast and Ch. 99 on AT&T U-verse**).