

12.02.13

33 Resilient Cities Announced by Rockefeller Foundation



By: [Judith Rodin](#)



Today, we are excited to name the first group of cities selected through the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge – cities who have demonstrated a dedicated commitment to building their own capacities to prepare for, withstand, and bounce back rapidly from shocks and stresses.

Since we announced the challenge on our 100th birthday, May 14, 2013, the response has been enormous, with more than **1,000 registrations and nearly 400 formal applications from cities around the world**. Each city was asked to present a clear and compelling description of how they are approaching and planning for resilience to decrease vulnerabilities, and after careful review of the applications, a panel of esteemed judges, including former presidents Bill Clinton and Olosegun Obasanjo, recommended the first set of 33 cities for the 100 Resilient Cities Network.

It wasn't easy to choose only 33 – we had so many passionate, vibrant entries. Among the winners: One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world wrote of the city's history withstanding shocks for the past eight millennia. One African city wrote of a resilience plan as harmonizing climate change adaptation, biodiversity, planning and management and water security. And a city in South America finds itself dealing with landslides and forest fires, all while sitting in the shadow of a volcano.

AFRICA

[Dakar \(Senegal\)](#)

[Durban \(South Africa\)](#)

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

[Medellin \(Colombia\)](#)

[Mexico City \(Mexico\)](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Ashkelon \(Israel\)](#)

[Byblos \(Lebanon\)](#)

[Ramallah \(Palestine\)](#)

[Porto-Alegre \(Brazil\)](#)

[Quito \(Ecuador\)](#)

[Rio de Janeiro \(Brazil\)](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Ashkelon \(Israel\)](#)
[Byblos \(Lebanon\)](#)
[Ramallah \(Palestine\)](#)

NORTH AMERICA

[Alameda \(CA\)](#)
[Berkeley \(CA\)](#)
[Boulder \(CO\)](#)
[El Paso \(TX\)](#)
[Jacksonville \(FL\)](#)
[Los Angeles \(CA\)](#)
[New Orleans \(LA\)](#)
[New York City \(NY\)](#)
[Norfolk \(VA\)](#)
[Oakland \(CA\)](#)
[San Francisco \(CA\)](#)

OCEANIA

[Christchurch \(New Zealand\)](#)
[Melbourne \(Australia\)](#)

SOUTH ASIA

[Surat \(India\)](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA

[Bangkok \(Thailand\)](#)
[Da Nang \(Vietnam\)](#)
[Mandalay \(Myanmar\)](#)
[Semarang \(Indonesia\)](#)

Cities selected for the Network will receive four kinds of support:

The support to hire and empower a Chief Resilience Officer, a central point of contact within each city to coordinate and oversee the resilience activities, coordinate stakeholders, and ensure resilience is a city-wide priority.

The support for that Chief Resilience Officer to develop a resilience plan, which will take stock of existing efforts, identify priority areas of needs, conduct analysis to understand the interconnected risks and opportunities, and develop a clear and actionable set of priorities and initiatives.

Access to a platform of services to support the implementation of such a strategy, which may include solutions to spur investments and financing for resilient infrastructure, information technology tools, and policy models for resilience-enabling laws and regulations.

Connection to other Network members, to share what works, spotlight success, and advance both global and regional dialogues on urban resilience.



ALAMEDA'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

Densely populated, located between two major fault lines and surrounded by water, Alameda has the highest tsunami exposure on the West Coast of the United States.

ALAMEDA'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

Alameda has a dense population of approximately 4,000 people per square mile. It is surrounded by water with limited access to the mainland, which creates significant challenges in planning and preparing for the effects of a disaster. The city is located between two major fault lines and is identified as having the highest tsunami exposure on the US west coast by the USGS Investigative Report of 2012. Earthquakes, liquefaction, flooding and tsunamis are identified as imminent dangers in the local hazard mitigation report. The city also has a demonstrated commitment to disaster preparedness. They have implemented numerous programs serving vulnerable populations, and have identified measures to ensure their safety in the event of a

disaster. The city is now working to develop resiliency strategies for maintaining essential services, housing needs, and day-to-day life for a community that will be isolated if tunnels and bridges should become inaccessible due to flooding or other disasters.

Sign up to follow the journey of our first round cities
(<http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/page/signup/follow-our-cities-on-their-resilience-journey>)

AT A GLANCE

Population: 76,000 (2012)

Mayor: Marie Gilmore

Languages spoken (First languages):

- English (63.3%)
- Spanish (6.3%)
- Asian and Pacific Islander languages (24.5%)
- Indo-European languages (4.8%)



BERKELEY'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

California's leader in hazard mitigation seeks to make their programs replicable for cities around the world.

BERKELEY'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

Berkeley is relatively small, but it is known across the globe as a pioneering city, research center, and innovation hub. California cities, in particular, look to Berkeley for best practices in hazard mitigation. Recent efforts include developing the capacity to deliver critical city services for seven days without outside power in the event the region experiences a major outage. The city is also researching options for a distributed energy microgrid to power buildings should the electric grid fail. The city has a demonstrated ability to integrate solutions across silos and develop high-value partnerships with institutions like Lawrence Berkeley Lab and the University of

California-Berkeley. Their continued work to improve resilience will emphasize performance tracking and reporting, thus making their programs replicable for cities around the world.

Sign up to follow the journey of our first round cities
(<http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/page/signup/follow-our-cities-on-their-resilience-journey>)

AT A GLANCE

Population: 115,000 (2012)

Mayor: Tom Bates

Languages spoken (First languages):

- English (72.8%)
- Spanish (7.6%)
- Asian and Pacific Islander languages (11.8%)
- Indo-European languages (6.6%)



OAKLAND'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

A leader in community-based climate resilience planning, Oakland is working to foster community partnerships to increase resilience, as well as social and economic equality.

OAKLAND'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

Oakland has a population of just over 400,000, and is home to the area's busiest port. The city is best known for its ground-breaking community partnerships. For example, the Pacific Institute and Bay Localize have developed hazard mapping and outreach tools for community residents. OCAC, a network of around 40 local groups, led by and for diverse, low-income communities of color, is a replicable and best-case model for effective community-based climate resilience planning. Oakland has done multiple studies on impacts and vulnerability related to sea level rise and flooding, and an initial

analysis of seismic hazards in soft-story housing. The city aims to foster its unprecedented community involvement to increase resilience and social and economic equality.

Sign up to follow the journey of our first round cities
(<http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/page/signup/follow-our-cities-on-their-resilience-journey>)

AT A GLANCE

Population: 401,000 (2012)

Mayor: Jean Quan

Languages spoken (First languages):

- English (60.4%)
- Spanish (21.6%)
- Asian and Pacific Islander languages (13.5%)
- Indo-European languages (3%)



SAN FRANCISCO'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

A major hub for tourism, technology and finance, San Francisco is working to prepare its residents — and its buildings — for earthquakes and fires.

SAN FRANCISCO'S RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

San Francisco is a worldwide tourist destination, houses 30 of the world's largest financial institutions, is a major technology hub for biotechnology and internet commerce and has a history of devastating earthquakes and fires. San Francisco has a notably diverse population, and is also a vital link for air, sea, and ground transportation. The city's innovative use of financing and building codes has

dramatically improved building safety, and their use of social media to educate and motivate the public has influenced residents to take important steps in advancing their personal resilience.

Sign up to follow the journey of our first round cities
(<http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/page/signup/follow-our-cities-on-their-resilience-journey>)

AT A GLANCE

Population: 825,900 (2012)

Mayor: Edwin M. Lee

Languages spoken:

- English (54.58%)
- Chinese (18.60%)
- Spanish (11.68%)
- Tagalog (3.42%)
- Russian (1.86%)
- Vietnamese (1.45%),
- French (1.05%)
- Japanese (0.90%)
- Korean (0.88%),
- German (0.56%)