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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rochester, MN Wins Bloomberg Philanthropies Global Mayors Challenge and Awarded \$1 Million Dollars

January 18, 2022 – ROCHESTER, MINN. – Bloomberg Philanthropies today announced the [15 winning cities of the 2021-2022 Global Mayors Challenge](#), a worldwide innovation competition that supports and spreads cities' most promising ideas. Rochester has the opportunity to enter a three-year implementation period with a \$1 million grant and robust technical assistance.

The 15 winning cities named today hail from 13 nations on six continents and collectively represent more than 30 million residents. They were selected from among 50 Champion Cities that spent the past four months rigorously testing and refining their projects. When the competition launched in January 2021, mayors from 631 cities in 99 countries submitted their boldest ideas to the competition.

"Our co-designers and project partners were essential to the development of the project proposal and are key to our community's future success. Collectively, we are committed to creating a model that can be effective here and also replicated across the country and globe. Our focus is on building community all people at a time," highlights Chao Mwatela, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director.

The Rochester project focuses on the economic mobility of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) women through careers in all-phases of the built environment and construction. Construction is a key pathway to economic recovery and sustainable job growth, as Rochester's \$6 billion Destination Medical Center (DMC) economic development initiative is expected to generate new construction jobs over 20 years.

Mayor Kim Norton shares, "We are so very honored and excited to be selected as one of the top 15 cities selected. Advancing the work in our proposal will allow us to address the marked disparities that exist for BIPOC women in Rochester. It will also help meet the needs of the construction and built environment industries that are vital to our growing community and in advancing the new federal infrastructure investment."

"As the world works to address the profound public health and economic effects of the ongoing pandemic, cities can implement innovative ideas at a pace that national governments simply can't match," said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg L.P. and 108th Mayor of New York City. "Our fifteen winners offer bold, achievable plans to improve health, reduce unemployment, empower women, and more. Collectively, they have the potential to improve millions of their residents' lives – and the most successful solutions will inspire cities around the world to embrace them."

"The Mayors Challenge shows that there can be a positive legacy to emerge from all the hardship of the past two years – and that it's happening in our cities," said James Anderson, who leads the Government Innovation program at Bloomberg Philanthropies. "Now we turn to help these mayors implement their ideas, evaluate, and spread the ideas that produce big impact."

Additional information about Rochester's project can be [found here](#).

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