

News from: **Oakland Mayor Jean Quan**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Rockefeller Foundation Names Oakland as an Inaugural City of the 100 Resilient Cities Network ***Oakland to be among the first group of cities to benefit from innovative resilience planning tools and resources***

NEW YORK, December 3, 2013—The Rockefeller Foundation today announced that the City of Oakland has been selected to join the 100 Resilient Cities Network. Oakland was one of nearly 400 cities across six continents to apply for the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge, which was announced in May 2013. The announcement came at the Foundation's third annual Innovation Forum titled, "Building Resilient Cities," which was held in partnership with the *Financial Times* in New York City.

"We congratulate Oakland on being named one of the 100 Resilient Cities," said Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin. "Along with 32 other cities across six continents, your city will be able to better prepare for, withstand, and bounce back more effectively in the face of shocks, stresses and other vulnerabilities. Oakland is now part of a global network of urban areas focused on building resilience, to share best practices and lead by example for cities throughout the world."

Out of 1,000 registrants and 400 applicants, Oakland is one of 100 cities chosen and among the first 33 inaugural cities to be named. Each city will be given funding to hire a Chief Resiliency Officer and develop a resiliency plan. Mayor Jean Quan joined the announcement in New York City and was among four of the participating cities' mayors to hold a panel discussion. The city's priorities for the work will include:

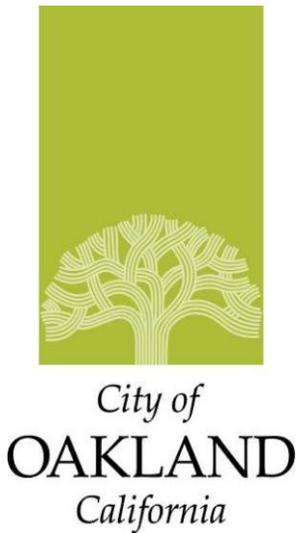
- **Initiating 21st century upgrades and improving planning strategies for pre-disaster seismic mitigation including soft-story building retrofits for the 24,000 at-risk, unreinforced, multi-family residential housing units;**
- **Protecting Oakland's residents and infrastructure from rising seas, extreme heat and precipitation events; and**
- **Implementing Oakland's Climate Action Plan and further evaluating impacts of climate change on utility and food costs, especially for low-income residents.**

Shocks and stresses are growing in frequency, impact and scale, with the ability to ripple across systems and geographies. But cities are largely unprepared to respond, withstand, and rebound when disaster strikes. The greatest burden of these increasing shocks, such as the impacts of climate change or public health threats, often falls on poor and vulnerable people who have limited resources to cope with disaster and who take longer to recover from it, disrupting livelihoods and increasing inequality.

To help cities better prepare for and respond to these 21st century challenges, The Rockefeller Foundation has made a \$100 million commitment to building urban resilience in cities around the world.

Through the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge, in the coming years 100 cities will be selected across the globe to receive technical support and resources for

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developing and implementing plans for urban resilience, and receive assistance in leveraging billions of additional dollars in financing and services. These cities will come together through the coordination of a newly created organization, 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation – which will also provide a platform of innovative services to cities.

Through the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge, cities from around the world were invited to apply for the new 100 Resilient Cities Network. Upon the recommendations of a panel of distinguished leaders from around the world, the first group of 33 cities was named to the network. Leaders made their recommendations based on how a city planned to approach and build greater resilience; how a city would incorporate a range of constituents (e.g., civil society, local businesses, and academia) in its resilience planning and implementation; and how the needs of the poor or vulnerable would be addressed.

“We are excited about this global network of cities, large and small, coastal and land-locked, ancient and modern, and for Oakland to be a part of it. As you explained so clearly in your application, building resilience requires partners from every sector, and we have an outstanding cross-sectoral platform of tools and resources that we are eager to make available to help Oakland become more resilient. My team and I look forward to working with you, starting with an agenda-shaping workshop in early 2014,” said Michael Berkowitz, Managing Director for 100 Resilient Cities at The Rockefeller Foundation.

Oakland will work with San Francisco, Berkeley and Alameda in the network’s pilot regional program. As part of the 100 Resilient Cities Network, **Oakland and its fellow regional cities will each receive support including funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer, create a resilience strategy, and receive access to tools, technical support, and resources for implementing a comprehensive resilience plan.** Initial partners for this platform of services—including Swiss Re, Palantir, the World Bank, the American Institute of Architects, and Architecture for Humanity—which united at the Clinton Global Initiative in September to commit to providing support in design thinking, planning, and alternate services.

Oakland Mayor Jean Quan said, “Oakland is known worldwide as an innovative and resilient city, a place that bounced back from two natural disasters just two years apart. Our focus includes retrofitting our infrastructure, including tens of thousands of housing units that could be lost in a quake, as well as our climate action plan. We are honored and excited by the chance to help build global solutions together with The Rockefeller Foundation and all our fellow network cities. I humbly thank everyone who is playing a part in this bold program and look forward to what we can do together.”

Among the partners Mayor Quan thanked were:

- The Oakland Climate Action Coalition, a 40-member network that worked with the City to develop the pioneering Oakland Energy & Climate Action Plan;
- The ART Project, including Alameda County Public Health Department, Port of Oakland, regional transit authorities, utility companies, local hospitals and environmental regulatory agencies;
- The Resource Innovation Group, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Center for Sustainable Communities at Willamette University;
- The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG);
- The California Earthquake Authority;
- Earthquake Engineering and Research;
- The Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center;

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- The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services;
- California Resiliency Alliance;
- Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness Council; and
- Oakland Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster (CARD).]

“Oakland is honored and excited to have been chosen to be in the first cohort of 100 cities around the globe who have demonstrated their commitment to resilience as a key strategy to address the global challenges of the future. As a city that has survived and rebuilt after numerous disasters, including the Loma Prieta Earthquake and Oakland Hills Firestorm just two years apart, resiliency is in our DNA,” said **Oakland City Administrator Deanna J. Santana**. “We believe that Oakland can provide three important contributions to this international effort: 1) our proven track record in the fields of climate change, disaster preparedness, and policy planning and implementation; 2) our diverse population--the tools and strategies for outreach and engagement to a population that speaks 125 languages will be useful to other communities around the world; and 3) the involvement of Oakland-based nonprofits that are climate change leaders, such as the Pacific Institute and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. We are eager to learn and offer lessons we have learned to the global community of cities through this prestigious opportunity.”

For nearly a decade, The Rockefeller Foundation has been a leader in the growing field of resilience in both urban and rural contexts, building urban climate change resilience in Asia through its Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network, through investments in building rural climate change resilience in Africa, by funding comprehensive planning work in post-Katrina New Orleans, and most recently, by leading New York Governor Cuomo's post-Sandy Commission, which set forth a bold plan for building long-term resilience in New York. Building on these investments, and in order to enable cities around the world to prepare for the challenges of the 21st century, it launched the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge in May 2013.

The cities named so far include:

AFRICA

Dakar (Senegal)
Durban (South Africa)

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Medellín (Colombia)
Mexico City (Mexico)
Porto-Alegre (Brazil)
Quito (Ecuador)
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

EUROPE

Bristol (UK)
Glasgow (UK)
Rome (Italy)
Rotterdam (Netherlands)
Vejle (DK)

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)

Additional cities will be named to join the 100 Resilient Cities Network in subsequent years.

About The Rockefeller Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation aims to achieve equitable growth by expanding opportunity for more people in more places worldwide, and to build resilience by helping them prepare for, withstand, and emerge stronger from acute shocks and chronic stresses. Throughout its 100 year history, The Rockefeller Foundation has enhanced the impact of innovative thinkers and actors working to change the world by providing the resources, networks, convening power, and technologies to move them from idea to impact. In today's dynamic and interconnected world, The Rockefeller Foundation has a unique ability to address the emerging challenges facing humankind through innovation, intervention and influence in order to shape agendas and inform decision making. For more information, please visit www.rockefellerfoundation.org

About 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation

100 Resilient Cities is dedicated to supporting cities to adopt and incorporate a resilience mindset in their planning, development, and community-building so that they are better prepared for and can quickly rebound from 21st century shocks and stresses. 100 Resilient Cities enables cities around the world to develop and implement resilience plans, provides city leaders a forum to share and learn from others' experiences, and connects them with suppliers, thinkers, and stakeholders who can help them improve their city's resilience. 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation, is financially supported by The Rockefeller Foundation and managed as a sponsored project by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides governance and operational infrastructure to its sponsored projects. Learn more about RPA at www.rockpa.org.