

City named winner of Knight Cities Challenge for Mayor Coleman's 8 to 80 initiative

\$175,000 grant will support full-time policy fellow

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman today announced the City of Saint Paul will receive a \$175,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to support a full-time policy fellow who will bring to life crucial elements of the Mayor's 8 to 80 Vitality initiative, which he first outlined in his budget address last August. The competitive grant is part of the Knight Cities Challenge and Saint Paul is one of only 32 applicants across the country to receive the award from a pool of more than 7,000 applicants.

"I am thrilled that the Knight Foundation recognizes the importance of the 8 to 80 Vitality initiative," Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said. "Their support will ensure we can engage residents, community partners and stakeholders throughout Saint Paul in strengthening our city and ensuring that our investments in streets and public spaces promote economic vitality for people of all ages."

Based on the work of internationally-renowned urban designer Gil Penalosa, the Mayor's 8 to 80 Vitality initiative aims to increase activity and vitality on our streets and in public spaces by making them accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

With the support of the grant, the fellow is funded for 18 months and will be housed in the Planning and Economic Development Department. Working within the City, the fellow will integrate 8 to 80 ideas into every aspect of city business and policy.

"The 8 to 80 Vitality initiative has the potential to have widespread impact across Saint Paul—creating new opportunities, connecting residents from diverse backgrounds, and giving people the tools to help shape the future of our city," said Polly Talen, Knight Foundation program director in St. Paul.

The Knight Cities Challenge is funding ideas to make the 26 cities where Knight invests more vibrant places to live and work. The challenge asks innovators to answer the question: What's your best idea to make cities more successful?

Three additional Saint Paul projects were chosen as Knight Cities Challenge recipients, including 4 Play by Greater MSP, as well as Rolling Out the Welcome Hat and MN Nice Breakers - both by community-building artist Jun-Li Wang.

For more information about the 8 to 80 Vitality initiative, click [here](#).

To learn more about the Knight Cities Challenge, visit www.knightcities.org.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

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