

Columbia Heights wins All-America City Award

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By [Sun Editor](#)

The National Civic League selected Columbia Heights as the first 2016 All-America City the evening of June 19 during its awards event held this past weekend.



Pictured, the delegation from the Columbia Heights community showcases its Heights Pride. (Submitted photo)

Columbia Heights was one of 20 national finalists and is now one of 10 winners.

A cross-sector community delegation left for Denver on June 16 to present their story at the awards event and conference, which took place June 17-19.

The award recognizes exemplary grassroots community problem-solving and is awarded to communities of all sizes that collaboratively tackle challenges and achieve results. More than 500 cities, towns, counties, neighborhoods and regions have won the award since 1949.

The award application asked communities to describe three community driven projects. Columbia Heights highlighted the collaboration between the city and school district, the City of Peace Park Initiative in the Circle Terrace Neighborhood, and the Columbia Heights Public Library project.

The contingent from Columbia Heights included community and school district leaders such as Mayor Gary Peterson, City Manager Walt Fehst, Police Chief Scott Nadeau and District 13 Superintendent Kathy Kelly.

In addition to submitting a nomination package that resulted in the city being named one of the finalists, the contingent of city leaders, police officers, school district administrators, students

and members of the community gave a 10-minute presentation to a panel of 10 judges.

The Columbia Heights School District's Dynamix student singing group also performed to more than 300 participants from each of the 20 nominated cities.

Info: nationalcivicleague.org.

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