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# Broward Cities “TOUCH”-ed by Smart Growth Principles in 2012

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (December 18, 2012) – Alongside other noteworthy end-of-year accomplishments, Smart Growth Partnership (SGP) secured the adoption of Smart Growth Principles (view <http://bit.ly/UYU4B1> ) by eleven Broward cities in 2012. SGP is a Broward-based nonprofit dedicated to advocacy and education to promote livable, sustainable and green communities. The cities include Fort Lauderdale, Miramar, Dania Beach, Deerfield Beach, Coral Springs, Pompano Beach, West Park, Plantation, Lauderdale Lakes, North Lauderdale and Oakland Park. SGP garnered their support — and created educational and outreach programs for all communities in Broward — as the direct result of a five-year grant awarded as part of the TOUCH: Transforming our Communities Health initiative.

The fact that SGP was chosen to receive funding from TOUCH demonstrates that the government believes that wise and sustainable community development positively impacts the public’s health. “Smart Growth” addresses the needs of current and future families by revitalizing neighborhoods, preserving natural areas, stimulating economic development and providing transportation alternatives to the car. Smart Growth encourages mixed versus single use tenant development, which is a financially beneficial way for communities to increase tax revenue while decreasing urban sprawl.

Another significant accomplishment SGP realized in their first TOUCH year was the contribution they made to the publication, “**Complete Streets Guidelines**” (view <http://bit.ly/Zd0ANa> ), created in partnership with Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Urban Health Solutions & Urban Health Partnerships and Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. This is a comprehensive manual, available to

### **About TOUCH**

The Transforming Our Community’s Health (TOUCH) initiative is a true collaborative effort among more than 30 community organizations and coalitions that will support efforts to reduce health disparities and improve the health and well-being of the residents, commuters, and workers of Broward County. For more information about TOUCH, please contact TOUCH Program Director Teina Phillips [tphillips@brhpc.org](mailto:tphillips@brhpc.org) or at (954) 561-9681.

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Transforming Our Community's Health

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city planners, that delineates community design standards to make streets safe for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and those that use public transportation.

The TOUCH grant also enabled SGP to hire a program manager who provided beneficial training on the advantages of Smart Growth to the eleven Broward cities that committed to Smart Growth Principles. SGP has also secured the formal adoption of Smart Growth Resolutions from Deerfield Beach, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Pompano Beach, West Park and Fort Lauderdale.

In September 2012, SGP also awarded their annual **Southeast Florida Awards for Smart Growth Excellence**. Two awards were presented to **Dania Beach** and one to **Fort Lauderdale's Northwest Gardens Project**, which then went on to win Honorable Mention from the EPA's Smart Growth Excellence Awards in November.

SGP also helped organize educational programs for elected officials, city planning managers, public works administrators and the community-at-large. These included a February event organized in partnership with Nova Southeastern University's School of Real Estate that brought Urban Land Institute's (ULI) **Ed McMahon** to speak there on the economic benefits of Smart Growth.

In June, SGP partnered with Nova Southeastern University, Sieman's and the United States Green Building Council South Florida Chapter to present a two-day workshop involving interactive discussions about the results of **Siemens' Green City Index (GCI)**. This was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of sustainable "best practices" from cities around the world.

In September, SGP partnered with the Fort Lauderdale Realtors® Association, National Association of Realtors®, Nova Southeastern University, and other community partners to present a half day seminar for elected officials and planning staffs with nationally recognized expert **Peter Katz** who spoke on "**A Proactive Approach to Managing a Community's Property Tax Base.**"

Marianne Winfield, executive director of SGP, remarked, "The TOUCH grant has allowed our organization to reach a broad audience within Broward County with our message that Smart Growth makes economic sense and greatly impacts community health. We're now able to more actively pursue our mission to help create the healthy, livable and walkable communities that are being embraced throughout the country."

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**Smart Growth Partnership, Inc.** is a collaborative of diverse professionals and organizations providing leadership, advocacy, and education to promote livable and sustainable and green communities. To that end, the partnership, which was founded in 2005, supports the Principles of Smart Growth and each year presents the Southeast Florida Awards for Smart Growth Excellence to public- and private-sector projects that espouse these principles. For more information, and to read the Smart Growth Principles, visit [www.smartgrowthpartnership.org](http://www.smartgrowthpartnership.org).

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