

# PRESS RELEASE



## For Immediate Release:

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## WINTER PARK HONORED ONCE AGAIN WITH TOP AMERICA IN BLOOM AWARDS

WINTER PARK, Fla., *an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner with accredited fire-rescue, police and parks & recreation agencies (October 23, 2017)* – Winter Park recently received the “Coolest Downtown” award and was recognized as a finalist for an “Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Efforts” at the 2017 America in Bloom (AIB) Symposium and Awards Program in Holliston, Massachusetts. The city has received three major AIB award in five years. Along with a handful of the 40 communities evaluated, Winter Park also received the top 2017 “Bloom Rating” of five blooms.

Two AIB judges who visited Winter Park in April, Barbara Vincentsen and Laurie Potier-Brown, spent two days touring each community in the 20,000 to 30,000 population category, at which time they met with municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Participating cities were evaluated on six criteria across municipal, commercial and residential sectors including environmental efforts, heritage preservation, landscape and floral displays, overall impression, and urban forestry. Cities were also judged on community involvement.

Winter Park judges were particularly taken by the efforts at the Hannibal Square Heritage Center (HSHC). Their evaluation noted “The HSHC was one of the most noteworthy heritage efforts in Winter Park. The African-American community has always been an integral part of the heritage of Winter Park, and the residents of this community have a long, important role in the dynamics of the city.”

The symposium was attended by Stephen and Kristin Pategas, members of Winter Park’s Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board and Winter Park Blooms Committee.

Winter Park Blooms is actively seeking additional community volunteers. For more information, please contact 407-599-3364 or [vbaltacook@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:vbaltacook@cityofwinterpark.org).

For more information regarding AIB, please visit [americainbloom.org](http://americainbloom.org).

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city’s official website at [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org). Like, follow and watch us on [Facebook](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Twitter](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Instagram](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Vimeo](#)<sup>®</sup>, and [YouTube](#)<sup>®</sup>.

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