



City of Irvine 2015 Program Synopsis

Awards & Recognition



City of Irvine
Program Synopsis: Awards and Recognition

2015

- Irvine FOR Families program selected as ***Community Organization of the Year*** by Crime Survivors, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides advocacy and support for victims and survivors of crime.
- Irvine employees Officer Sean-Paul Crawford, Officer Jenny Lindsey and FOR Families Specialist Debbie Brunn recognized by Crime Survivors, Inc. with ***Above and Beyond Award*** for assisting victims of crime, helping to empower them to survive and thrive.
- Irvine awarded the United States Conference of Mayors 2015 ***City Livability Award*** as one of the "Most Livable" Cities in America.
- Ranked the ***11th Best City in the Nation for Families*** by WalletHub.com based on 30 key metrics including community safety, number of playgrounds and job opportunities.
- Irvine identified by fivethirtyeight.com as the ***Most Integrated Major City in the U.S.*** based on a diverse population both citywide and scattered throughout its neighborhoods <http://www.allgov.com/news/controversies/chicago-most-segregated-city-in-us-irvine-california-the-least-150509?news=856439>.
- Irvine ranked #1 in Parenting O.C. Magazine's article ***Best Cities for Families in Orange County*** among upscale residential communities.
- Irvine rated ***#3 Small American City of the Future 2015/16*** for economic potential by fDi (Foreign Direct Investment) Intelligence, a division of Financial Times Ltd.
- Irvine ranked ***7th Most Interesting City in America*** by SmartAsset.com based on cultural diversity, a steady flow of new residents with new ideas and perspectives, and new opportunities for restaurants and shops to open or expand.

2014

- Irvine named ***No. 7 Best City for an Active Lifestyle*** among most populous cities in U.S. by WalletHub.com, an online financial adviser, based on average monthly fitness club fees and number of swimming pools and parkland acres per capita.
- Ranked the ***3rd Best City in the Nation for Veterans*** by WalletHub.com based on 10 essential metrics including job opportunities, veteran-owned businesses, veteran wage growth and availability of VA health facilities.
- Irvine ranked the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the 10th straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with more than 100,000 residents.
- Irvine identified as having the ***4th Largest Percentage of Households Reporting Internet Subscriptions Nationwide*** by Government Technology magazine.
- Ranked No. 32 on ***U.S. Cities with the Most Doctoral Degree Holders*** list by On-Line Ph.D. Programs, a comprehensive online guide to earning a Ph.D.

- Ranked the **28th Best City in America for Studying Computers and Technology** by Computer Science Degree Hub, a guide on accredited computer degree programs.
- Rated the **#1 City in California** for the fourth consecutive time by *Money Magazine's* Best Place to Live 2014 list.
- Ranked the **6th Best City to Live** in America. by 24/7 Wall Street based on a range of variables, including crime rates, employment growth, educational attainment, and housing affordability,
- Ranked the **11th Best City in the Nation for Hispanic Entrepreneurs** by WalletHub.com based on 19 key metrics such as Hispanic entrepreneurship rates, corporate tax systems and the share of businesses owned by Hispanics.
- Ranked the **4th Safest City in the Nation** by MyLife, a social media website, based on law enforcement officers, traffic fatalities, violent crimes, property crimes, sex offenders and percentage of residents enrolled in health care.
- Ranked the **4th Best City in the Nation for Pet Lovers** by WalletHub.com based on 14 essential metrics including ownership and maintenance costs, health care and outdoor spaces in each city.
- **National Association of Government Communicators Award** for U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon 2013 held at the Orange County Great Park.
- Government Finance Officers Association **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for comprehensive annual financial report.
- Ranked **3rd Best City in the Nation to Raise Children** by MyLife.com based on low crime rate, public schools, public parks, average family income and cost of living.
- Ranked the **5th Best City in the Nation for Families** by WalletHub.com based on 31 key metrics including jobs, housing, schools, health care systems and opportunities for recreational and leisure activities.
- Rated **3rd Best City in California for Young Adults** by PublicCEO.com based on median salary for college grads, percent of residents between ages 20 and 34, and safety in the community.
- The California Police Chiefs Association awarded its most prestigious award, the **Joe Molloy Award**, to Irvine Police Chief Dave Maggard, for his dedication and service to law enforcement and his professionalism, leadership, energy, and commitment to the mission of the Association.
- Irvine ranked first in 24/7 Wall Street's 2014 listing of **Best-Run Cities in America** based on economy, job market, crime level, and welfare of the population.
- Rated as the **35th Best Place to Live in the U.S in 2014** by Livability.com based on what Americans value most in their communities including education, housing, transportation, infrastructure and community interaction.
- Irvine ranked No. 5 for **Best Places for Young Families and Working Parents**, No. 5 for **Best Places for Soccer Moms and Dads**, and No. 16 for **Best Cities for Job Seekers** for California cities with populations over 40,000 as reported by NerdWallet Finance, a personal finance website.
- **Irvine Gives**, the City's online resource for charitable giving, recognized with the California Parks and Recreation Society's **Award of Excellence**.

2013

- Irvine is the ***Fourth Best City in the U.S. to Find a Finance Job***, according to Accounting Principles, a nationwide recruiter for accounting and finance professionals.
- Ranked as one of the ***Top 10 U.S. Cities for Recreation and Living an Active Lifestyle*** by NerdWallet.com based on recreational options, open space and community parks.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the ninth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- Based upon FBI statistics on violent crime, Irvine ranked as the ***Safest City*** in 2012 of communities with more than 200,000 by Law Street, an online site on law and public policy.
- Ranked ***Best City to Live In*** by the Orange County Register's annual "The Best of Orange County."
- Named a ***Bicycle Friendly Community*** by the American League of Bicyclists, recognizing Irvine's support of cycling on its extensive citywide trail system.
- City Clerk Sharie Apodaca presented the City Clerk's Association of California ***Award of Distinction for Voter Outreach*** for outstanding efforts to increase public awareness and encourage civic participation in the election process.
- Irvine ranked third in 24/7 Wall Street's 2013 listing of ***Best-Run Cities in America*** based on local economy, fiscal management and quality of life measures.
- Irvine's ***Jobs-to-Population Ratio*** of 94.8% is No. 1 for American cities with more than 200,000 residents.
- Southern California Edison ***Silver Tier Recognition*** for City's energy efficiency measures in municipal operations and promotion of energy conservation.
- California Park & Recreation Society ***Creating Community Through Partnerships and Service Opportunities*** award for City's Keen Center for Senior Resources.

2012

- The O.C. Great Park named a ***Frontline Park*** by the City Parks Alliance, a national organization recognizing urban park excellence, innovation, and stewardship across the country.
- The Orange County Business Council ***2012 Workforce Housing Scorecard*** gave Irvine the highest cumulative ranking for O.C. cities between 2010 and 2035 in balancing jobs growth and housing supply.
- Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada ***Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*** for City's FY2012-13 budget.
- Irvine ranked the 6th best place to live in the nation on Money Magazine's list of ***Best Places to Live in America*** based on strong job opportunities, great schools, low crime, quality health care and options for recreation.
- Ranked ***Best City to Live In*** by the Orange County Register's annual "The Best of Orange County."

- Named a ***Bicycle Friendly Community*** by the American League of Bicyclists.
- City Parks Alliance “***Frontline Park***” designation for urban park excellence for month of December for the Orange County Great Park.
- Forbes magazine online story ranked Irvine No. 6 among U.S. cities with the ***Happiest Young Professionals*** based on criteria including work-life balance, work environment, job resources, compensation, and growth opportunities.
- Orange Coast Magazine ***Most Whimsical Garden Award*** for the Orange County Great Park Farm + Food Lab.
- National Institute for Senior Center Excellence ***Award Winner-Senior Nutrition, Fitness and Health Category*** for City’s EarthBox gardening program.
- First place ***Print Media – Best Direct Mail AdWheel Award*** from the American Public Works Association for *iShuttle* residential outreach program.
- Internet Marketing Association’s 2012 Impact Award for ***Best Website Aesthetics*** for the Orange County Great Park website.
- Third place winner in the 2012 ***National Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge — Most Innovative Campaign***, with \$5,000 grant donated to Human Options.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the eighth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- Internet Marketing Association Impact Awards: ***Best Website Aesthetics*** for the Orange County Great Park website.
- Orange County Transportation Authority’s ***Diamond Award*** for “Outstanding Marketing Program” for the City’s *iShuttle* program.
- ***Playful City USA*** designation from KaBoom!, a national non-profit organization promoting children’s recreation and creation of more places for children to play.
- Southern California Association of Governments’ ***Compass Blueprint Recognition Award*** for Irvine Business Complex Vision Project.
- National League of Cities ***Cultural Diversity Award*** second place winner for the development of creative and effective programs that improve and promote cultural diversity within the community.
- City of Irvine recognized as an ***Energy Leader*** in partnership with Southern California Edison.
- Ranked second in ***America’s Best Run Cities*** by 24/7 Wall Street based on financial health, standard of living and municipal services.

2011

- Identified as ***#1 Safest City in America*** with a population over 100,000 by CQ Press in its annual publication titled “*City Crime Rankings 2011-2012: Crime in Metropolitan America.*”
- Named the ***#1 Best Family-Friendly City in Orange County*** for cities with over 100,000 population by Parenting OC magazine.
- Recipient of Orange County Business Council’s 2011 ***Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Award - Responding to Globalization.***

- Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada ***Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*** for City's FY2011-12 budget.
- Irvine ranked 5th on Businessweek.com's ***Nation's Best Cities*** list based on overall quality of life. Irvine had the best schools ranking among the 50 cities on the list.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the seventh straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- University of California Master Gardener Program ***Master Gardener "Search for Excellence" 2nd Place Award*** for the O.C. Great Park Farm + Food Lab.
- Interactive Media Awards (IMA) for the O.C. Great Park Website: ***Outstanding Achievement – Community*** and ***Outstanding Achievement – Government***.
- Ranked ***Best City to Live In*** by the Orange County Register's annual "The Best of Orange County."
- Irvine was named a ***Top 100 place to Live in the U.S.*** in RelocateAmerica's 14th annual rankings. Irvine received high marks for its master-planned villages, quality of schools, property values, low crime rate, parks and open space.
- Interactive Media Council's ***Outstanding Achievement for a Community and Government Website*** for the Orange County Great Park website recognizing design, content, feature functionality, usability, and technical standards.
- Irvine is ranked #1 for talent pool, #4 for economic potential and #6 for business friendliness for cities with 100,000-250,000 population on Financial Times' Foreign Direct Investment Magazine's "***American Cities of the Future***" list.
- American Planning Association's Donald E. Hunter ***Excellence in Economic Development Planning Award*** honorable mention for the Irvine Business Complex Mixed Use Vision Plan.
- California Park and Recreation Society ***Award of Excellence-Park Planning*** for Bommer Canyon Community Trailhead.
- ***Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award*** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- U.S. Conference of Mayor's ***Most Innovative Campaign*** award for City's "Cash for Cans" recycling program, with \$5,000 award donated to the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Program.
- City of Irvine recognized as an ***Energy Leader*** in partnership with Southern California Edison.
- ***Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*** from the Government Finance Officers Association (32nd consecutive year).
- Bike to Work Week Challenge ***1st Place Award*** for most bicycle miles pledged.
- Web Marketing Association ***Standard of Excellence Award*** for City's environmental programs website.
- Southern California Gas Company ***Certificate of Participation*** for City's Energy Efficiency Programs, saving an estimated 14,092 therms of gas.

2010

- ***Excellence in Planning Implementation Award*** for the Irvine Business Complex (IBC) Vision Plan by Orange County Chapter of American Planning Association.
- ***Special Recognition Award*** for IBC Vision Plan by the Southern California Association of Governments Compass Blueprint program for excellence in the advancement of livability, mobility, prosperity and sustainability.
- Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada ***Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*** for City's FY2010-11 budget.
- A ***Tree City USA***, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry. Irvine has received this national designation for 21 years.
- Ranked ***Best City to Live In*** by the Orange County Register's annual "The Best of Orange County."
- California Park and Recreation Society ***Award of Excellence-Youth Development*** for Irvine's Youth Wellness Committee.
- The ***Speedo Jr. National Championships***, the ***ConocoPhillips National Championships*** and the ***Mutual of Omaha Pan Pacific Championships*** – all national or international swimming competitions – were held in Irvine.
- Selected as one of the ***100 Best Communities for Young People*** by America's Promise Alliance, for helping young people overcome challenges to succeed.
- Southern California Association of Governments (Regional) ***Compass Blueprint Awards Honorable Mention*** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Ranked as the top city in California on Money Magazine's July 2010 list of ***Best Places to Live in America*** based on housing, finance and quality of life.
- ***Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award*** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- ***Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*** from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- City of Irvine recognized as an ***Energy Leader*** in partnership with Southern California Edison.
- U.S. Secretary of Defense Employer Support ***Freedom Award*** recognizing the Irvine Police Department for support of City employees in armed forces reserve and National Guard units, one of 15 cities nationwide receiving this honor.
- Ranked the ***Fifth Best City in the Nation for Business Start-ups*** by Bloomberg Businessweek.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the sixth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- California Park and Recreation Society ***Awards of Excellence*** for Lunch Time Activities program and Financial Literacy Initiative program.
- National Cans for Cash City Recycling Challenge ***Most Innovative Campaign*** with \$5,000 award donated to Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Program.

2009

- Irvine's city television channel (ICTV 30) awarded **1st place for "Irvine News"** program by National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.
- **2009 Excellence in Victim Services Award** by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- Ranked as Orange County's **No. 1 Best City to Live In** by the Orange County Register.
- Irvine identified as having the **Lowest Violent Crime Rate** in America for the fifth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- Multiple "Smarter City" national rankings by Natural Resources Defense Council for **Recycling** (#4), **Standard of Living** (#5), **Green Building** (#6), and **Transportation** (#7).
- American Planning Association (National) **Focused Planning Issue Award** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- California's top City in BusinessWeek's annual **Best Small Cities for Business Startups**.
- U.S. Conference of Mayor's **Most Innovative Campaign** for City's "Cash for Cans" recycling program (2nd consecutive year).
- The League of California Cities' 2009 Award for the **Advancement of Diverse Communities** to City Manager Sean Joyce.
- Childcare Connections Collaborative **Excellence in Childcare Planning Award** for policies favorable to developing additional childcare facilities within the City.
- American Institute of Architects (National) **Honor Award in Regional & Urban Design** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- A **Tree City USA**, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- Irvine Station Parking Structure, honored by the **International Parking Institute** with an Award of Merit.
- American Society of Landscape Architects (National) **Professional Honor Award for Research** for the O.C. Great Park Restoration Ecology Processes to Advance Natural Landscape Design.
- A **Bicycle Friendly Community** by the American League of Bicyclists, recognizing Irvine's support of sport and transportation cycling on its extensive, citywide trail system.
- **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- American Planning Association's **Innovation in Green Community Planning Award** for Hines California Green Master Plan in the Irvine Business Complex.
- American Planning Association's **Award of Merit for Best Planning Practices** for the City's Energy Plan and leadership toward energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, and environmental conservation.
- **Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.

- American Society of Landscape Architects (National) **Professional Honor Award for General Design** for the O.C. Great Park Observation Balloon Preview Park.
- American Public Works Association **Project of the Year** for food rescue program with Second Harvest Foodbank.

2008

- **Green California Leadership Award** for the distribution of 60,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to Irvine residents through "A Brighter Future for Irvine" program.
- American Planning Association (O.C. & California) **Focused Planning Issue Award** for the Orange County Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Ranked as **One of the Best Places to Live in America** by Money Magazine.
- State of California **Flex Your Power Award** for the City's community Energy Partnership program.
- American Public Works Association **Public Works Week Award** for the City's environmental programs website outreach.
- Web Marketing Association **Government Standard of Excellence Award** for the City's environmental programs website.
- National Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge **Most Innovative Campaign** with \$5,000 award donated to the Irvine Public Schools Foundation.
- Selected as one of the **100 Best Communities for Young People** by America's Promise Alliance, for helping young people overcome challenges to succeed.
- American Institute of Architects (California Council) **Honor Award in Regional & Urban Design** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Irvine identified as having the **Lowest Violent Crime Rate** in America for the fourth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- **Tree City USA Award** by the Arbor Day Foundation (18th consecutive year).
- **Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- Named **Best Big City for Families in Orange County** by Orange County Parenting Magazine.
- Orange County Great Park selected as part of the **Sustainable Sites Initiative** by American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden.
- Named as **One of the Best Cities to Live During a Recession** by BusinessWeek.com.
- American Society of Landscape Architects **National Honor Award for Analysis & Planning** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California **2008 Award of Excellence** for the Culver Drive Realignment and Widening Project.
- **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officers Association.

2007

- ***Outstanding Planning Award*** from the Orange County chapter of the American Planning Association for Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Named ***Advocate of the Year*** by the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing for efforts to promote high-quality affordable housing.
- One of the ***100 Best Communities for Young People*** by America’s Promise – Alliance for Youth.
- California Society for Ecological Restoration ***Members Award*** won by the O.C. Great Park Design Studio for Emphasis of Restoration & Scientific Educational Opportunities.
- ***Achievement Award*** by the California Parks and Recreation Society for “ReadyFitGo” program promoting a healthier Irvine.
- Irvine Animal Care Center named ***Shelter of the Year*** at the 53rd Annual Show Dogs of the Year Awards in New York City.
- ***Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award*** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.