

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **American Geographical Society Endorses and Commends the Rockefeller Foundation for its “100 Resilient Cities” Initiative**

*Description: The Rockefeller Foundation has so far named 32 of the 100 cities that will make up the “100 Resilient Cities” initiative. The American Geographical Society, which is one of the world’s oldest and leading organizations committed to geographical leadership, announced that it is endorsing the “100 Resilient Cities” initiative and commends the Rockefeller Foundation for its foresight in helping urban centers prepare for the 21st century.*

[New York City, NY] — [17 June 2014] – The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today that it is endorsing and commending the “100 Resilient Cities” organization, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In describing the initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation notes that:

100 Resilient Cities (100RC) is dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. 100RC supports the adoption and incorporation of a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks – earthquakes, fires, floods, etc. – but also the stresses that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to day or cyclical basis. Examples of these stresses include high unemployment; an overtaxed or inefficient public transportation system; endemic violence; or chronic food and water shortages. By addressing both the shocks and the stresses, a city becomes more able to respond to adverse events, and is overall better able to deliver basic functions in both good times and bad, to all populations.

“Resilience is the application of what we study in geography and exemplifies the work in which the AGS has always been involved” noted Dr. Joseph Wood, AGS Councilor, and Provost at the University of Baltimore. “The imperative before us is how we, as global citizens, can adapt to changing local and regional environments even as we grow, prosper, and consume resources at an alarming rate. Resilience in its paramount form is about shaping—and reshaping—the built environment to ensure economic success and, indeed, cultural survival for future generations. This initiative by the Rockefeller Foundation is perhaps the most important step so far, to frame the discussion which address this critical area for the 21st century,” added Dr. Wood.

The full description of the 100 Resilient Cities initiative can be found at:

<http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/> .

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society (AGS) is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in Geography for over 163 years. The mission of the American Geographical Society is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, New York.

For more than 100 years, The Rockefeller Foundation's mission has been to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Today, the Foundation pursues this mission through dual goals: advancing inclusive economies that expand opportunities for more broadly shared prosperity, and building resilience by enabling people, communities and institutions to be prepared for, withstand, and emerge stronger from shocks and chronic stresses. With its headquarters in New York City, the Foundation operates both within the United States and around the world. The Foundation's efforts are overseen by an independent Board of Trustees and managed by its president through a leadership team drawn from scholarly, scientific, and professional disciplines.

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