Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Asphalt Art Initiative

Bloomberg Philanthropies works on a wide array of initiatives to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people around the world. The Asphalt Art Initiative helps cities use vibrant art to engage their communities, revitalize public spaces, and improve street safety. Since 2019, the effort has partnered with dozens of cities and artists to create dynamic designs that make streets safer and more inviting.

As part of the initiative, Gabriella Marcella’s Waterworks was installed in Glasgow, Scotland, during the UN’s COP26 climate conference. The piece is also featured as the cover of this year’s Annual Report.
Global Reach
Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 941 cities and 173 countries

- **The Arts**
  Supporting arts and cultural organizations to strengthen the creative landscape that is critical to social and economic vibrancy in cities.

- **Education**
  Working to ensure that students have the skills to succeed and the opportunity to maximize their potential.

- **Environment**
  Fighting the climate crisis and moving the world toward a clean energy future by working with a wide range of partners on the highest-impact global climate solutions.

- **Public Health**
  Reducing preventable deaths from tobacco use, unhealthy diets, road traffic crashes, and other causes by spreading solutions that are proven to save lives.

- **Government Innovation**
  Helping local leaders sharpen city governments’ ability to identify challenges, develop meaningful solutions, and improve lives.

- **The Greenwood Initiative**
  Accelerating the pace of wealth accumulation for Black individuals and families and addressing systemic underinvestment in Black communities.

- **Bloomberg Associates**
  Providing world-class consulting and mentorship to mayors and their teams in order to improve residents’ lives in cities across the globe.

- **Founder’s Projects**
  Investing in unique efforts led by Bloomberg Philanthropies.
Over 5,000 marble tiles – quarried and cut in Portugal, fabricated with glass in France, and assembled in Germany – wrap the façade of the Performing Arts Center at the World Trade Center in New York City. The center, now under construction and scheduled to open in 2023, will be a new home for emergent and established artists in theater, dance, opera, film, and media.
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ABOUT

Bloomberg Philanthropies works to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. This work spans the Arts, Education, the Environment, Government Innovation, Public Health, and the Greenwood Initiative, which aims to accelerate the pace of Black wealth accumulation, along with special Founder’s Projects. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg’s giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works with mayors in cities around the world.

Mike has committed the vast majority of the profits from Bloomberg L.P., the global financial technology, data, and media company that he founded in 1981, to support the work of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Bloomberg Philanthropies works to improve the lives of millions of people in 941 cities and 173 countries and, in 2021, distributed $1.66 billion globally. Over his lifetime, Mike has given $12.7 billion to philanthropy.
Bloomberg Philanthropies’ unique approach is grounded in Mike Bloomberg’s experience in business, government, and philanthropy, and it guides all of Bloomberg Philanthropies’ work to save and improve lives around the world.

- **Look for unmet needs** that can be addressed with proven solutions
- **Remain flexible** to invest boldly and quickly in order to maximize impact
- **Rely on data** and continually measure progress
- **Utilize advocacy** and lobbying
- **Focus on cities** to drive progress
- Identify and **engage strong partners**
- **Lead from the front** and do not hesitate to address controversial issues
It can be hard to look beyond the tip of your nose when you’re constantly peering at a swab going into it. But today’s crisis always obscures tomorrow’s catastrophe. The more time, energy, and resources we devote to clear and present dangers, the more likely we are to allow emergencies in the making to go unchecked.

As 2021 began, I was determined to avoid that trap, and so even as our foundation continued to expand our work helping countries and communities respond to and rebound from the pandemic, we also did something else: We stepped back and looked ahead – not to the next variant that might emerge, but to the next decade, and the next generation.

As we undertook this exercise, there was a certain “déjà vu all over again” feeling, as a great New Yorker once said, because 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. I was elected mayor of New York City two months after the attacks, and back then, nearly all public attention centered on the immediate challenge of recovering and rebuilding, for understandable reasons. But our team in City Hall looked ahead and identified other looming threats, like the potential breakdown of our aging water tunnels and the emerging dangers
of climate change, as well as an economy overly dependent on the fortunes of Wall Street and a school system that had been mired in dysfunction for decades. In each case and others, we made long-term investments that are still paying off today.

While the terrorist attacks presented a very different situation from the pandemic, our administration’s experience in City Hall helped shape the way our foundation approached 2021 and beyond, and it led us to launch a variety of major new long-term initiatives that you’ll read about in this report. That includes global expansions of existing programs – like our work to end coal-fired power plants – and the creation of entirely new organizations, such as the centers we are creating at Johns Hopkins and Harvard to support cities and their leaders. Each center has a different focus – Harvard on leadership development and Hopkins on policy and program development – and we are excited to see the results each produces.

The biggest new investment to grow out of our long-term planning process emerged from an unfortunate reality: Remote schooling during the pandemic has been nothing short of a calamity. In the early part of 2021, after studies clearly showed school reopenings to be safe, and with vaccines available to teachers, I strongly advocated for a universal reopening of schools. But many states and districts remained virtual – and their students continued to fall further behind. The data shows that remote schooling has dealt a serious blow to student learning levels, with children in low-income communities suffering most.

I have long supported public education efforts in traditional schools, and we have seen some important progress in a variety of places. But nationally, the pandemic laid bare just how broken the system is. Before 2020, American students were already falling further and further behind their peers overseas – and about two-thirds weren’t even reading at grade level. Over the two years that followed, the situation became even more dire.

Today, two years after the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd helped ignite overdue conversations about racial injustices of every kind, achievement gaps between Black and Hispanic and white and Asian students are unconscionably wide and getting worse. Yet many of the political leaders who rightly decry these gaps have opposed the very reform that, in places like New York, has proven most successful at closing them: charter schools.

Children’s skin color or family income should never determine their chances of getting a high-quality education. But for far too long, they have. And if we follow the same old prescriptions – tinkering around the edges of a broken system and pouring more money into failing and mediocre schools without making fundamental change – we will fail another generation of students and perpetuate the historic injustices that continue to hold our country back.
After 20 years of working to improve public education, I have concluded that we need to be far more aggressive in rebuilding the system from outside traditional limits — without being hemmed in by decades of bureaucratic stasis and labor contracts that have strangled innovation, excellence, and accountability. That idea — rethinking the ways schools are run from scratch — lies at the heart of the charter school movement.

Public schools with charters allowing them to run independently of many restrictions can liberate principals and teachers to create learning environments that are both more nurturing and more demanding. In exchange for the freedom and flexibility to manage their classrooms, charter schools are required to hold everyone — including students — accountable for success. If they fail to succeed, they lose their charter — at least that’s the way it works in states with strong laws. Unlike with traditional schools, failure is not tolerated.

In many states, charter schools can set the length of their school year and school day. They can set their teachers’ salaries — allowing them to pay their high-performing and hardest-working teachers more. They can establish extra tutoring sessions for students most in need. And they can create cultures of excellence where struggling teachers are given help — and if they do not improve, they are not entitled to lifetime employment. Great teachers often choose to work in public charter schools because of high expectations that the schools establish for both students and teachers. Passion breeds success, and success is contagious.

Many charter schools are delivering extraordinary results that are reducing and even eliminating racial and ethnic achievement gaps. In some cases, low-income students in cities are out-performing their peers in the wealthiest suburbs — proving that success is possible, if children are given the schools they deserve.

Yet there are long waiting lists for public charter schools across the country. Many mayors and governors would like to expand charters, but they aren’t getting the financial support they need from Congress and the White House to do so. So, we’re going to help them.

Over the next five years, we will help turbocharge the charter school movement with a $750 million effort to create 150,000 new classroom seats in 20 metro areas. One of those areas will be New York City, where the election of a new mayor who is supportive of charter schools, Eric Adams, helped convince us that the time was right.

In City Hall, our administration created more than 165 new charter schools that serve predominantly Black and Hispanic communities that long lacked
access to high-quality schools. One of the charter networks we helped create, Success Academy, has become the highest-performing group of schools – charter or district – in New York State. Now, to help it continue growing, we’ll fund construction of a new K-12 campus in the South Bronx with seats for 2,400 more students.

The 300,000-square-foot campus, which Bloomberg Philanthropies is supporting with $100 million, will be the largest privately financed public school in New York City history – with classrooms, laboratories, studios, and collaborative workspaces. The young scholars will come from the city’s poorest families and receive an education that will rival the most elite private schools. They will have science five days a week starting in kindergarten, something I could only dream about as a child who spent his Saturdays at the Boston Museum of Science. The high school will offer 10 advanced placement courses, with classes in bioengineering, computer science, creative writing, and the arts. And most importantly, the school will foster a culture of excellence where students learn to work hard, develop their natural talents, and raise their ambitions.

In addition to the new South Bronx campus, we’ll work in diverse metropolitan areas around the country to help local education leaders build and expand high-quality charter schools. As part of that work, we will join forces with the United Negro College Fund to increase the number of Black teachers and principals in high-quality charters across the South – and to involve Historically Black Colleges and Universities more directly in the formation and development of southern charter schools. This work will help build stronger pipelines between charters and HBCUs that have had such extraordinary success preparing their graduates to become leaders in their professions, expanding the Black middle class, tackling the racial wealth gap, and righting the wrongs of the past – goals that our new initiative is also strongly committed to.

In the year ahead, Bloomberg Philanthropies will remain committed to helping countries and communities rebound from the pandemic. At the same time, we will continue looking further down the road, taking on challenges that can’t wait – and helping people who need it most.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
As the UN’s COP26 approached in the fall, the first major climate summit since the 2015 Paris Agreement, we saw a unique opportunity to elevate our partners and their work.

Media attention focused on what new commitments national governments might make, and while that was certainly important, commitments are only as good as the actions taken to support them. Developing, adopting, and implementing national policies take time, which we don’t have a lot of, as well as political capital, and even the most deliberate efforts don’t always become law. The leaders we’ve long supported – like mayors, scientists, activists, business and philanthropic leaders, and local advocates – can act much faster. And so in the two months leading up to the summit, we decided to pull them all together in a push to build momentum, by taking 60 actions in 60 days.

“By collecting and studying data, we are discovering the most effective strategies and working to spread them. As we often say, ‘If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it.’ Data remains at the heart of so much of our work, and we follow it wherever it leads.”
For example: With partners like C40 Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors, we rallied more than 1,000 cities to pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2030, decades earlier than many national governments have committed to doing. We worked with the mayors of London and Brussels to roll out localized air quality sensors and better manage the threat of toxic air pollution. And we collaborated with our colleagues at Bloomberg L.P., who are leading vitally important work to analyze the economic impacts of climate change and give companies and investors the data they need.

The response from our partners was overwhelmingly positive, and in just 60 days we took 85 concrete and meaningful actions to advance the climate fight. It was a testament to the power of strong partnerships, which lie at the heart of our approach to philanthropy. Working for Mike Bloomberg, whether in the public, private, or nonprofit sector, has always meant building partnerships that have the potential to make the greatest difference in people’s lives – an idea that informs everything we do at Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Over the past year, as COVID-19 continued turning the world upside down, we focused on strengthening and deepening our partnerships in ways that would allow us to respond to urgent needs quickly and decisively. The pandemic pushed those needs to new heights across all of our program areas, especially since much of our work focuses on the places it hit hardest: cities.

In working closely with U.S. mayors and local leaders, we realized they were having trouble navigating the complex process to access new funding available to them through the American Rescue Plan. To help, we teamed up with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to launch a COVID-19 Federal Assistance e311 program that provides cities with guidance and answers, including online resources and in-depth workshops led by emergency management experts. The program is now helping city leaders develop their pandemic recovery efforts and address other long-term challenges.

Given the global nature of the pandemic, we launched our first-ever Global Mayors Challenge, which built on previous competitions we had run in the United States, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Out of more than 600 city applications that proposed innovative solutions to their most pressing issues, we provided 50 finalists with extensive technical assistance and support to test and strengthen their proposals. We’re now working with 15 winning cities to implement their exciting ideas and to help spread their successes to other cities worldwide. More than 250 cities are already replicating effective ideas from earlier editions of the Mayors Challenge.
As the pandemic dragged on, arts organizations recognized they could not afford to wait for audiences to return. Survival meant strengthening and expanding their digital strategies to engage audiences beyond their physical walls and in-person programs. Those strategies, however, require new investments and expertise in technology and design, at a time when many organizations have seen their revenue streams dry up. To respond to their needs, we launched an effort with more than 40 cultural partners in the United States and the United Kingdom to help them create new digital initiatives and use technology effectively. These investments will long outlast the pandemic and help them emerge from it stronger than ever.

As Mike describes in his letter, the pandemic revealed a deep crisis in U.S. public schools that fell heaviest on lower-income Black and Hispanic communities, which led us to make our largest-ever investment in K-12 education: a $750 million initiative to create 150,000 new seats in charter schools across the country. We also expanded our career and technical education work, which first launched in 2016 with a series of promising, early-stage programs around the United States. These programs aimed to address the need for more job training opportunities for high school students and the shortfall of qualified candidates for jobs in high-demand fields like health care and IT. In 2021, we expanded the initiative to nine more cities and two more states.

Our education partnerships also helped us directly combat the pandemic. We worked with America’s four historically Black medical schools to create or expand their mobile vaccination programs and provide more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. Together with trusted community organizations, like churches and senior centers, the programs have administered tens of thousands of vaccine doses in communities with lower-than-average vaccination rates.

Our deepening relationships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities led us to launch a new scholarship program aimed at tackling the lack of diversity in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, called the Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative. The program is funding 100 students from HBCUs to receive doctorate degrees in STEM at Johns Hopkins University every year. It grew out of our Greenwood Initiative, which aims to accelerate wealth accumulation among Black households and address systemic underinvestment in Black communities.
One of the most disturbing trends to emerge from the pandemic was the worsening of the opioid epidemic. Last year, overdose deaths in the United States skyrocketed past 104,000, more than double the number from 2015, with the vast majority linked to opioids. As we continued working with Pennsylvania and Michigan, among the hardest-hit states, to increase access to medication and harm-reduction services, we expanded our program to five more states: Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. By collecting and studying data, we are discovering the most effective strategies and working to spread them across all seven states, and beyond. As we often say, “If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it.” Data remains at the heart of so much of our work, and we follow it wherever it leads.

Our progress in every area is made possible by our colleagues at Bloomberg L.P., with the vast majority of the company’s profits going to Bloomberg Philanthropies. I’m grateful for their partnership and support, and for our collaboration with so many organizations globally. That includes the strong partners we have in our Women’s Economic Development program, like Sustainable Growers, CARE, and Nest, who are all working to expand opportunities and earning power for women.

The partnerships we’ve built drive the work we do every day, on every challenge. I’m grateful for our inspiring partners – and also for our amazing team here at Bloomberg Philanthropies, who do so much to make progress toward our mission of ensuring better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. Together, they are why, despite the new and ongoing challenges we face, I’m so excited for all the work ahead.

Sincerely,

Patti Harris
Patricia E. Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Bloomberg Philanthropies is supporting the expansion of Delaware’s career and technical education program to provide high school students with training in high-demand fields like early childhood education.
Supporting Student Success

By putting students’ needs first and broadening educational opportunities for young people, whether through a college degree or career and technical training, Bloomberg Philanthropies focuses on giving more students a chance to pursue their dreams. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this work more urgent and important than ever: The virus has not only disrupted students’ school years, it has also cut off access to resources that help students, particularly those from lower-income families, stay on track.
Putting Students First and Expanding Access to High-Quality Charter Schools

K-12 Education

Mike Bloomberg has a long history of supporting K-12 education reform throughout the United States. He personally backs pro-reform public officials who are working to enact meaningful policy changes that ensure accountability and high standards in schools. These efforts build on his administration’s success in New York City, where Mike focused on improving access to high-quality education for all students – including overseeing a major expansion of the city’s charter schools. That helped drive graduation rates to all-time highs and cut the racial achievement gap in half.

In December 2021, Bloomberg Philanthropies expanded efforts to improve K-12 education by launching a historic $750 million initiative to support high-performing public charter schools and expand access to them in 20 U.S. metro areas, including New York City. The initiative aims to address a broken public education system that is failing too many students and has only been made worse by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce student achievement gaps, the initiative will invest in public charter schools.

Bloomberg Philanthropies’ investment will expand access to high-quality charter schools for students in New York City and metro areas across the United States.
whose student populations have been deeply impacted by the pandemic and where, on average, more than 80 percent of students receive free and reduced-price lunch and more than 90 percent are children of color.

Over five years, the effort will help create at least 150,000 new seats in high-quality public charter schools in 10 states. This work is also funding a new Success Academy campus in the South Bronx, New York City, that will serve 2,400 K-12 students. Launched during the Bloomberg administration, Success Academy is New York State’s top-performing school network for student achievement, even as students’ average family income is less than one-fifth that of the state’s highest-performing school district. Through the initiative, Bloomberg Philanthropies is also launching a partnership with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to expand access to charter schools in the southeastern United States and build a strong talent pipeline by recruiting more students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to become teachers and principals.

“We need a new, stronger model of public education that is based on evidence, centered on children, and built around achievement, excellence, and accountability for all. The future of America’s most vulnerable children – and of our country – is riding on whether we can deliver it.”

– Mike Bloomberg, in an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal announcing the new initiative to expand access to charter schools
“CollegePoint opened up a whole world to me. My CollegePoint mentor helped me think more broadly about my education.... I could talk to her about my goals, about the application process, and about specific highly-ranked schools that I should consider.”

— Riannon Last, a current first-year student at Wellesley College who received advising support through CollegePoint

**Connecting High-Achieving Students to College and Increasing Diversity at Top Schools**

**CollegePoint**

Launched in 2014, the CollegePoint program provides free virtual college advising to help high school students apply to and enroll in top colleges and universities and successfully transition from high school to college.

The program works with talented, high-achieving students from low- and middle-income families, many of whom do not have the information or resources to navigate the complex college application and financial aid processes and connect with the leading schools they are qualified to attend. Initial data has shown that CollegePoint especially benefits first-generation college students. To date, the program has provided college advising online and over the phone to more than 61,000 students.
American Talent Initiative

A Bloomberg Philanthropies-supported collaboration between the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and Ithaka S+R, the American Talent Initiative is a coalition of top colleges and universities working to recruit, enroll, and graduate 50,000 more talented students from lower-income families by 2025. While the effort made strong initial progress, COVID-19 created major challenges for many member schools and resulted in enrollment declines among these students across the country – leading the initiative to launch a recommitment campaign to set ambitious goals and reverse the recent decline.

To date, 128 colleges and universities, including state flagship universities, small liberal arts colleges, and the entire Ivy League, have recommitted to enrolling more high-achieving, lower-income students through the American Talent Initiative. Their work is especially critical as the academic and economic impacts of the pandemic threaten to put college out of reach for even more talented young Americans.

College Spotlight

Claremont McKenna College

Increased the share of Pell-eligible students enrolled from 12 to 19 percent between 2015 and 2019, and continued to grow Pell enrollment despite the pandemic’s challenges.

Susquehanna University

Increased Pell enrollment between 2019 and 2020, despite overall enrollment challenges due to COVID-19, and maintained share of Pell students above 25 percent since 2015, above-average compared to similar schools.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Increased the share of Pell students enrolled from 21 to 25 percent between 2015 and 2019 and continued to grow Pell enrollment through 2020.
The Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity at Princeton University

The Emma Bloomberg Center brings together Princeton’s leading initiatives to promote access and opportunity for talented students from first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented backgrounds. The center serves as a hub for research and innovation in the field of college access and success and will inform and strengthen similar efforts at colleges and universities across the country. Emma Bloomberg, a member of the Princeton Class of 2001 and a Bloomberg Philanthropies board member, has focused her career on expanding access to high-quality education. Princeton is a founding member of the American Talent Initiative and President Christopher Eisgruber is a member of its steering committee.
The Georgina and Charlotte Bloomberg Public Service Fellows Program at NYU

The Georgina and Charlotte Bloomberg Fellows Program at New York University’s Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service provides need-based scholarships, wrap-around support, and paid internships for students interested in public service to complete master’s degrees. The support ensures that economic barriers do not prevent deserving students from receiving the education and guidance needed to become part of the next generation of diverse public service leaders. Georgina Bloomberg, a Bloomberg Philanthropies board member, and Charlotte Bloomberg both earned degrees from NYU — Georgina from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study in 2010 and Charlotte from the School of Commerce, Accounts, and Finance (now the Stern School of Business) in 1929.

Need-Blind Admissions at Johns Hopkins University

Bloomberg Philanthropies’ historic $1.8 billion gift in 2018 made Johns Hopkins need-blind and loan-free, and it deepened Mike’s longstanding commitment to scholarship funding through the Bloomberg Scholars Program and beyond. Over the past two decades, with Mike’s support, the share of students in the freshman class from underrepresented minorities has increased from fewer than seven percent to nearly 36 percent in the Class of 2025 — the most diverse class ever. First-generation college students make up nearly 18 percent of the freshman class.
Helping to launch CareerWise DC, an expansion of the successful apprenticeship program CareerWise Colorado that Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported since its inception.

Supporting the expansion of a career pathways program that will help 80 percent of the state’s public high school students to gain work-based learning experiences, industry credentials, and early college credits related to in-demand careers.
Bloomberg Philanthropies invests across the United States to improve skills- and jobs-based training in high schools, with the goal to provide greater economic mobility and strong middle-class career opportunities for students not heading to four-year colleges after high school. The initiative supports innovative work-based programs, which embed high schoolers within the workplace and offer paid work experience in industries with strong demand, and school-based career programs, which provide students with career and technical education courses, industry credentials, and some work experience within their school curriculum.

Since 2016, the initiative has supported 13 early-stage programs that have provided more than 15,000 students with skills and credentials to help them access middle- and high-skilled 21st-century jobs. In 2021, the effort expanded to nine U.S. cities and two states across the country. Backed by strong local leadership and partnerships among local industries, schools, and post-secondary institutions, these models allow other cities to learn from and adopt what works.

Students in Delaware participate in the state’s expanded career pathways program, including programs in health care and early childhood education.
PUBLIC HEALTH

Ensuring Safer, Longer, Healthier Lives

The Public Health program takes on noncommunicable diseases and injuries to reduce preventable deaths from tobacco use, unhealthy diets, road traffic crashes, and other leading causes. Bloomberg Philanthropies follows the data and builds strong partnerships with national and local governments and organizations, sharing and helping implement solutions proven to save lives. This approach also allowed the team to quickly pivot to tackle COVID-19 and support recovery efforts in cities and countries around the world.

Credit: Samuel Caetano/City Hall of Recife
Bloomberg Philanthropies supports efforts to improve global road safety through strategies like improving road infrastructure. In Recife, Brazil, new bike lanes, crosswalks, and other safety measures are helping to protect everyone on the road.
Reducing the Use of Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use

Since 2007, Bloomberg Philanthropies has made major investments to reduce tobacco use, which causes one in ten deaths globally every year.

The initiative works with national and local governments to enact a package of policies that are proven to reduce tobacco use and save lives, such as prohibiting smoking in indoor public places, enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, and raising taxes on tobacco. It also takes on the tobacco industry’s efforts to undermine science-based policy. The initiative’s work has covered more than 112 countries and focuses on the world’s largest smoking populations, including in China, India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh. It has contributed to significant progress: Today, roughly 5.3 billion people are protected by at least one comprehensive tobacco control measure, up from one billion people in 2007. Roughly 4.4 billion people in 98 countries are covered by at least two comprehensive tobacco control measures, up from less than 500,000 in 2007. Based on progress to date, the initiative is projected to save 35 million lives by 2030.

Every single South American country now has a comprehensive smoke-free law, following a recent presidential decree in Paraguay that banned smoking in indoor public places. Bloomberg initiative partners worked with many of these countries to reach this incredible achievement.

Global Cigarette Sales Continue to Decline

Billions of cigarette sticks sold, with percent change from previous year

Source: Euromonitor
Protect Kids: Fight Flavored E-Cigarettes

In 2019, Bloomberg Philanthropies teamed up with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the CDC Foundation to combat a boom in youth e-cigarette use in the United States, which put a new generation at risk of becoming addicted to nicotine. While teen smoking has fallen drastically over the last 20 years, nearly two million high school students use e-cigarettes, largely because of kid-friendly flavors and branding produced by the tobacco industry.

In 2021, the initiative successfully advocated for 22 U.S. cities and counties to ban flavored e-cigarettes, bringing the total number of state and local bans supported to 55 since work began. While youth e-cigarette use remains alarmingly high, these efforts have helped spur a decline from 27.5 percent of high schoolers using e-cigarettes in 2019 to 19.6 percent in 2020. Partners worked steadily throughout 2021 to draw attention to the importance of the FDA’s review of marketing applications for flavored e-cigarette products. The FDA rejected nearly one million flavored products and temporarily halted sales of 4.5 million more while it requested additional information.
Improving Road Safety Around the World

Initiative for Global Road Safety

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in low- and middle-income countries around the world to prevent road traffic crashes, which kill roughly 1.3 million people and injure up to 50 million every year. These efforts help protect everyone on the road, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and vehicle occupants.

Since 2007, the initiative has expanded to reach 25 cities across 15 countries, focusing on five major strategies: strengthening road safety laws; reducing dangerous behavior, such as speeding, drinking and driving, and failing to wear safety equipment like helmets and seatbelts; improving road infrastructure to make streets safer; strengthening road traffic mortality, injury, and crash surveillance systems; and advocating for improved vehicle safety standards.

In 2021, the initiative provided 35 grants across 13 countries to support local organizations advocating for stronger road safety laws. With that support, for example, Ecuador adopted a law reducing speeds and mandating helmet use, and several Chinese cities adopted helmet requirements for e-bike riders. The initiative also built local capacity by training nearly 20,000 city staff and other stakeholders in road safety strategies, like police enforcement, safe street design, and communications; impacted road users’ behavior by airing 12 media campaigns in six cities and four countries, reaching over 35 million people; and made streets safer by helping cities redesign 75 high-risk intersections.

Bloomberg Philanthropies supported the redesign of the Barrio Inglés roundabout in Bogotá, Colombia, to reclaim space for pedestrians and add a protected bike lane. The city reduced road fatalities by 38 percent between 2014 and 2020.
Community health volunteers facilitate birth and death registration in rural Gambia after receiving a grant from the Data for Health program.

**Strengthening Health Data Collection and Policy-Making**

**Data for Health**

Every year, half of all deaths around the world go unrecorded, and too many health policy decisions are based on inadequate or incomplete information. The Data for Health initiative partners with low- and middle-income countries to collect better birth, death, and additional health data to close crucial information gaps and improve public health policy-making.

Thanks to co-funding from the Australian government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies has provided nearly 50 countries with technical assistance to improve the scope and accuracy of their data collection. Countries like Bangladesh and Senegal have improved their ability to measure COVID-19 deaths by using rapid mortality surveillance to understand the increase in deaths above past averages. Others, like Colombia, the Philippines, and Rwanda, are now collecting data on deaths in rural areas for the first time ever. And countries like Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Zambia have changed their death certificates to the best-practice international standard.
Promoting Healthy Diets to Prevent Obesity, Diabetes, and Other Diet-Related Diseases

Global Food Policy

Bloomberg Philanthropies works with governments, civil society groups, researchers, and emerging young leaders to promote policies that tackle unhealthy diets, which result in eight million deaths globally every year. Global obesity rates have risen dramatically in recent decades, and there are currently 2.2 billion people who are overweight or obese largely due to unhealthy food environments.

The initiative works in seven focus geographies – Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa, and the United States – as well as in additional countries through evaluation efforts and rapid response grants for policy advocacy. In 2021, initiative support helped pass front-of-package warning labels on unhealthy foods in Argentina and Colombia, demonstrating important momentum since Chile became the first country to implement a warning label policy in 2016. With the initiative’s support, several additional Latin American countries now have similar policies. To support the case for healthy food policies, the program has also supported the publication of over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles related to healthy food policy and promising solutions to address it.

A digital media campaign in Colombia advocates for front-of-package labeling on ultraprocessed products.

Translation: “Junk food doesn’t speak head-on. We need front warning labels on ultraprocessed food and drink packaging.”
Cardiovascular Health Initiative

Through a partnership with Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative founded by Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bloomberg Philanthropies supports efforts to tackle cardiovascular diseases. These include heart attacks and strokes and are the world’s leading cause of death, killing 18 million people every year.

The initiative works in low- and middle-income countries, where 50 percent of these deaths occur in people younger than 70, and focuses on three key strategies: eliminating artificial trans fats, reducing sodium intake, and controlling high blood pressure. Achievements to date include helping to pass trans fat bans in 32 countries; supporting the development of best practices to reduce sodium consumption and working to establish them in Ethiopia, India, and Vietnam; and registering 3.3 million people in nine countries and regions to have their high blood pressure treated.

A woman has her blood pressure measured during a home health visit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Mobilizing Cities to Reduce Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries

Partnership for Healthy Cities

First launched by Mike Bloomberg in 2017 through his role as World Health Organization Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries, the Partnership for Healthy Cities is a network of 70 cities focused on reducing noncommunicable diseases and injuries. Each year, more than 45 million people die from injuries and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – chronic, noninfectious health conditions like cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and more. The Partnership has identified 14 proven strategies to tackle the challenge in urban communities, and each city has agreed to implement at least one, from passing laws to reduce tobacco use, to setting healthier nutrition standards, to reducing speeding and drinking and driving.

Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care

U.S. Reproductive Health

As the U.S. Supreme Court considers a challenge to its decision in Roe v. Wade, millions of women across the United States are at risk of losing access to safe, affordable reproductive health care. As he has for decades, Mike Bloomberg continues to strongly support critical organizations that are defending women’s reproductive rights and challenging laws that would deny them, both at the state and federal levels.

Partnership for Healthy Cities Spotlight

Lima, Peru

Adopted policies requiring healthy foods in schools and promoting healthier menu items in restaurants.

Bandung, Indonesia

Adopted a local regulation designating additional smoke-free areas, outlining penalties for violations, and strengthening enforcement.

Lusaka, Zambia

Supported a national policy to lower speed limits and focused on improving safety in seven school zones, including infrastructure improvements and speed reduction signage.
To address record numbers of overdose deaths and declining life expectancy in the United States, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched an initiative to combat the overdose crisis in 2018 and expanded it in 2021. The initiative promotes lifesaving, evidence-based approaches across three key strategies: developing and implementing effective policies and interventions in seven focus states; creating and disseminating tools and guidelines that can guide all states; and pushing for federal reform through lobbying, education, and awareness.

In Michigan and Pennsylvania, the initiative’s first two focus states and among the hardest hit by the crisis, data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that prior to the pandemic, both states successfully reduced overdose deaths. When COVID-19 infection rates reached their highest points, both states saw lower increases in overdose deaths than the national average. Bloomberg Philanthropies’ support has helped implement more than 20 projects in each state to increase access to medication treatment, expand harm-reduction services, and promote a public health approach to drug use over punitive responses, while ensuring that equity, data, and sustainability drive the work.

Through the recent expansion, the initiative will support five additional focus states: Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. The program will continue spreading proven interventions, like increasing access to overdose-reversing naloxone and medications like buprenorphine that help treat opioid use disorder.

On October 27, 2021, partners in Pennsylvania organized a rally at the State Capitol in Harrisburg to call for expanding harm-reduction services.
Preventing Deaths from Drowning Through Local Solutions

Drowning Prevention

More than 235,000 people die from drowning every year, over 90 percent in low- and middle-income countries. Half are younger than 30, with children under five at the highest risk. Bloomberg Philanthropies supports local solutions to save lives in countries with high drowning rates and has partnered with the World Health Organization to share effective global measures.

Bangladesh: Supported community daycare supervision for 50,000 children ages 1-4 – and home wellness visits when the pandemic closed educational institutions – and advocated for the government’s early childhood development plan to include community daycares, which reduce drowning risk by 88 percent.

Vietnam: Joined with the government to provide survival swimming classes to nearly 14,000 children ages 6-15 in 12 provinces, which the government is now using as a model to expand drowning prevention efforts around the country.

Uganda: Funded a study to understand drowning incidence, showing that adults ages 20-39 in lakeside districts had the highest drowning rates.

Training a New Generation of Public Health Leaders

Bloomberg American Health Initiative

To address alarming declines in U.S. life expectancy, Bloomberg Philanthropies established the Bloomberg American Health Initiative at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2016. The initiative supports full scholarships for Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health fellows, with the requirement that each prospective fellow apply together with a collaborating organization and continue working for that organization in their community for at least a year after graduation. To date, 211 students have graduated or are currently enrolled in the program.

The initiative focuses on five of the biggest public health challenges facing the country: addiction and overdose; adolescent health; environmental challenges; obesity and the food system; and violence. In November 2021, the program’s annual summit drew more than 800 public health experts, elected officials, journalists, and advocates from across the country. Among the speakers were five governors, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, and Bloomberg School faculty and fellows.

A commitment to tackling five critical health threats facing the United States:

- Addiction and Overdose
- Risks to Adolescent Health
- Environmental Challenges
- Obesity and the Food System
- Violence (including gun violence)
ENVIRONMENT

Tackling the Global Climate Crisis

The Environment program works with key partners, including mayors and other government officials, business leaders, grassroots partners, and environmental advocates, to implement bold programs that tackle the climate crisis and help build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy. These efforts are accelerating the transition from coal to clean energy, improving air quality and public health, advancing city climate action, protecting and preserving ocean ecosystems, and helping unlock billions of dollars in sustainable finance.
Mike Bloomberg and HRH Prince William host the finalists and winners of The Royal Foundation’s Earthshot Prize in Glasgow, Scotland.
Supporting International Climate Action at COP26 in Glasgow

As official partners of COP26, the UN’s climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg L.P. rolled out 85 climate actions in the 60 days leading up to the conference to support the UN’s climate agenda. Among many more, these actions included:

- Committing new funding to **strengthen capacity to fight climate change across the UN** and promote ambition and solutions
- Joining a first-of-its-kind alliance of more than 20 philanthropic organizations to support efforts to **drastically cut global methane emissions**
- Launching a new **Climate Innovation Fund** in partnership with Goldman Sachs and the Asian Development Bank to accelerate the transition to clean energy in South and Southeast Asia

Learn more about Bloomberg Philanthropies’ support for international climate action at [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org)
Mike Bloomberg, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions, joined world leaders and climate advocates at the conference. At the summit, Mike:

- Announced a major expansion of Bloomberg Philanthropies’ work to end coal around the world
- Joined White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy and non-federal leaders to champion federal and local climate partnership and announce additional support for America Is All In
- Joined Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge, in hosting the finalists and winners of The Earthshot Prize, to whom Mike serves as Global Advisor
- Was announced as co-chair of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)
- Supported the launch of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, a new coalition advancing the phase-out of oil and gas production
Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy

Beyond Carbon

Launched in 2019, Beyond Carbon builds on the success of the U.S. Beyond Coal campaign, led by the Sierra Club and backed by Bloomberg Philanthropies, that has helped retire more than two-thirds of all U.S. coal plants in just a decade. Beyond Carbon is working to retire all U.S. coal plants by 2030, stop the construction of proposed gas plants, and – through Mike’s personal political support – help win elections and policy changes at the state and local levels. It is the largest coordinated campaign to fight climate change in U.S. history.

In addition to retiring the majority of U.S. coal plants, these efforts have helped pass key laws in states across the country. Fifteen states, as well as Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., now have laws putting them on the path to reaching 100 percent clean energy or achieving net zero emissions. The campaign has also blocked 30 gigawatts of planned gas capacity from being constructed.
Global Campaign to End Coal

In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched the grassroots Europe Beyond Coal campaign to close coal plants and drive the transition to clean energy across the continent, building on the success of U.S. Beyond Coal. The campaign has since helped retire more than half of Europe’s coal plants, and 23 European countries have now committed to a complete coal phase-out. The effort led to the launch of similar campaigns in Australia, Japan, and South Korea. Bloomberg Philanthropies also supports efforts to move from coal to clean energy in China, India, and Indonesia.

At COP26, Mike Bloomberg announced a major expansion of this work in 25 low- and middle-income countries where coal power is projected to grow rapidly. The expansion will work to close a quarter of the world’s 2,445 remaining coal plants and block all 519 proposed plants by 2025. With the Powering Past Coal Alliance, Bloomberg Philanthropies also launched the Bloomberg Global Coal Countdown, a comprehensive online resource tracking the status of every global plant.

Improving Global Air Quality

Air Pollution

Air pollution is a major threat to public health, and it is often caused by significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Bloomberg Philanthropies supports air quality management projects in Brussels, Belgium; Jakarta, Indonesia; London, United Kingdom; Milan, Italy; and Paris, France, and key national partnerships, including in India and Indonesia, to manage air pollution and support the transition to clean energy.

In 2021, Bloomberg Philanthropies partnered with London Mayor Sadiq Khan to launch the Breathe London program, which provides 60 community air quality sensors to gather and share real-time air quality data. The effort has supported the city’s ambitious air quality agenda, including the expansion of vehicle emissions limits to cover more of the city.

In Brussels, Belgium, local partners are collecting air sensor data from 3,000 locations as part of the city’s largest citizen science project.
America Is All In

America Is All In is the most expansive coalition of leaders ever assembled in support of U.S. climate action, including thousands of cities, states, tribal nations, businesses, and other organizations. Mike Bloomberg serves as co-chair. In October 2021, the coalition released a comprehensive roadmap for the United States to draw on critical contributions from local leaders and achieve its new national climate target: reducing emissions by 50 percent by 2030 – which the coalition successfully helped advocate for the Biden administration to announce. The report, Blueprint 2030, lays out specific policies and actions that can help the country reach its Paris Agreement goals.

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is a network of more than 11,000 cities and local governments that works to create ambitious, measurable targets to reduce and limit greenhouse gas emissions. Mike serves as co-chair with Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice President of the European Commission. At COP26, the Global Covenant was awarded the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, in recognition of its outstanding efforts to enhance and support city climate action around the world. The €1 million prize will advance two critical infrastructure projects in Sub-Saharan Africa to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a global network of nearly 100 major cities whose mayors have committed to cutting emissions and becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change. Mike serves as board president. In 2021, C40 continued releasing critical data on the power and importance of city climate action. Fifteen cities joined C40’s Renewable Energy Declaration to prioritize clean energy systems for residents. The network also rallied more than 1,000 cities to join the Race to Zero campaign with commitments to reach net zero emissions by 2050. London Mayor Sadiq Khan was recently named C40 chair, taking over from the outgoing chair, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

American Cities Climate Challenge

Bloomberg Philanthropies launched the American Cities Climate Challenge to help 25 major U.S. cities develop and implement effective climate policies. Focused on reducing emissions from buildings and transportation, the two largest sources of emissions in most cities, the program provides powerful resources and support, including embedded staff, technical assistance, and implementation expertise. After their participation in the program, including launching 76 new climate programs and passing 60 major buildings, energy, and transportation policies, the 25 cities are projected to reduce their carbon emissions by 83 million metric tons through 2030. Collectively, they are expected to cut emissions by 32 percent by 2025, surpassing the Paris Agreement goals.

Spotlight Cities

Boston, MA
City Council unanimously approved an ordinance that requires the city’s largest buildings to meet increasingly aggressive emissions reduction targets over time.

Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles launched a $75 million program to provide energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electrification incentives for low-income renters.

St. Paul, MN
The city eliminated minimum parking requirements and launched an ambitious new policy that encourages more walking, biking, and transit-friendly development.

Orlando, FL
City Council passed an ordinance requiring electric vehicle charging stations in many new developments, with additional infrastructure to install future chargers.
Protecting Livelihoods of Coastal Communities

Vibrant Oceans Initiative

The Vibrant Oceans Initiative works to protect the world’s ocean from the threats of climate change, overfishing, and pollution. Focusing on 10 countries that produce more than 80 percent of all fish caught worldwide, the initiative advocates for policy changes, funds reef conservation, and promotes sharing data on fisheries and fishing vessels, while building partnerships with governments and other philanthropic funders.

Over the last three years, initiative partners have helped pass 17 national policies in 12 countries and nearly 100 additional state or local policies to safeguard coastal ecosystems and local economies. This work has also helped protect more than 9.3 million square miles of ocean – nearly three times the land area of the United States. As part of the global effort to improve transparency, eight countries have now committed to publishing fishing data on Global Fishing Watch. Data is also available on the Bloomberg Terminal.

The Vibrant Oceans Initiative is promoting sustainable fishing practices and protecting ocean ecosystems in (clockwise from top left) Indonesia, Madagascar, and the Philippines, among many other countries.
Mobilizing Markets to Tackle Climate Change

Sustainable Finance

Bloomberg Philanthropies supports efforts to bring greater transparency to the financial impacts of climate change. This work focuses on improving companies’ disclosure of risks associated with climate change, advancing emissions reduction goals across markets and financial institutions, and helping mobilize capital to finance the transition to clean energy.

Partner organizations advancing this work with Mike Bloomberg’s leadership and support include the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative (CFLI), and the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF), formerly the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board. In 2022, the Value Reporting Foundation will consolidate under the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation, which has established the International Sustainability Standards Board to create new global sustainability disclosure standards for financial markets.
Rourkela, India, a winner of the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, is providing women entrepreneurs with access to cold-storage units that will reduce food waste, increase access to fresh foods, and support their economic advancement.
GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

Strengthening the Way City Governments Work to Improve Residents’ Lives

Drawing on the Bloomberg administration’s experience leading New York City, the Government Innovation program reflects Bloomberg Philanthropies’ belief in the power of local governments to improve lives and tackle pressing challenges. This portfolio focuses on developing great local leaders, supporting bold public innovation, and creating more effective city halls, especially by harnessing data. In 2021, these efforts were bolstered by investments in two new university centers that will focus on strengthening the capabilities of mayors and other public-sector leaders for decades to come.
Creating New Centers to Invest in City Leaders and Improve Cities

Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University

The new Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University creates a permanent home for Bloomberg Philanthropies’ work with the university to empower city leaders. The center includes the flagship Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, as well as 10 newly endowed faculty positions named for Bloomberg Philanthropies board member Emma Bloomberg, a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School.

Bloomberg Philanthropies launched the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative in 2017 as a first-of-its-kind leadership training program for mayors and senior city officials around the world, because it was clear that mayors and their teams needed more than just on-the-job training to be successful. Every year since, Bloomberg Philanthropies has partnered with Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School to convene 40 mayors and

“I think Harvard and Bloomberg have given us tools to perform with heart.”
— Mayor Carolina Cosse (Montevideo, Uruguay)

“Because of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, our team is engaging in transformational government, not just transactional government.”
— Mayor Danene Sorace (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)
80 of their top deputies for concurrent year-long leadership programs. In 2021, after a year of virtual meetings, the initiative resumed in-person convenings with its fifth class, the Class of 2022. To date, 196 mayors and 318 senior leaders from 25 countries have completed the program.

The initiative is strengthening mayoral leadership in cities across the United States and the world. The overwhelming majority of participants have reported improved leadership and organizational abilities, and the most recent cohort shared that it was particularly effective for their crisis management and communication skills. The Bloomberg Center for Cities will continue to expand this initiative and provide additional training on a range of topics, from procurement to negotiation.

**Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University**

The new Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University is using world-class research to spark innovation, create more nimble government institutions, and inspire trust in public service. The center aims to boost public-sector innovation and civic engagement by training mayors and their staff in proven methods for developing new and data-driven ideas; helping cities digitize their services for residents; supporting research and student fellowships that build the next generation of innovative leaders; and assisting cities with engaging their citizens through service. The center will serve as a hub for Bloomberg Philanthropies’ existing programs, like Cities of Service and the Innovation Teams (“i-teams”) program, as well as a place for city leaders to come for innovative research, ideas, and talent.

**Cities of Service Spotlight**

Now housed at the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins, Cities of Service was founded in 2009 by Mike Bloomberg and 16 other mayors under the tenet that government and resident collaboration is a force for good. Cities of Service supports a coalition of 280 cities across the Americas and Europe that are committed to strategically increasing the impact of volunteerism. Through the Love Your Block program, select U.S. cities are each awarded $100,000 to fund mini-grants that support residents’ efforts to help neighbors and uplift neighborhoods. In 2021, eight cities were selected for Love Your Block grants, each of which reflect these cities’ demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Mayors Challenge

As cities around the world turned their attention to pandemic recovery, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, an ideas competition focused on uncovering bold, and replicable, urban innovations that have emerged out of COVID-19 and its ensuing crises. Mayors from 631 cities in 99 countries submitted applications. From this highly competitive field, 50 finalists were selected. These “Champion Cities” refined their ideas and competed to be among the 15 grand-prize winners, who each won $1 million and robust multiyear technical assistance to implement and scale their ideas. The winning ideas address one or more of four critical challenges: economic recovery and inclusive growth; health and well-being; climate and environment; and gender and equality.

The winners are:

Kumasi, Ghana
Kigali, Rwanda
Amman, Jordan
Bogotá, Colombia
Hermosillo, Mexico
Phoenix, AZ, USA
Paterson, NJ, USA
Rochester, MN, USA
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Rourkela, India
Wellington, New Zealand
Istanbul, Turkey
Vilnius, Lithuania
Rotterdam, Netherlands

Learn more about the winning cities’ projects at mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org
The ideas submitted by the Champion Cities provided a powerful snapshot of the innovation priorities of the world’s cities. At the global level, innovations focused on improving health and reducing unemployment were most common. Racial justice emerged as the area of highest priority for U.S. cities, while social inclusion topped the European submissions. In Africa, where the world is experiencing its fastest rates of urbanization, infrastructure was dominant.

The 2021 Global Mayors Challenge follows previous challenges in the United States (2013 and 2018), Europe (2014), and Latin America and the Caribbean (2016). More than 250 cities are replicating winning ideas from the first four challenges, spreading the effort’s impact globally.
Spotlight

Chosen from 50 finalists across 29 nations, the 15 winners of the Global Mayors Challenge are:

**Amman, Jordan**
Mapping public service infrastructure to improve the reach and response of critical city services.

**Bogotá, Colombia**
Concentrating employment, education, and care resources in certain neighborhood blocks to ease the burden on women who are unpaid caregivers.

**Butuan, Philippines**
Strengthening local food production by giving farmers better data about crops to plant and reducing the financial risks they face.

**Freetown, Sierra Leone**
Providing residents with monetary incentives and digital tokens for planting and maintaining trees.

**Hermosillo, Mexico**
Addressing both women’s underemployment and low recycling rates by launching a green employment program.

**Istanbul, Turkey**
Fostering city-wide mutual aid through a program that crowdsources contributions for residents in need.

**Kigali, Rwanda**
Introducing a smart waste sensor system that improves sanitation and water quality.

**Kumasi, Ghana**
Addressing waste management and youth unemployment crises by training young people to install toilets.

**Paterson, New Jersey, USA**
Pioneering a new system to quickly deliver critical treatments to residents with opioid use disorder.

**Phoenix, Arizona, USA**
Tackling unemployment, especially for job seekers without internet access, by creating mobile units that provide resources and opportunities.

**Rochester, Minnesota, USA**
Removing barriers to bring more women of color into high-paying construction jobs.

**Rotterdam, Netherlands**
Tackling unemployment by creating digital tokens for businesses that hire vulnerable residents, which private-sector partners can purchase like carbon offsets.

**Rourkela, India**
Providing cold-storage units to empower women food vendors, cut waste, and increase fresh food access.

**Vilnius, Lithuania**
Applying lessons from the pandemic to create more resilient K-12 education and draw on the city as a classroom.

**Wellington, New Zealand**
Creating an interactive digital model of the city to help residents and policy-makers better respond to the impacts of climate change.
Transforming Cities with Creativity

Innovation Teams

Bloomberg Philanthropies has led a movement to help cities break down silos in city government and grow their capacity for innovative problem-solving. This work was inspired by the Bloomberg administration’s success in creating cross-department innovation labs to tackle challenges in New York City, like education, poverty, and sustainability. In 2012, Bloomberg Philanthropies began funding innovation teams, or “i-teams,” embedded in city halls around the world, and, in 2021, the program expanded to six new cities: Amsterdam, Bogotá, Mexico City, Reykjavík, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. Each city is using its team, composed of highly skilled individuals with expertise in topics like data analysis, design, and project management, to accelerate digital initiatives and boost pandemic recovery. These teams also push cities to collaborate and create programs with residents rather than for them. This approach has led to progress on some of cities’ toughest challenges, including blight (in Mobile, Alabama), diversifying police forces (in Los Angeles, California), and COVID-19 (in Baltimore, Maryland, and Seattle, Washington).

Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported i-teams in 49 cities across eight countries. These teams have:

- Championed 110 mayoral priorities
- Engaged 38,000 residents
- Raised $105 million in public dollars and $39 million in private funding
- Directly impacted 1.4 million residents

Outside of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team, the city’s i-team ran a campaign to promote COVID-19 vaccinations.

Credit: Vector Media
Bloomberg Philanthropies City Data Alliance

Bloomberg Philanthropies’ investment in city data use began with the launch of What Works Cities in 2015 to meet an urgent need: Few cities had the workforce needed to leverage data effectively. Focused on helping city halls better use data to solve problems, the program has trained 10,500 city leaders to build their data skills, from foundational practices to cutting-edge uses. Bloomberg Philanthropies also introduced a certification program that does for cities and data what LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification does for buildings and energy efficiency. When cities demonstrate that they have adopted best practices in using data, the What Works Cities Certification recognizes the high standard of their work. So far, 50 cities have been certified, with two – Los Angeles, California, and Louisville, Kentucky – becoming the first-ever platinum-rated cities.

These efforts have transformed the way local governments use data. According to a report published in 2021, the percentage of U.S. cities tracking progress toward key goals has more than doubled, from 30 percent to 75 percent, since 2015. The percentage of cities with a platform and process for releasing data to the public has also more than tripled, from 18 percent to 67 percent, and the percentage modifying their programs based on data analytics has more than doubled, from 28 percent to 61 percent.

In 2022, Bloomberg Philanthropies will build on this work through the City Data Alliance, which will reach 100 cities across the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

Convening City Leaders and Urban Experts

CityLab

CityLab is an annual convening of city leaders and top minds in city planning, public-sector innovation, economics, education, art, business, and community development. During the inaugural CityLab in New York in 2013, and at subsequent events in Los Angeles, London, Miami, Paris, Detroit, and Washington, D.C., these leaders have come together with one goal: to create scalable solutions to major challenges faced by cities everywhere.

While 2021 was an unusual year with unprecedented challenges, that did not stand in the way of CityLab. Held virtually, it was co-hosted by four cities: Bogotá, Colombia; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Helsinki, Finland; and San Francisco, USA. The event featured influential speakers including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and mayors and experts from around the world.
BLOOMBERG ASSOCIATES

Providing World-Class Consulting to Mayors

Bloomberg Associates is the philanthropic consulting arm of Bloomberg Philanthropies. Founded in 2014, Bloomberg Associates works with client cities to improve residents’ quality of life, taking a strategic, collaborative, and results-oriented approach to make cities stronger, safer, more equitable, and more efficient. This team of experts has worked on hundreds of projects to ignite change and transform cities’ visions into reality. Participating cities have invested more than $2.8 billion in initiatives the team has supported or created, and, in 2021, Bloomberg Associates provided each client city with an average of 7,700 hours in pro bono support.
Residents and visitors in Milan, Italy, enjoy a redesigned plaza space, created by the city in partnership with Bloomberg Associates.
Partner City Spotlight

Atlanta, Georgia

**Strengthening workforce development in the entertainment industry**

Bloomberg Associates and the city launched the Set South Production Assistant Training Program, a free program designed to connect underserved and underemployed Atlantans to careers in the local film and TV industry. The inaugural class of 15 trainees graduated in 2021, and the program’s goal is to graduate more than 100 trainees in the next two years.

**Expanding supportive services through a city diversion center**

The team helped the city develop the concept and operational model for a Diversion Center that will provide supportive services to people who suffer from behavioral health issues as an alternative to placing them in jail. The center will divert up to 15,000 cases per year from the justice system and represents a historic partnership between the city and county.

Chicago, Illinois

**Improving transparency around workforce diversity and inclusion**

Bloomberg Associates expanded work with Chicago to develop the public-facing Workforce Equity Dashboard, which will track workforce diversity and inclusion. Dashboard features include salary data, a map of employees from different wards, and snapshots of the city workforce over time.
Detroit, Michigan

Expunging criminal records that limit job opportunities

Following the passage of a newly expanded law, Bloomberg Associates drove the process to increase access to criminal record expungement for qualified residents, clearing over 700 criminal records. On average, beneficiaries have experienced a 23 percent wage increase.

Breaking ground on a new city greenway

The team supported the city’s launch of the first phase of the 27.5-mile Joe Louis Greenway, a multi-use path being built over 13 miles of abandoned rail line, which will connect dozens of neighborhoods to a regional rail system. Bloomberg Associates is helping Detroit raise over $210 million for construction and continued maintenance.

Lima, Peru

Redesigning public spaces to improve accessibility for all

Bloomberg Associates created a design evaluation toolkit for the agency that manages Lima’s public parks, helping to improve the accessibility and experience at 12 downtown parks, with plans to advise on 42 additional parks throughout the city.
London, United Kingdom

Mapping residents most vulnerable to climate change

Bloomberg Associates produced an online mapping tool to identify areas in London most exposed to climate risks, with a particular focus on zones with high concentrations of vulnerable residents, such as children and seniors. The maps are now an important resource used by the city to determine new investments and climate initiatives.

Milan, Italy

Promoting tourism and city marketing efforts

The team shared guidance on tourism recovery, best-practice research, and strategic planning to help strengthen Milan’s reputation as an international tourist destination, particularly as the city recovers from COVID-19.
Newark, New Jersey

Creating a community-centered process for public art

Bloomberg Associates helped the city’s arts and cultural affairs division create a process to commission a new monument in honor of Harriet Tubman and New Jersey’s role in the Underground Railroad. Designed to be a welcoming gathering space in downtown Newark, the monument project involves community members in every step of its development.

Launching the city’s first shared bike and e-scooter program

The team collaborated with the city and partners to develop and roll out Newark’s first-ever shared “micro-mobility” program, providing affordable shared bikes and e-scooters to residents. In the program’s first six months, operating partners registered over 170,000 trips, reducing congestion and emissions.

Across the United States

Leveraging federal funding for city COVID-19 recovery efforts

With Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Government Innovation team, Bloomberg Associates launched an e311 program in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to help city leaders identify, obtain, and retain federal funding for COVID-19 response and recovery efforts using an online portal, webinars, and one-on-one guidance.
The Arts program draws on the belief that arts and culture have the power to inspire creativity, spark collaboration, and build community across the United States and around the world. Bloomberg Philanthropies supports artists, public art projects, and cultural institutions to strengthen the creative landscape in cities and improve the quality of life. These efforts include facilitating collaborations between artists and local governments to address pressing civic issues, building capacity for small and mid-sized arts organizations, and increasing visitor engagement through digital technology.
With Bloomberg Philanthropies’ support, the city of Paris produced *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Realized Projects*, a retrospective of the artists’ work exhibited along the Seine, which was also made available on the Bloomberg Connects app. The installation coincided with *L’Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, a posthumous work realized by Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s team in September 2021.
Strengthening Digital Support for Cultural Institutions

Bloomberg Connects

Beginning with an audio guide at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1999, Bloomberg Philanthropies has long supported the development of cutting-edge digital initiatives, including mobile applications and immersive galleries, to broaden access and encourage interaction with culture on- and off-site. Today, the Bloomberg Connects program supports new digital efforts in partnership with leading cultural institutions, from a dynamic mobile app to strong virtual programming – which is especially important as the pandemic has forced institutions to reach visitors in new ways.

First launched in November 2019, the Bloomberg Connects app, developed in collaboration with engineers and designers at Bloomberg L.P., is helping more and more cultural institutions share their world-class collections and content with audiences in their spaces and at home. More than 60 institutions across the United States and Europe are now live on the app, which is available for free in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store and has been downloaded more than 600,000 times.

A visitor at The Drawing Center in New York City uses the Bloomberg Connects app to learn more about the museum’s eye-catching exhibitions.

Download the Bloomberg Connects app here
Digital Accelerator for Arts & Culture

The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the importance of strong digital strategies at cultural organizations to build audiences, increase fundraising, drive revenue, and deliver dynamic programming virtually and in person. Launched in 2021, the Digital Accelerator program is helping 44 organizations in the United States and the United Kingdom to improve their use of technology. A Bloomberg Tech Fellow located at each institution is leading efforts internally, and the program is also convening technology experts to assist in project development and encouraging collaboration to share what works.

Cultural Sponsorships

In 2021, Bloomberg Philanthropies supported 700 arts and cultural organizations around the world, part of a longstanding commitment to strengthening the creative landscape in cities and local communities. Ongoing sponsorships include innovative experiences like the Met Museum’s Roof Garden Commission series, sponsored since 2007, and Serpentine’s Back to Earth project, a collaborative, multiyear project highlighting the climate crisis. As the pandemic created challenges for fundraising and revenue for many cultural organizations, Bloomberg Philanthropies worked to accelerate financial support and helped launch new virtual programming to reach audiences online and at home.

Digital Accelerator Spotlight

92nd Street Y (New York City)
Implementing an easy-to-use platform to share high-quality educational content with users and other cultural organizations.

The Apollo Theater (New York City)
Building a high-quality livestreaming system that will allow for wider distribution of live performances.

Artichoke Trust (London)
Implementing a new ticketing system to distribute free timed tickets, allowing the organization to follow up with its audiences for the first time.

Appalshop (Whitesburg, Kentucky)
Building an archive and digital asset management system of past content and improving connectivity among studio buildings in a low-bandwidth part of the United States.
**Serpentine**

Since 2014, Mike Bloomberg has served as chairman of Serpentine in London’s historic Kensington Gardens. Serpentine champions new ideas, including a focus on ecology and innovation, and hosts rotating exhibits that highlight the work of some of the world’s most exciting contemporary artists, architects, and designers. In 2021, Serpentine continued its annual summer tradition of commissioning an architect to build a temporary open-air pavilion as their first major commission in central London. Referencing community spaces across London, architect Sumayya Vally and Johannesburg-based architectural studio Counterspace created the striking Serpentine Pavilion 2021, and American artist Theaster Gates has been commissioned to design the 2022 pavilion.

**London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE**

Bloomberg L.P.’s award-winning European headquarters in London is the steward of a remarkable array of historical artifacts unearthed during its construction, including the largest and earliest collection of ancient Roman writing tablets discovered in Britain, the first written reference to “Londonium,” and the earliest handwritten document in Britain. To showcase these artifacts – as well as the reconstructed remains of the Roman temple that was discovered on the site in 1954 – Bloomberg created the London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE. Free and open to the public, it showcases the temple, artifacts, and a series of contemporary art commissions inspired by the archaeology of the site.
Do Ho Suh’s commission for Bloomberg SPACE in London, *Proposal for Sach’ŏnwang-sa*, invites audiences to consider one of ancient Korea’s most significant archaeological sites.
Supporting Public Art

Public Art Challenge

The Public Art Challenge invites mayors, artists, community leaders, and residents to collaborate on temporary public art projects that shine a light on critical issues and encourage action to address them. The five projects selected in the 2018 Public Art Challenge – the latest round of the challenge – are tackling issues including racial justice, food equity, neighborhood blight, healing after gun violence, and climate change. Each city received $1 million to support their projects.

Tulsa, Oklahoma, created more than 30 community-driven works of art to commemorate the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre in the historic neighborhood of Greenwood. Jackson, Mississippi, developed installations, landscape architecture, murals, an organic urban farm, an elementary school learning garden, and an award-winning documentary to raise awareness of nutrition and food equity issues. Camden, New Jersey, transformed six illegal dumping sites alongside highly visible transportation corridors with large-scale installations addressing reuse and recycling. Coral Springs and Parkland, Florida, created five participatory artworks focused on healing in the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. And Anchorage, Alaska, transformed a vacant building into an incubator and convening space for artists, designers, and community members to create projects addressing climate change, immigration, and Native issues.

Pathway to Hope, curated by Rick Lowe, showcases photographs by Don Thompson to tell the story of Greenwood along the I-22 highway, as part of Tulsa, Oklahoma’s Public Art Challenge project.
Asphalt Art Initiative

Launched in 2019, the Asphalt Art Initiative helps cities create visual art projects on streets, pedestrian areas, and public infrastructure that make them safer and more attractive for residents and visitors to enjoy. The effort was inspired by the work of the Bloomberg administration in New York City.

In 2021, the initiative received more than 200 applications and awarded grants to 26 U.S. cities to implement their own vibrant art projects, with several projects also under way in European cities. These follow a successful first round of grants to 16 cities in 2020. Collectively, the projects have transformed over 96,000 square feet of streetscape with artwork while engaging nearly 6,000 residents and 186 artists in the design and installation process. Through the initiative, Bloomberg Associates produced the Asphalt Art Guide, which shares tools, tactics, and case studies to help more cities implement projects. It has been downloaded more than 6,500 times by governments and other practitioners in all 50 U.S. states and 83 countries.
Strengthening Local Arts Organizations

Arts Innovation and Management (AIM)

The Arts Innovation and Management (AIM) program is helping leaders of small and mid-sized cultural organizations by sharing best practices for managing operations and accessing new funding sources. Piloted in New York City in 2011 and expanded nationally in 2015 and 2018, the program seeks to build the capacity of these essential institutions by providing general operating support along with management training to enhance strategic planning, board development, fundraising, and marketing. Since its launch, AIM has supported 740 cultural organizations in 14 cities and Puerto Rico.

In 2021, AIM provided its third year of support to 195 organizations in the latest program cohort, with a special focus on advanced training in social media or strategic planning. The effort aims to help each organization develop and implement an ambitious plan to address key challenges and grow.

Learn more about the Arts Innovation and Management program at bloomberg.org
Bloomberg Arts Internship

First launched in 2012, the Bloomberg Arts Internship program provides young people with meaningful paid work experience at cultural organizations in New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Boston, along with job-readiness training and college preparation. In 2021, 161 interns participated in virtual and in-person internships at 97 different cultural organizations over the summer. In total, the program has graduated more than 1,100 students.

In 2021, the initiative also launched a pilot program that allows 17 interns across the four cities to continue their work part-time through the end of the school year, as well as an alumni network that connects former interns through events and an online network.

Circus and street-arts organization ACirc, which was supported through the AIM program, convenes local and international performers for Circo Fest in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Adaeze Ezeofor and her fellow graduating students at Howard University College of Medicine prepare to take the Hippocratic Oath as part of the college’s Honors & Oaths Ceremony.
The Greenwood Initiative aims to accelerate the pace of wealth accumulation for Black individuals and families and address systemic underinvestment in Black communities. In 2018, Mike Bloomberg traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to announce that the city had won Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Public Art Challenge. The winning proposal honored the neighborhood of Greenwood, once known as Black Wall Street and the site of one of America’s worst tragedies: the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Mike returned to Tulsa in 2020 to outline his vision for the Greenwood Initiative, which Bloomberg Philanthropies officially launched later that year.
Investing in the Future of Black Doctors

Debt Reduction at Historically Black Medical Schools

To increase the number of Black doctors – and at the same time underscore the connection between Black health and wealth – the Greenwood Initiative’s first major investment was a historic $100 million gift to America’s four historically Black medical schools in 2020. Funding enables the four schools – Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles, California; Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia; and Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. – to provide debt relief of up to $100,000 to more than 950 students enrolled and receiving financial aid. More than 200 students participating in the program have now graduated and begun their medical careers.

Reducing student debt for future Black doctors can help address racial health disparities and increase the number of Black doctors serving communities across the country. Data shows that while 13 percent of the U.S. population is Black, only five percent of doctors are Black. Research also shows that Black patients are 34 percent more likely to receive preventive care when they are seen by Black doctors.

In 2021, Mike gave the commencement address at Howard University College of Medicine. He spoke of the long, lingering legacy of racial discrimination in America and the urgent need to confront it with investments to close the racial gaps in health and wealth.

“...will allow students who may have been overlooked a chance to achieve a goal they set a long time ago. And I think that’s priceless.”

– Dr. Justin Morales, President of the Class of 2021, thanking Mike Bloomberg while addressing his fellow graduates at Howard University College of Medicine
A resident of Los Angeles, California, receives a vaccination against COVID-19 at a mobile unit run by Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Ensuring Equitable Access to Vaccines

Mobile Vaccine Outreach by Historically Black Medical Schools

Bloomberg Philanthropies deepened its partnership with the four historically Black medical schools by providing support to create or expand mobile units tasked with vaccinating more residents against COVID-19. The schools’ mobile units work with trusted partners, such as churches and senior centers, to expand vaccine access within their local communities and significantly increase their weekly vaccination rates. This effort has administered more than 67,000 vaccine shots since April 2021.
Diversifying STEM Fields

Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative

In 2021, Johns Hopkins University and Bloomberg Philanthropies announced the launch of the Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative. An investment by the Greenwood Initiative, it endows $150 million to address historic underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Vivien Thomas was a heart surgery pioneer at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, and yet, for decades, racial discrimination prevented his extraordinary contributions to medicine from being recognized. The initiative named in his honor will permanently support 100 PhD students every year from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions to pursue their degrees across Johns Hopkins’ 33 STEM programs. These students will receive six years of full tuition support and other benefits.

The initiative also includes new and expanded research-intensive summer programs at Johns Hopkins and supports expanded programming at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions to attract and prepare students for STEM graduate training and careers. By expanding STEM opportunities, the initiative will address inequities and diversify a wide range of industries with the potential to pioneer significant advances in the years to come.

“We have to capture talent, human talent, in all of its dimensions, in all of its lived experiences, if we’re going to have the best science.”

– Damani Piggott, MD, PhD, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Diversity and Partnerships at Johns Hopkins
With partner Sustainable Growers, Bloomberg Philanthropies supports women coffee producers in Rwanda, Congo, and Tanzania, with long-term investments resulting in the women-operated Question Coffee Café and the Coffee Academy. Sustainable Growers was recognized as a model at Expo 2020 Dubai, advancing four UN Sustainable Development Goals.
“All around the world, nations are grappling with challenges that only seem to be intensifying. The problems we face stretch across borders. And so, to solve them, we have to stretch across borders, too.”

— Mike Bloomberg
Investing in Women’s Economic Independence

Women’s Economic Development

The Women’s Economic Development program is committed to the belief that women are central to economic growth, and that expanding opportunities and earning power for women strengthens communities and promotes economic independence. Across a wide range of efforts with key nonprofit and government partners, the program draws on a strong model for progress: providing women with critical skills and business training, connecting them and their products with international markets to increase market access, and ensuring they have partnerships and investments in place to sustain their success.

Through work with nonprofit organizations like Women for Women International, Sustainable Growers, and Nest, the initiative has enrolled more than half a million women in training programs around the world, directly benefiting more than 2.2 million family members. Across the portfolio, 12 different vocational tracks are available to the women who enroll, including agriculture, tourism, brickmaking, and textiles, that are based on market assessments and government priorities in each country.

This work includes partnerships with Sustainable Growers and national governments to train women producers in Rwanda, Congo, and Tanzania and bring high-quality coffee to the international market. Today, the coffee they produce is sold around the world. In partnership with CARE, Bloomberg Philanthropies is expanding efforts to increase farmers’ income and agricultural productivity by developing pooled savings and loans programs, enabling farmers in Rwanda, Congo, and Tanzania to access working capital and build their businesses. Bloomberg Philanthropies also supports Nest’s global work with women and their families who make goods by hand in their homes – including developing the first-ever Ethical Standard to ensure fair wages, safe working conditions, and other benefits for people producing goods from home. This work has expanded access to markets for more than 1,100 businesses representing 250,000 workers in over 120 countries.

The Women’s Economic Development program works with governments, nonprofits, and the private sector to create opportunities for women that lead to economic independence. Women enrolled in the program, shown here, live and work in more than 120 countries around the world.
Strengthening Johns Hopkins University and Its Home City

Johns Hopkins University

In 1964, the year he graduated, Mike Bloomberg donated $5 to Johns Hopkins University. Ever since, he has demonstrated a special commitment to his alma mater, serving as chair of the Board of Trustees and supporting need-based scholarships, endowed professorships, major capital projects, and research. His historic $1.8 billion gift in 2018 made Johns Hopkins need-blind in perpetuity.

Mike’s commitment has helped make the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health a pioneering force in public health research and scholarship and an indispensable leader in the global response to COVID-19. It is ranked the #1 school of public health in the United States according to U.S. News & World Report, and Bloomberg Philanthropies’ support has been key in developing the widely cited Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children’s Center, the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute, and the Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. The Bloomberg Distinguished Professors program was also recently expanded from 50 to 100 endowed professorships, each with appointments in at least two schools across the university to increase cross-disciplinary collaboration and lead to new breakthroughs.

With support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Johns Hopkins has also purchased and begun to transform the former Newseum building at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. The iconic building will provide a new, high-visibility home for the university’s D.C.-based academic programs, anchored by the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. It will also provide Baltimore-based students with greater access to experiences in the nation’s capital, fostering new collaboration opportunities.

Mike was honored to give the 2021 commencement address at Johns Hopkins, where he spoke about the importance of togetherness and the inspiration behind his company and philanthropy.
Joni Holifield, founder of HeartSmiles, has a mission to provide leadership development opportunities to youth in Baltimore’s most underserved communities.

**Baltimore**

Bloomberg Philanthropies continues to expand its philanthropic engagement in Johns Hopkins’ home city of Baltimore, with a focus on youth, education, small businesses, and workforce development.

The Bloomberg Youth Fellows program provides year-round academic support and professional development opportunities for young people, implemented by partners HeartSmiles and Living Classrooms Foundation. West Baltimore native Joni Holifield founded HeartSmiles in 2015 as a platform for young people to cultivate their talents through leadership development. Joni also oversees the Youth Advisory Board at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, which provides guidance from young people to the school’s Center for Adolescent Health. To date, the fellows program has supported 148 Baltimore teens, including 23 in 2021.

In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies partnered with Goldman Sachs to expand the successful 10,000 Small Businesses program to Baltimore to help local entrepreneurs grow their companies. More than 475 program alumni now have a combined revenue of over $450 million and over 9,000 employees.

Baltimore is a host city for the Bloomberg Arts Internship program, and Baltimore-based arts organizations participate in the Arts Innovation and Management program. Bloomberg Philanthropies has also worked with city leaders to better use data through the City Data Alliance, to improve public safety with creative solutions from an Innovation Team, and to hone management skills through the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. In 2021, Bloomberg Philanthropies expanded support for Baltimore’s Grads2Careers program to advance career and technical education. The program has provided skills training to 500 young people and will now reach over 800 more.
Fighting for Common-Sense Reforms to Prevent U.S. Gun Violence

Everytown for Gun Safety

In 2006, Mike Bloomberg co-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns to fight gun violence in cities and advocate for common-sense gun safety laws. The group merged with Moms Demand Action, a network of grassroots volunteer activists, and together formed Everytown for Gun Safety in 2014. Today, Everytown is the largest gun violence prevention organization in the United States, with a network of over 2,000 current and former mayors, 1,500 gun violence survivors, 450 Students Demand Action volunteer groups, and millions more supporters across the country.

Everytown advocates at the local, state, and federal levels for laws and policies that make a demonstrable difference in public safety, such as mandatory background checks for all handgun sales. It advances gun safety through innovative litigation and continuing efforts to classify untraceable, homemade guns as firearms under federal law.

Electing “Gun Sense Champions” is a key part of Everytown’s advocacy strategy. In 2021, Everytown invested statewide in New Jersey and Virginia and in local races across the country from mayor to sheriff to school board, including by training members of the grassroots network to run for office themselves. Mike supported this work with his personal funds.
Rebuilding and Remembering in New York City

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum

Elected mayor just weeks after the 9/11 attacks, Mike Bloomberg led New York City through the aftermath, including the work of rebuilding the World Trade Center site and transforming Lower Manhattan into the diverse, 24/7, family-friendly community it is today. The resilient spirit, hard work, and courage of countless New Yorkers enabled the entire city to make a remarkable recovery.

Mike began his chairmanship of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in 2006. The institution bears solemn witness to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993, and has become one of the most visited sites in New York City. It honors thousands of victims and recovery workers and preserves their stories for young people and future generations that have no memories of the attacks.

In 2021, the world came together to mark 20 years since the attacks. Mike welcomed President Joe Biden and many other visiting dignitaries to the Memorial & Museum’s in-person commemoration ceremony, which was attended by over 8,500 people.

Mike Bloomberg tours the 9/11 Memorial Museum with President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.
Supporting Culture in Lower Manhattan

The Performing Arts Center

First conceived as part of the World Trade Center Master Plan in 2003 and chaired by Mike Bloomberg, the Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC) is now under construction and scheduled to open in 2023. The Performing Arts Center will be a cultural anchor for Lower Manhattan – and a symbol of renewal as New York City rebuilds in the wake of a crisis yet again.

Clad in marble, the building will glow at night, reflecting the vitality of the performing arts. Inside, state-of-the-art spaces will house productions in theater, film, dance, music, and chamber opera. Designed to change layouts with innovative technology, these performance spaces will give artists new opportunities to create and engage with audiences from around the world. The Performing Arts Center will also serve as a prominent community space for Lower Manhattan’s residents, workers, and visitors.

Over 5,000 marble tiles wrap the façade of the Performing Arts Center and glow through to the interior. In June 2021, Mike Bloomberg joined Art Advisor Jawole Willa Jo Zollar in signing the last beam at the structure’s topping off ceremony.
At the World Trade Center in New York City, adjacent to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, the Performing Arts Center will be a cultural anchor for Lower Manhattan.
Bloomberg employees volunteer and give back to their communities across a wide range of projects, including preparing meals in Hong Kong.
Harnessing the Team’s Talents to Make a Transformative Impact

Founded by Mike Bloomberg in 1981, Bloomberg L.P. has become the global leader in business and financial data, news, and insights. Mike dedicates the vast majority of the company’s profits to Bloomberg Philanthropies to support work transforming lives around the world. Philanthropy has always been a core pillar of the company’s culture: Bloomberg L.P. has a longstanding and robust Corporate Philanthropy program that leverages the time and talents of employees and builds upon deep client relationships to create lasting impact in the communities where employees live and work.
Impact by the Numbers

Through Corporate Philanthropy’s programs and partnerships, the company harnesses the time and talents of employee volunteers to tackle critical issues, with a focus on supporting vulnerable and under-resourced communities, promoting an inclusive global economy, expanding access to data and technology, and supporting diverse voices in the media.

- **17,046** Employees engaged
- **465** Cities reached
- **1,704** Nonprofits supported
- **614** Team projects hosted
- **25,148** Mentoring interactions facilitated
- **93,991** Aid kits created
- **1.4M** Meals distributed
- **11,390** Trees planted
Addressing the World’s Most Pressing Needs

Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg L.P. are committed to taking on pressing global challenges. In 2021, through the Corporate Philanthropy program, Bloomberg provided immediate assistance across a range of issues, with employees offering financial support, sharing pro bono expertise, and creating over 93,000 care packages for disaster relief and neighbors in need.

As the 2021 upheaval in Afghanistan displaced so many people and highlighted the challenges facing refugees globally, the company took action with partners like the International Rescue Committee. Volunteers prepared meals, ran clothing drives, and packed kits with food, hygiene items, and phone cards, along with supporting career development workshops and mentorship for refugees. Bloomberg also joined other businesses to launch a European mentoring initiative that will reach 1,200 refugee women over the next three years through the Tent Partnership for Refugees.

To advance the fight against climate change, Bloomberg employees planted more than 11,000 trees, helped create inspirational, art-based interventions, and worked to scale climate innovations from young people. The company also supported a series of partnerships with mayors to educate students and improve air quality, as well as a global, employee-led effort to take measurable, collective action toward net zero emissions.

To take on these and other challenges, Bloomberg collaborated with clients around shared philanthropic priorities. For example, as part of Citigroup’s Global Community Day, employees helped underserved communities in six cities. In Asia, Bloomberg supported the launch of the inaugural Philanthropy Asia Summit, which convened philanthropists, government officials, and clients to help build more sustainable, equitable communities.

Spotlight

Bloomberg Legal & Compliance Pro Bono Program

Since 2016, the Bloomberg team has provided more than 22,000 hours of pro bono legal work across over 100 unique efforts around the world, in collaboration with nonprofit partners. This work has helped members of under-resourced communities navigate issues like asylum, veteran benefits, and transgender name-change applications. In 2021, the program also provided legal advice to startups focused on sustainable technologies, mentored law and compliance students, helped navigate pandemic-related concerns, worked with artists and freelancers to strengthen their negotiation skills, and more.
Bloomberg supports a wide range of efforts to meet refugees’ immediate needs and provide professional mentorship and opportunities. In 2021, the company served as a global founding partner of *The Walk*, an ambitious project in which a 13-foot-tall puppet known as Little Amal traveled some 5,000 miles to focus attention on the urgent needs of young refugees. *The Walk* was produced by The Walk Productions in association with Good Chance and Handspring Puppet Company.
Promoting an Inclusive Global Economy

Bloomberg has a legacy of helping make financial markets more transparent and accessible, and employees have continued to advance that mission through mentoring and training initiatives for students, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

In 2021, Bloomberg employees contributed their skills and experience to support students from underrepresented communities and help train the next generation of community, business, and finance leaders. Together, employees participated in more than 25,000 mentoring interactions across a series of programs. Bloomberg also worked to expand a national anti-racism program in the United States that engages mentors for young people and deepens their understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In addition to supporting individuals from underserved communities, Bloomberg employees also helped strengthen the organizational capabilities of nonprofit partners globally. In the United Kingdom, Bloomberg provided mentorship and support to smaller organizations aiming to strengthen their digital presence. In the United States, the company hosted an annual panel that offered guidance to nonprofit tech founders to strengthen their products and develop their social impact. Bloomberg also supported intrapreneurship and innovation awards around the world with strategic education partners focused on identifying and developing promising initiatives to address educational inequality. An additional partnership provided direction and assistance to help leaders across five continents tackle causes of structural inequality.

Spotlight

Bloomberg Women’s Buy-Side Network

The Bloomberg Women’s Buy-Side Network works to elevate and support women in the asset management industry and inspire the next generation of women leaders. Launched in Singapore with additional chapters in Hong Kong, India, and Japan, the network draws on Bloomberg’s deep client relationships. In addition to helping establish the network, clients act as mentors and collaborators. In 2021, the network developed new chapters and held mentoring and training sessions in Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, and the United States, supporting women from diverse backgrounds to develop the networks and knowledge for early-career success.
Supporting Diverse Voices in Media

It is critical that diverse voices have the opportunity to contribute to reporting and analysis in news and media. Through a range of programs around the world, Bloomberg is helping to train promising and mid-career journalists from all backgrounds and opening opportunities for new voices in the field.

Since 2003, Bloomberg has led business and financial journalism education programs aimed at diversifying journalism and strengthening reporting. Across 16 initiatives, the effort has reached more than 21,000 promising students, as well as mid-career journalists, in 46 countries and 100 cities. This work includes the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa, launched in 2014 to advance financial journalism and contribute to economic development in Africa.

In 2021, as part of efforts to train the next generation of journalists, employees from 14 Bloomberg News bureaus in Europe organized online information sessions for more than 1,775 students focused on managing their online presence and countering the spread of misinformation.

**Spotlight**

**Bloomberg Journalism Diversity Program**

With instruction from Bloomberg journalists and experts in the field, the Journalism Diversity Program teaches students from diverse backgrounds best practices around reporting and editing focused on the economy, business, and markets. In 2021, the program hosted its largest group of students, expanding across the United States and the United Kingdom.
Expanding Access to Data and Technology

The Bloomberg team has a wealth of experience in using data and technology to solve problems and make a difference. Drawing on that expertise, the company supported students to unlock opportunity in an increasingly digital world and strengthened data use and analysis at partner organizations.

In 2021, through a variety of tailored initiatives, employees taught students from underrepresented groups coding, technical, and soft skills to help them succeed in the digital economy. Following programs in New York City and Frankfurt, employees in São Paulo launched the third annual class of Python coding training for high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds. Employees in New York and Hong Kong also organized “hackathons” to teach coding skills to students from underserved communities.

With Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg Associates, Bloomberg L.P. shared engineering and design expertise on a series of impactful projects, including continuing to support the Bloomberg Connects app for leading cultural institutions (page 64) and helping Chicago create a dashboard on equity and inclusion in the city workforce (page 58).

Spotlight

Bloomberg Data For Good Exchange

In 2021, Bloomberg collaborated with J.P. Morgan in London to build upon the Data For Good Exchange (D4GX) initiative, with experts from both companies leading a week-long workshop series focused on helping nonprofit partners better leverage data to improve their effectiveness.

Bloomberg also launched a series of Data For Good Exchange events across India, in partnership with Dasra. The events convened more than 100 philanthropists, academics, government officials, and business leaders to discuss ways to work together to strengthen the data ecosystem for India’s development sector. This work also launched the D4GX India Empowerment Challenge to help accelerate promising early-stage innovations that serve the interests of India’s most vulnerable people.

Journalism students, shown here, learn that the story of the economy, business, and markets is best achieved by drawing on the perspectives of the greatest diversity of participants.
FACE THE DATA. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Working with partners, Bloomberg and Bloomberg Philanthropies transform lives around the world through the power of data. Lessons from the company’s 40 years of progress and growth support the work at Bloomberg Philanthropies – along with almost all of the company’s profits.
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