

## **Future City - Rochester**



As a part of this project, the City of Rochester engaged the Rochester City School District (RCSD) for opportunities to get area youth involved in the process of planning our city's future. "Future City" is an international, project-based learning program where students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. Keeping the planning, design and engineering process as well as project management front and center, students work in teams to ask and answer an authentic, real-world question: How can we make the world a better place? Students involved in the Future City Competition spend approximately four months creating cities that would exist at least 100 years in the future. Each city must incorporate a solution to a design challenge that changes each year. This year's challenge, "The Power of Public Space", asks students to design an innovative system of public spaces for their City.

The RCSD identified 14 schools with an Expanded Learning Program (ELP) that could accommodate the "Future City" curriculum. Each of those schools offered "Future City" as an optional elective class during the fall semester of the '16-'17 school year. Those interested in participating formed teams of 8-12 students at each of the schools. Participating students were exposed to a variety of planning, design, architecture and engineering related topics throughout the semester. The students were then tasked with applying the knowledge they gained by designing and building a model of a project of their choosing that symbolizes what they would like to see for the future of their City. Students were also required to write an essay describing the elements of their project and rationale for selection, culminating in an end of year competition and ceremony held at City Hall with the Mayor where the final four teams displayed and presented their models to a series of judges.

**[Future City Rochester Semi-final Competition Photos \(2/3/17\)](#)**

**[Future City Rochester Final Competition Photos \(2/28/17\)](#)**

Ultimately, the ideas and concepts generated from the Future City Rochester project will be integrated into the goals, objectives and priorities of the updated comprehensive plan document - Rochester 4.0, providing a unique opportunity for area youth to contribute to shaping the future of our City.