THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

SMART CITY

COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE & AWARDS 2024

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG SMART CITY COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE AND AWARDS 2024

Innovation is about introducing better ways of doing things, no matter how big or small, so that a person or organisation can improve. At the heart of good public administration is developing an environment that is conducive to a culture of innovation. This allows the organisation to continuously improve productivity, efficiencies, and effectiveness. For a developmental government such as Joburg, innovation will be a key driver to stimulate not only economic development and faster, enhanced service delivery, but better citizen engagement and co-production of solutions.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Johannesburg has developed a Smart City Strategy, SCIIP, and an Innovation Framework aimed at modernising service delivery methods. This framework encourages both employees and citizens to innovate, thereby accelerating service delivery. It offers guidance on the approach, methodology, and strategic direction necessary for creating an environment conducive to co-producing innovative, impactful solutions that are effective, visible, and sustainable.

The purpose of the Innovation Challenge is to:

1. Foster a culture of innovation through both significant advancements and incremental improvements.
2. Engage residents and employees to collaborate on impactful solutions using their combined ideas.
3. Eliminate bureaucratic barriers to enhance innovation in service delivery.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this challenge, "innovation" is defined as the creation or promotion of a new service, product, process, or practice that is unique and adds value to meeting the needs of the City, both internally and externally.

PURPOSE

To foster innovation among City residents at regional and ward levels within Johannesburg, and to recognise and reward individuals, teams, and community organisations for innovations suitable for local-level piloting; the solutions should:

- Address significant issues or bottlenecks experienced by residents daily.
- Propose novel approaches, practices, or processes to enhance the delivery of government services to residents.
- Cut government costs related to theft, poor governance, vandalism, corruption, etc.
- Enhance residents' safety (reduce crime, gender-based violence, etc.), health (address hunger, provide home care, etc.), or overall well-being (mental and physical wellness).
- Foster local economic development (create community jobs, support small business growth, etc.).
- Promote cleaner streets and improve neighbourhood beautification.
- Encourage recycling to reduce waste and support environmental sustainability.

APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA

Submission Criteria: A submission must clearly indicate:

- **Problem:** The innovation should identify an existing or potential problem that residents are likely to face. It should impact their quality of life, enjoyment, or efficiency.
- **Solution:** The innovation must propose a specific solution to the identified problem. It should explain how the solution will improve the situation, engage residents, and indicate whether it offers a temporary fix or a long-term solution.
- **Impact:** The idea must visibly improve residents' experiences and be evident in its benefits.
- **Reach:** The solution should address a problem affecting a large group of people or a broad area.
- **Service Enhancement:** Overall, the solution must demonstrate potential to visibly enhance the City's public services.
- **Proactive Community:** The solutions should empower communities to take initiative and independently address their challenges.
- **Ideas:** Submissions must present novel, and unique approaches to resolving ongoing issues. The committee welcomes both low-tech and high-tech solutions that promise community-level impact.
- **Usability:** The innovation should have a reasonable chance of implementation and offer net benefits to community members.
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- **Phases of Implementation:** The submission must outline the necessary phases to develop the idea towards implementation.
- **Itemised Costing:** Innovations should propose low-cost solutions realistically budgeted for proof of concept or pilot phases. Solutions exceeding R300,000 will not be considered.
- **Intellectual Property (IP):** Ideas must be the intellectual property of the submitting party/parties, or the submitting party must have rights (license) to use the IP.
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- **Submissions:** Must be electronically submitted using the provided form and signed by the innovator or the team's lead representative.

PROCESS OF IDEA DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT & SELECTION

Community Engagement

- Town hall meetings will be organised for those interested in the call.
- Community participatory workshops will be scheduled to support idea development.

Developmental Bootcamps

- Proposed ideas will receive support at the regional level from academia and incubators.
- Individuals and teams will receive assistance in developing feasible projects.
- Ideas will be refined into proposals ready for presentation to an adjudication committee.

Idea Selection

- Shortlisted finalists will further develop their proposals into presentations (PowerPoints or videos).
- The selection committee will review presentations and narrow down the choices to 14 finalists.
- Ideas will be promoted on City of Johannesburg social media platforms.
- Communities will vote on the best innovation, with their preferences carrying weight.
- The technical expertise of the adjudication committee will determine the finalists and winners.

Finalists

After shortlisting, relevant departments, technical experts, and others will assist the Selection Committee in determining:

- The feasibility of implementing all shortlisted ideas.
- The perceived benefits of implementation, if any.
- How these benefits can be measured for success.
- Whether the solution will enhance service delivery.
- Suitable locations for potential pilot projects and the necessary support required.
- The duration of the potential pilot.
- The practicality of the proposed budget for the pilot phase.

WINNERS AWARDS

There will be three categories of winners, with approximately seven regional winners: First, Second, and Third place.

First Place: Receives a pilot project valued at **R300,000 (1 winner).**
Second Place: Receives pilot projects valued at **R200,000 each (2 winners).**
Third Place: Receives pilot projects valued at **R100,000 each (4 winners).**

The total funding amounts to **R1,100,000,** allocated for implementing the pilot projects and providing small stipends. Winners will receive their awards from the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, accompanied by the MMC overseeing CRUM and Service Delivery, as well as the councillors from the winning wards.

The City of Johannesburg Smart City Community Innovation Challenge and Awards 2024 invites residents to submit innovative ideas that offer solutions to day-to-day municipal service and product shortcomings.

The challenge, which is a partnership between the municipality and the Wits University's Tshimologong Centre, is designed to promote co-production between the City and residents.

It will see innovative ideas compete for an opportunity to be incubated at the value of just over **R1 million** and considered for adoption to boost service delivery across the metropolitan.

The challenge is open for applications from *Monday, 7 October 2024* until *Friday, 29 November 2024, 23:59* to residents with innovations that meet the following criteria:

- **Problem:** The innovation must identify an existing problem or potential problem that is foreseeable and probable for residents to experience.
- **Solution:** The innovation must present a specific solution to the problem or potential problem.
- **Impact:** The idea must result in a visible change in residents' experience of municipal services and products.
- **Reach:** The solution must solve a problem affecting a large group of people or a larger area in the City.
- **Ideas:** Innovative idea must be new, unique and valued at under **R300 000.**
- **Costing:** The innovation must be a low-cost solution but realistically costed so that idea can be supported through a proof of concept or pilot phase for testing in real-time.
- **Intellectual Property (IP):** The idea must be the intellectual property of the submitting party or have rights (license) to use the IP.
- **Submissions:** All submissions must be completed electronically on a form provided and signed by the innovator or the lead representative if submitted by a team.

Click here for more details with an application form.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, 29 November 2024, 23:59

INFORMATION SESSIONS:

The City of Johannesburg and Wits Tshimologong Precinct will be hosting Town Hall Meetings across all 7 Regions of the city. These sessions will provide detailed information and answer questions about the challenge expectations. Stay tuned to CoJ media platforms and communications from your local Councillors for dates and venues for the Town Hall Meeting in your region. We strongly encourage participants to attend an information session before submitting their application.

JOHANNESBURG
SOUTH AFRICA