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## **Oakland Community Leader Christine Hwang Receives Grassroots Hero Award for Championing Bicycle Transport**

Oakland, CA: Today, Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment announced **bicycle champion Christine Hwang as the winner of the 2018 Anthony Grassroots Prize**, an annual \$1,000 award recognizing an outstanding example of grassroots environmental stewardship. After biking to downtown Oakland himself, Rose Foundation Executive Director Tim Little will present the award at Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's (WOBO's) Bike to Work Day event (May 10, 2018, at 8:15am in Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland).

Chris Hwang is a tireless advocate for biking and walking. As the chair of Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, she has played a catalytic role in the development of this highly effective, volunteer-led organization that strives to improve neighborhood quality of life by making biking and walking easy, safe, and enjoyable for all Oakland residents. "Walk Oakland Bike Oakland has benefited from the critical support of the Rose Foundation, as have many grassroots advocacy groups. It is a tremendous honor to receive the Anthony Prize. This award is a reflection of the passion and desire for change of WOBO supporters and neighborhood leaders, upon whose trust and ideas I rely on to advocate for vibrant, livable, and sustainable communities. I thank the Foundation for recognizing our collective dreams," said Chris.

By building community and lifting often-ignored voices, Chris' work has transformed Oakland's landscape to include safe and healthy active transportation. From 2014 to 2018, Chris pushed for active transport on Oakland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council. Her efforts helped secure victories including the "road diets" on Telegraph and Grand Avenues. Most recently, Chris worked with local partners to collaborate with City staff and elected officials to bring immediate solutions to the dangerous intersections and poorly planned streets along the San Pablo Avenue corridor from West Grand to 35<sup>th</sup> Street. WOBO's and Chris' work gains strength from their demonstrated ability to bring together diverse community members, including neighborhood groups and small businesses. WOBO-supported events including Love Our Lake Day, Love Our Neighborhood Day, Sunday Streets, and Bike to Work Day continue to contribute to a vibrant Oakland community with the help of Chris' dedication and successful collaboration with other community members.

Chris' boundless energy over the years has made WOBO a strong advocate for the livability of Oakland. Chris transformed WOBO from a loosely affiliated group formed in response to a poorly planned local supermarket into the powerful voice of pedestrians and cyclists – a unique role which transcends the typical bikes vs cars dynamic into a positive framework that emphasizes Oakland's diverse neighborhood fabric as well as alternative transportation. Through mentoring emerging activists and teaching others how to organize for positive change at a grassroots level, Chris' work strengthens not only her own organization but all of the communities of Oakland.

The 2018 Anthony Grassroots Prize recognizes Chris Hwang's enthusiastic leadership in helping Oakland become a modern, healthy, and livable city. "Look at the human and economic costs of gasoline," explains Juliette Anthony, a lifelong environmental activist and Chair of the Anthony Prize Selection Committee, "Chris is leading us to a better future. We need more people like her!" Rose Foundation Executive Director Tim Little adds, "Throughout California, we suffer from poor air quality and dangerous streets due to heavy automobile traffic. We salute Chris' work to place Oakland at the forefront of an active transportation revolution which benefits everyone who walks, bikes, or breathes."

To learn more about Christine Hwang and WOBO, please visit: <https://wobo.org/>

To learn more about the Anthony Grassroots Prize, please visit: <https://rosefdn.org/anthony-grassroots-prize>

**Attention:** Photographs featuring Christine Hwang's work can be found at: [rosefdn.org/anthony-grassroots-prize/2018-winner/](https://rosefdn.org/anthony-grassroots-prize/2018-winner/)

### **ABOUT the Anthony Grassroots Prize**

The **Anthony Grassroots Prize** was endowed by Juliette Anthony, a lifelong environmental activist who has received wide recognition for her work in protecting the Santa Monica Mountains, banning the toxic gasoline additive MTBE, promoting solar power, and publicizing the negative environmental impacts of ethanol. To learn more about the Anthony Grassroots Prize, please visit <http://rosefdn.org/anthony-grassroots-prize>

### **ABOUT Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment**

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment supports community-based advocacy to protect the environment and public health through grant-making and direct service programs. Rose Foundation's focus includes grassroots activism, watershed protection, environmental justice, and consumer rights. Rose also administers *New Voices Are Rising*, a youth leadership development and environmental justice advocacy training program. To learn more about the Rose Foundation, please visit <http://rosefdn.org/>