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ioby Co-Founder Selected for Obama Foundation Fellowship

Erin Barnes among diverse set of 20 civic innovators from around the world to scale impact of community-driven work

CHICAGO, IL -- Today ioby Co-Founder Erin Barnes was selected by the Obama Foundation to join the inaugural 2018 Fellows class. Selected from more than 20,000 applicants from 191 countries, Erin will join a two-year, non-residential program that brings together 20 leaders representing 11 countries around the world who are creating transformational change on many of the world's most pressing problems. The Obama Foundation selected Erin to continue ioby's work to build civic leadership through resident-led projects nationwide.

"I'm thrilled for the opportunity to deepen and strengthen this movement of neighbor-led positive change with the Obama Foundation Fellowship," said **Erin Barnes, ioby Co-Founder**. "There's real alignment here: The Obama Foundation's focus, like ioby's, is about recognizing and lifting up the work of our local civic leaders who often go unnoticed but whose knowledge, passion, and commitment to doing good are the foundation of our civic life."

The Fellowship will offer hands-on training, leadership development, and a powerful network for Fellows to amplify the impact of their work and inspire a wave of civic innovation.

Over the course of the two-year program, Obama Foundation Fellows will participate in four multi-day gatherings to collaborate with one another, connect with potential partners, and break down silos to advance their work. The first Fellows gathering will be in Chicago in May.

Each Fellow will also develop and pursue with the Foundation a personalized plan to leverage the fellowship and Obama Foundation resources to take their work to the next level. As Fellows put their plans into action, the Obama Foundation will assist with access to mentors, coaches, and additional resources.

"The 2018 Obama Foundation Fellows come from diverse backgrounds but share a common desire to make positive change and create the world as it should be," said **David Simas, CEO of the Obama Foundation**. "By bringing these individuals together, we hope to help amplify the work of our Fellows so it has a widespread impact. On behalf of President and Mrs. Obama and

the Obama Foundation family, I congratulate our new Fellows and look forward to working with them.”

The work of the 2018 Fellows will support the Obama Foundation’s broader mission to inspire, empower, and connect the next generation of civic leaders. Geographic diversity, commitment to the Obama Foundation’s values, and existing work all factored into the selection process.

To learn more about the Obama Foundation Fellowship, please visit www.obama.org/fellowship. A list of 2018 Obama Foundation Fellows can be found at <https://www.obama.org/fellowship/2018-fellows/>.

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ioby mobilizes neighbors who have good ideas to become powerful citizen leaders who plan, fund, and make positive change in their own neighborhoods. So far, ioby has helped more than 1,500 neighborhood leaders raise more than \$4.5 million in small donations. Since lasting change takes more than just money, ioby also helps leaders recruit volunteers, grow and strengthen support networks, connect with local decisionmakers, and start conversations around key issues in their communities that lead to long-term, broad-scale change.

Please visit **ioby.org** for more information.