

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2012

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Tacoma Sister Cities Council wins *Sister Cities International's*

Innovation: Arts & Culture Award

WASHINGTON, DC – Tacoma Sister Cities Council has won *Sister Cities International's* 2011 Innovation: Arts & Culture Award for a city with population between 100,001 and 500,000. The Innovation awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

Tacoma Sister Cities Council won the award for “The Fuzhou Ting in the Tacoma Chinese Reconciliation Park” project. The Park is a memorial dedicated to a painful time in Tacoma’s history, the expulsion of its Chinese citizens in 1885. This particular project is a unique art and cultural exchange between Tacoma and sister city Fuzhou, China and aims to support Tacoma’s reconciliation efforts.

The “Fuzhou Ting” is a Chinese pavilion donated by Fuzhou to aid reconciliation efforts, enhance the motifs of the Park as well as signify the long lasting relationship between the two cities. Tacoma Sister Cities Council worked with the City of Tacoma and Fuzhou, the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, a number of schools, colleges, and landscaping consultants to successfully build the project. A delegation of construction advisors from Fuzhou also contributed to the Ting.

The Council hopes the Fuzhou Ting becomes an icon of the Chinese Reconciliation Park and a source of community pride for years to come.

The *Sister Cities International* Annual Awards are awarded in several categories. Award winners will be honored at a special luncheon ceremony on July 14 during the *Sister Cities International* 56th Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

About *Sister Cities International*

Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. *Sister Cities International* represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations’ mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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