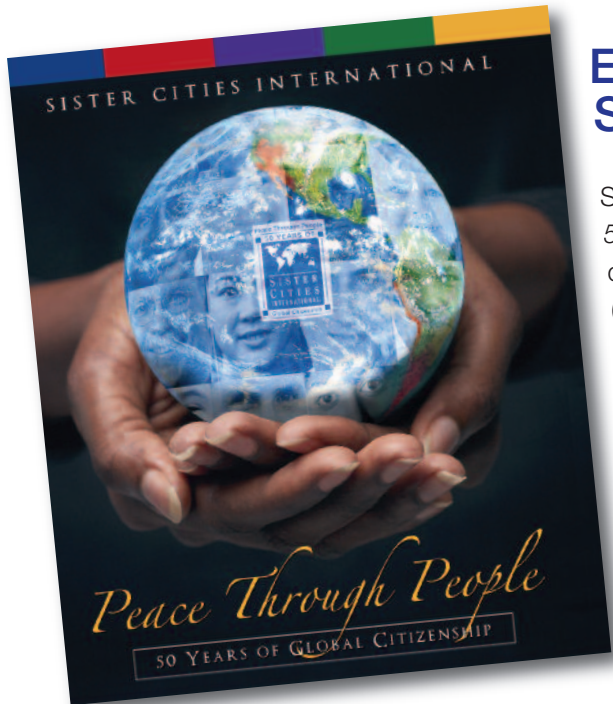


2013 Annual Report



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL



Explore 50 Years of Sister Cities History

Sister Cities International's 50th Anniversary book *Peace Through People: 50 Years of Global Citizenship* contains hundreds of stories of citizen diplomats bringing the world together from the first half century (1956-2006) of the sister cities movement.

This fully searchable edition is available online at www.sister-cities.org/50years.

Table of Contents

Letter from the President	1	State Coordinators	20
2013 Annual Report	2	Honorary Board and Global Envoys	21
2013 Donors	18	2014 Sister Cities International Staff	22
Board of Directors	19		

Greetings,

I want to first thank our members and partners for supporting the work of Sister Cities International. It is through the efforts in your respective communities that we fulfill our mission to “Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.”

We began 2013 with a huge event – the very first Sister Cities International Inaugural Gala! As most of you are aware, every President of the United States, since Dwight D. Eisenhower, has been the Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International. Since we were the very first event of Inauguration week, we received worldwide publicity for our goal to connect communities in the United States with their friends around the world. The President’s own Marine Corps band opened an evening that brought Mayors, Congressional Representatives and Ambassadors together to celebrate with our own citizen diplomats.

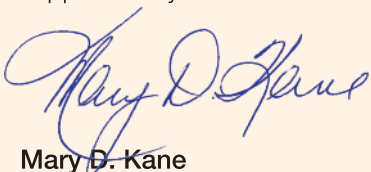
Our Sino-African Initiative has been the prime example of how cities can form mutually beneficial trilateral sister city relationships. The Osogbo, Nigeria-Asheville/Raleigh, North Carolina-Xiangyang, China trilateral partnership worked together in Osogbo to renovate and upgrade one primary health care center to offer emergency obstetric care, establish a drug revolving fund, and provide extra equipment. Included in the project were medical training exchanges between the cities, as well as mayoral and business delegation exchanges. The other two programs under the grant were a water and sanitation project involving Nairobi, Kenya/Denver, CO, U.S./Kunming, China at the Madaraka Primary School in Nairobi and a waste management project in Malawi with the communities of Zomba, Malawi/ Urbana, IL, U.S./Haizhu District, Guangzhou, China.

In 2013, our annual conference was held in the great city of San Antonio, Texas. We partnered with the United Nations United Environmental Accords program to host 600 delegates from all over the world including Diplomatic Corps representatives from 30 countries. We reinvigorated our Youth Leadership Program and intend to double the size of our youth leadership summit in San Jose in 2014.

It’s apropos that the theme of the 2014 conference in San Jose is “The Power of Digital Diplomacy” given the expanded presence of Sister Cities International as well as our members on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and other social media. We’ve also added customizable partnership profiles to our website for all of our more than 2,000 sister city relationships and you can now view our 50th anniversary book, *Peace Through People*, which recounts some highlights from the first half century of sister cities. If you have not yet had the chance to see the amazing photos and even more incredible stories of international cooperation, please have a look at www.sister-cities.org/50th. Please also continue to share your stories with us; our 60th anniversary is quickly approaching and hope to be able to share some of the newer stories about how sister cities members are building peace.

This upcoming year we are poised for even bigger things. In addition to the conference in San Jose, the first ever U.S.-China Sister Cities conference will be held in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the first U.S.-China partnerships. We’ll continue to expand and enhance our website, put more resources like webinars and toolkits online, and expand affinity benefits for members. We’ve also decided to waive any application fee for our Young Artists and Authors Showcase as well as our Annual Awards to encourage even more members to participate in these popular programs.

We hope that you are as excited about sister cities in 2014 as we are; it’s going to be a big year. Again, thank you for your support and your belief that if we “Connect Globally” we can “Thrive Locally.”



Mary D. Kane
President & CEO



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

TO PROMOTE PEACE THROUGH MUTUAL RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, AND COOPERATION — ONE INDIVIDUAL, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.

Sister Cities International Mission Statement

Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as the national membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States. This network unites thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers from 522 U.S. communities with over 2,000 partnerships in more than 140 countries.

Sister Cities International was created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1956 White House Summit on Citizen Diplomacy. He envisioned an organization that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by helping citizens foster bonds between people from different communities around the world. President Eisenhower reasoned that if private citizens built partnerships that celebrated and appreciated differences between cultures, and didn't rely solely on national governments to manage international relations, then it would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

For nearly six decades, Sister Cities International has served as a hub for institutional knowledge and best practices in the field of citizen diplomacy. Sister Cities International continues to strengthen the sister cities network through strategic



institutional partnerships, grants, programs, and support for its members. Sister Cities International motivates and empowers private citizens, local organizations, and municipal officials to conduct long-term, mutually beneficial sister city, county, or state relationships.

The mission of Sister Cities International is just as important today as it was when it was founded. With the advent of the internet and new technologies, the world is becoming smaller, and the relationships and interactions between the U.S. and its foreign counterparts are more complex than ever. Despite this increase in online communication, the face-to-face meetings and personal relationships developed through sister cities are still vital and irreplaceable.

"If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments – if necessary to evade governments – to work out not one method, but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower, Founder of Sister Cities International and 34th President of the United States of America

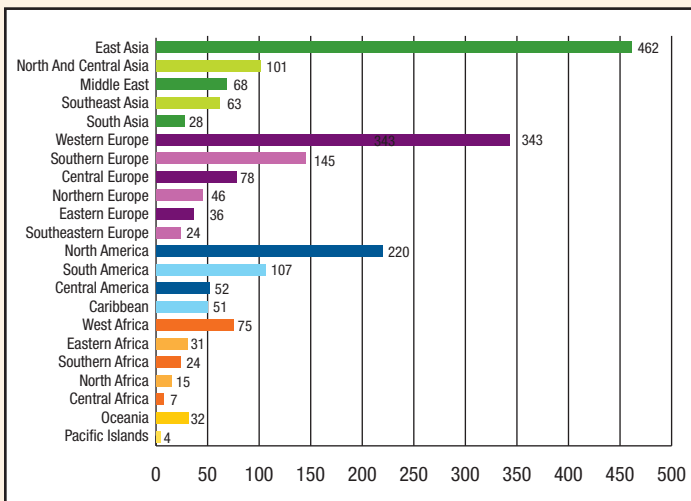
What is a Sister City?

A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A sister partnership is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign an agreement establishing the relationship.

A city may have any number of sister cities, with community involvement ranging from a half dozen to hundreds of volunteers. In addition to volunteers, sister city organizations may include representatives from nonprofits, municipal governments, the private sector, and other civic organizations. Sister city relationships offer the flexibility to form connections between communities that are mutually beneficial and which address issues that are most relevant for each partner.



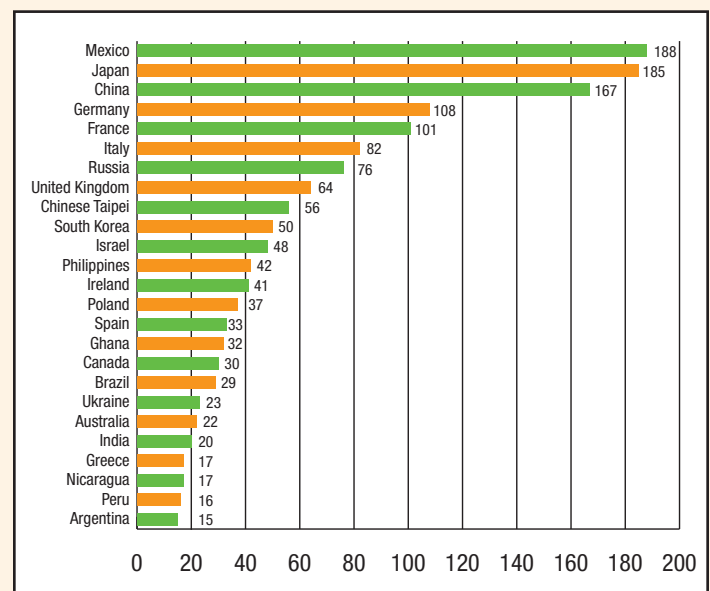
Sister City Partnerships by Region



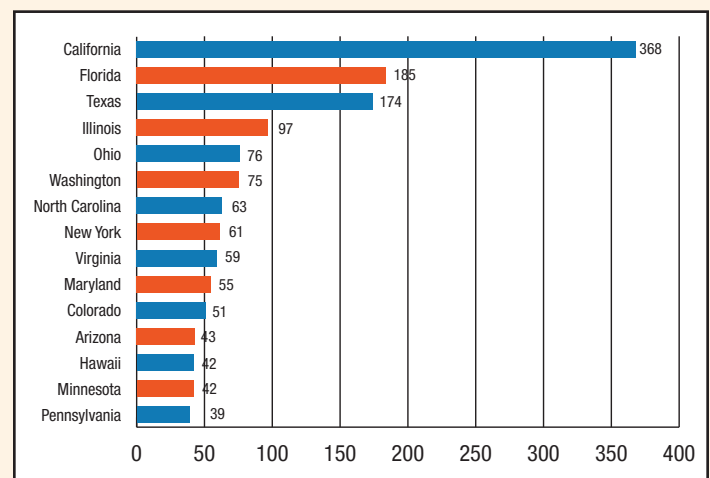
What Do Sister Cities Do?

Sister city organizations plan and implement cooperative activities and exchanges with their counterparts in other countries. These activities typically fall into four categories: youth and education, community development/municipal exchange, business and trade, and arts and culture. Within these categories there is a tremendous breadth of diversity, as each community uses its unique resources, history, geography, and citizenry to guide their activities.

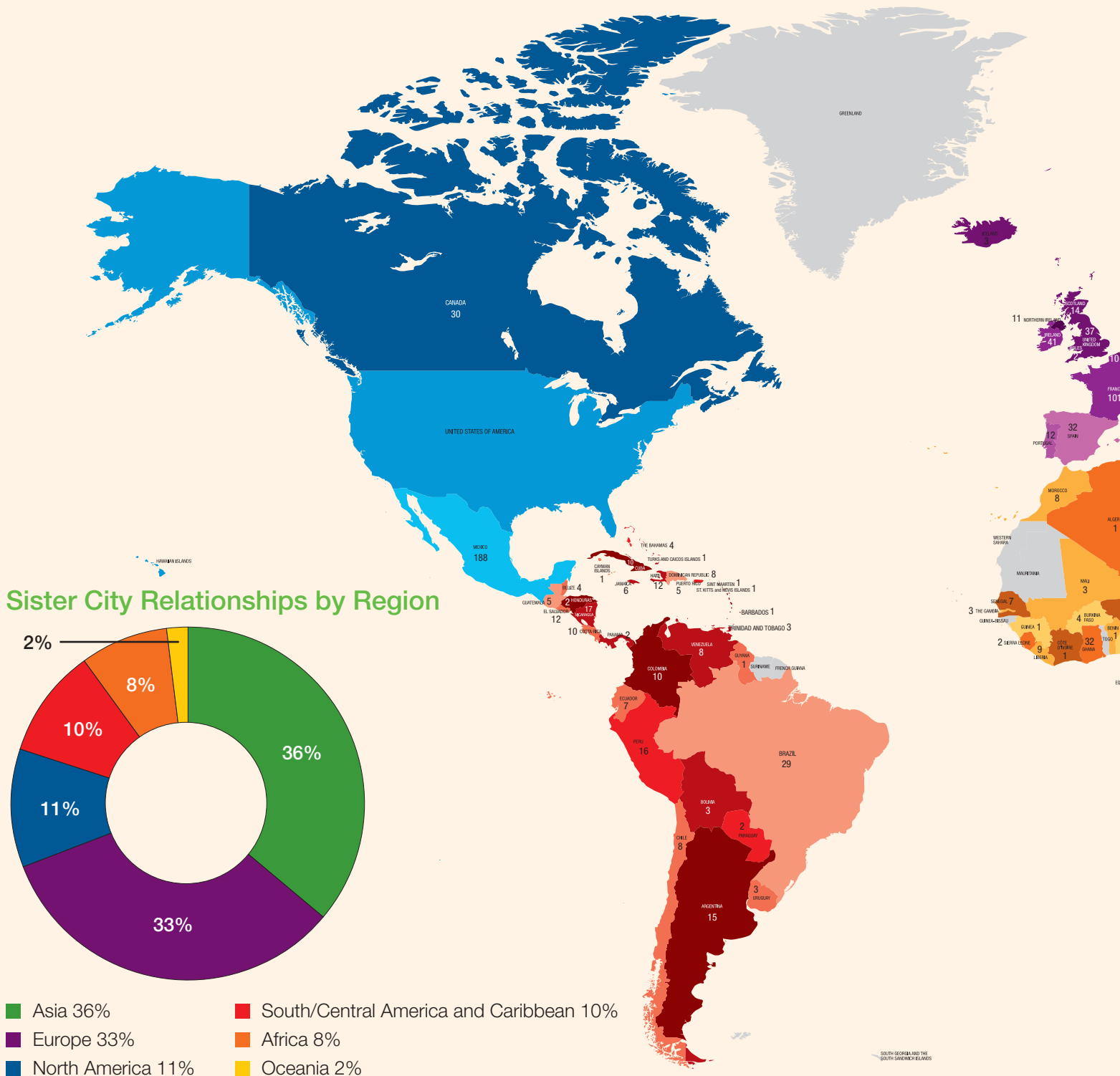
Sister City Partnerships by Country

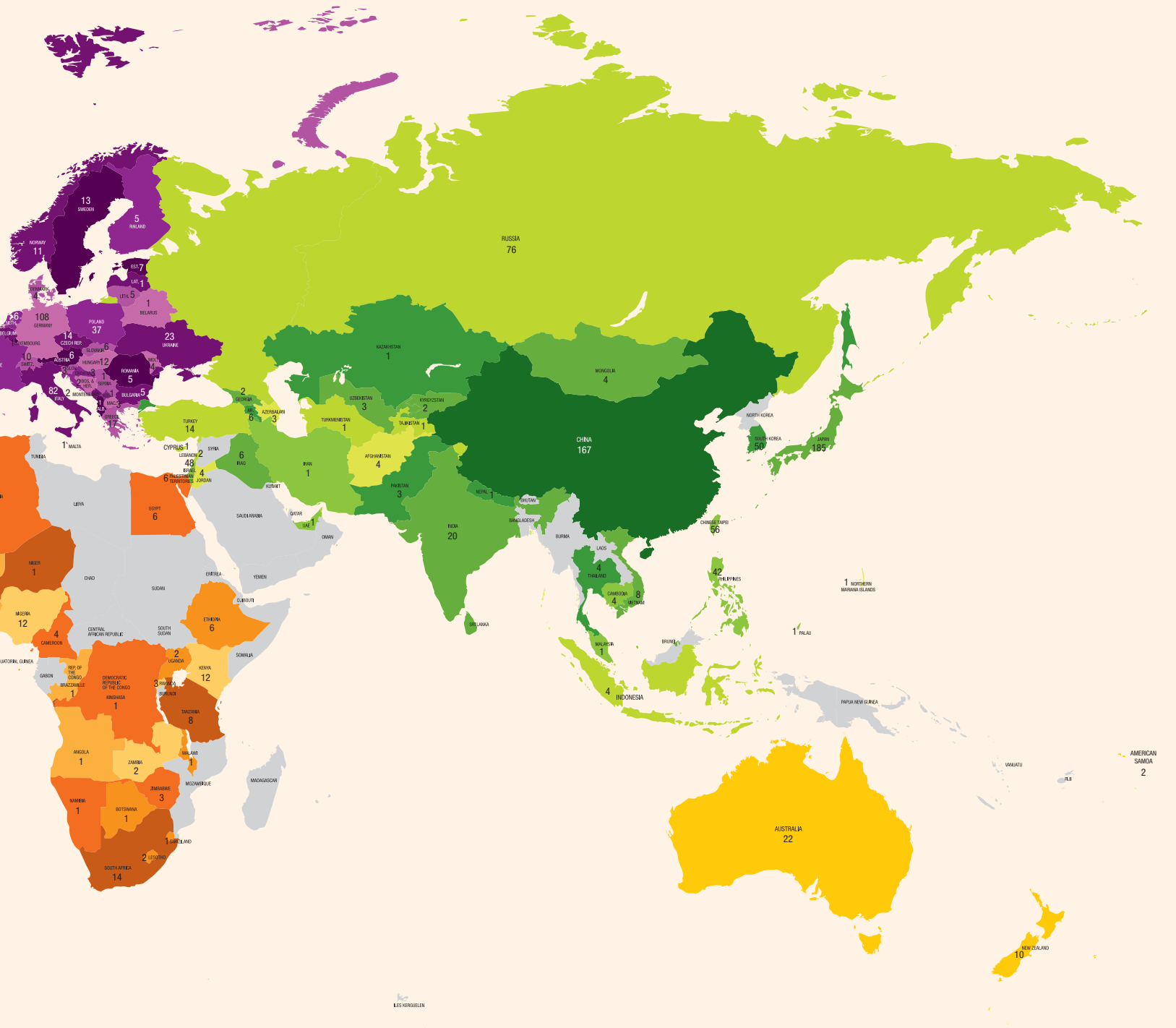


Sister City Partnerships by U.S. State

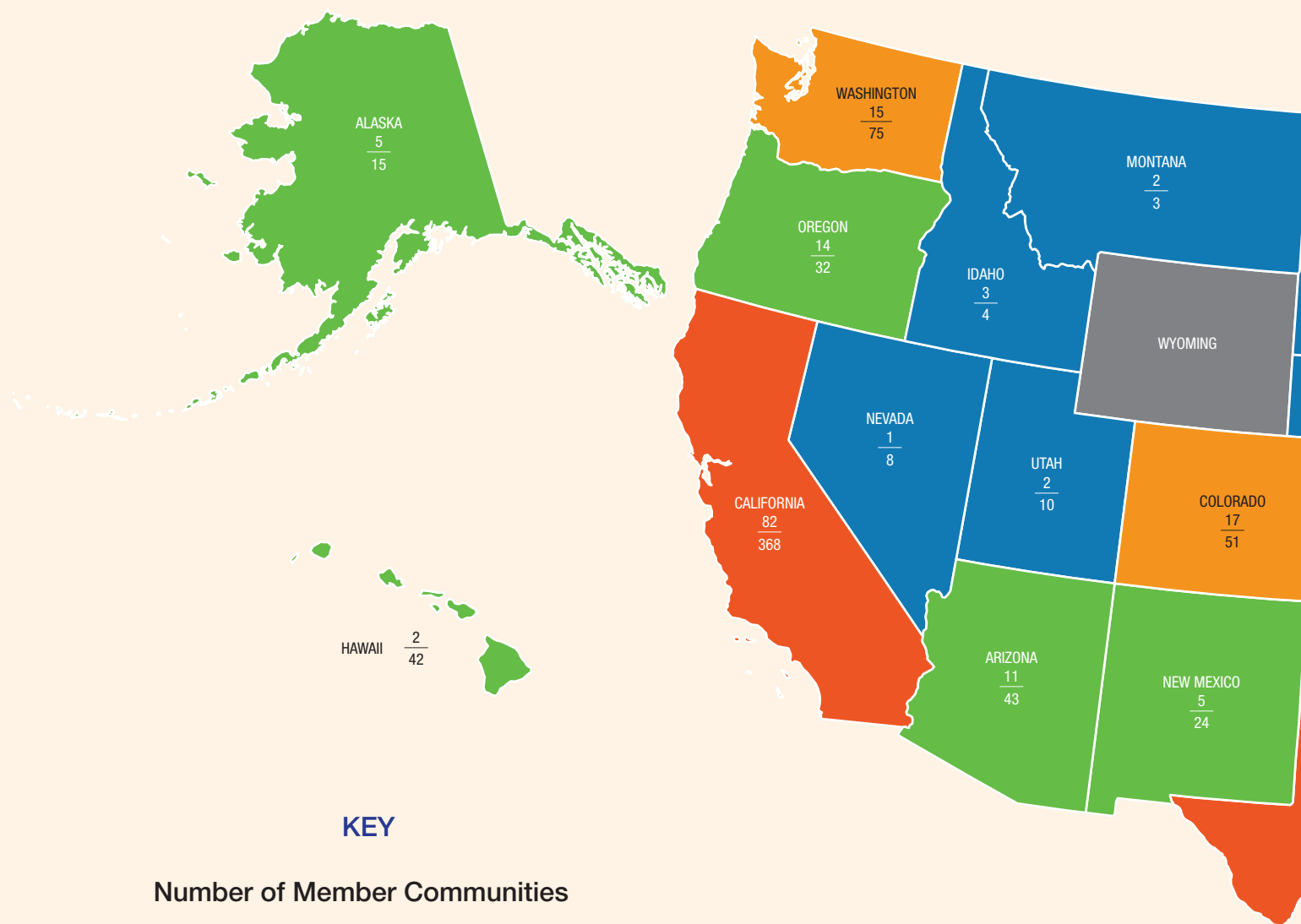


U.S. Partnerships Worldwide





U.S. Members and Partnerships

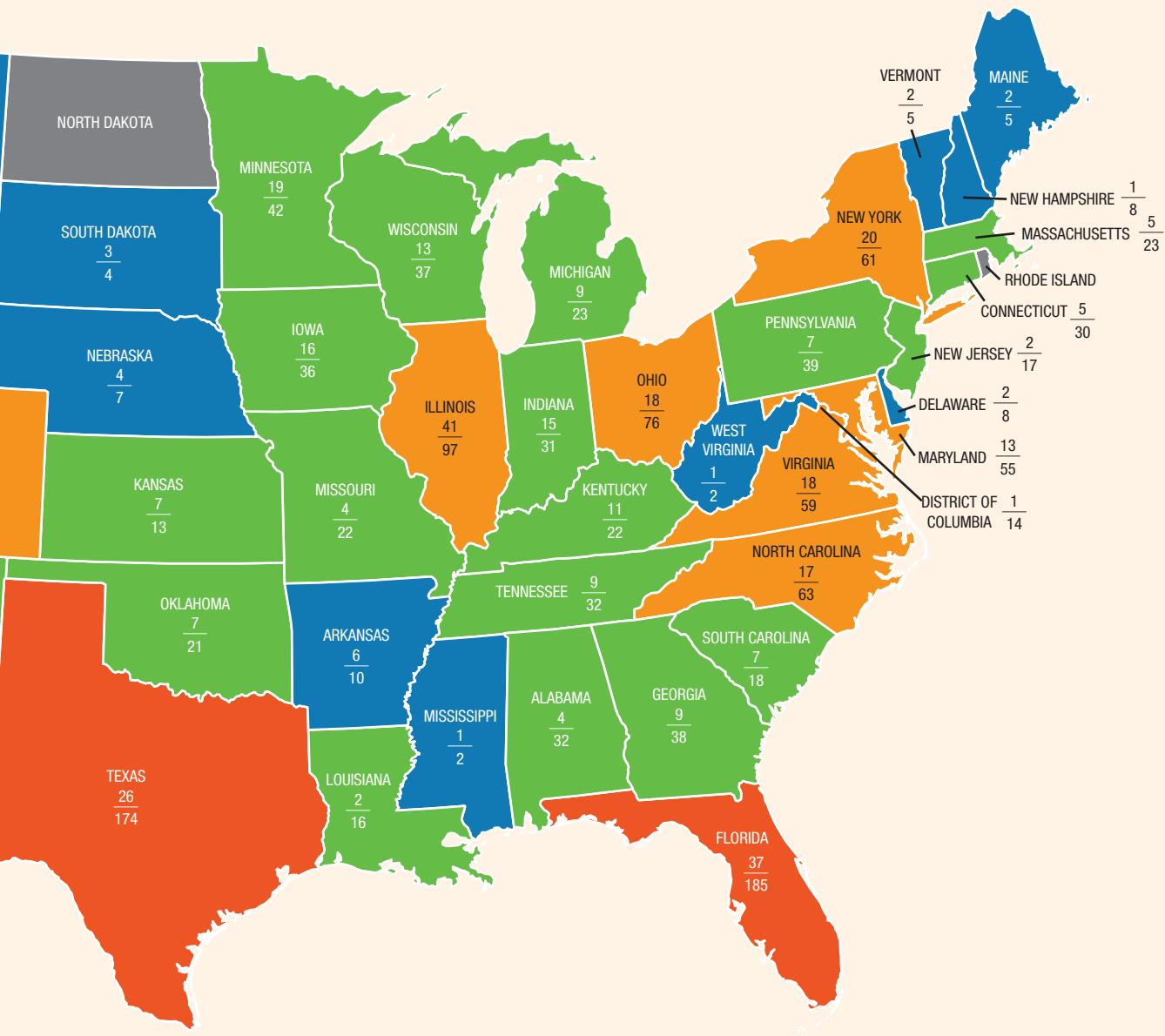


KEY

Number of Member Communities

Number of Partnerships

- 100+ Partnerships
- 51-99 Partnerships
- 11-50 Partnerships
- 1-10 Partnerships
- No Members



Member Services

Sister Cities International offers a number of services and resources to help members find partners, expand and improve programming, and save time and money. Whether it is developing new skills, recognizing milestones, or providing much needed information and connections, Sister Cities International is committed to boosting the impact of its membership. Be sure to visit the Member Area of Sister Cities International's website where you can access a number of these services and learn more about how Sister Cities International can help.

Staff and Network Assistance

Whether it's a volunteer, elected official, municipal employee, businessperson, or any other participant in a sister city program, Sister Cities International's staff is available to assist by email or over the phone. Every day staff field questions about governance, programming, financing, policy, and more. Whether it's starting a new sister city organization from scratch, rolling out a new type of exchange, or simply trying to make current programming easier and more effective, the first call should be to Sister Cities International's office. A full list of staff can be found in the back of the directory or online at www.sister-cities.org/staff.

In keeping with the ethos of sister cities, Sister Cities International believes that peer learning is one of the best ways for sister city organizations to improve. That's why in addition to providing expert staff support, Sister Cities International connects its members with other communities and sister city organizations who have done similar projects or dealt with similar challenges. Contact staff and find out how other cities can help your sister cities organization bring the most to your community.

Membership in Sister Cities International is open to communities of all sizes, including towns, cities, counties, and states. For more information on member benefits as well as membership rates, visit us online at www.sister-cities.org/membership

Cities Seeking Cities

In 2013, Sister Cities International worked to strengthen the organization's role in facilitating new sister city partnerships through the Cities Seeking Cities program. The Membership Department works closely with member cities and utilizes a wide range of channels, including foreign embassies, U.S. State Department foreign service officers, municipal associations, other city twinning organizations, and NGOs, among others, to find potential matches. In 2013, Sister Cities International helped members make contact with communities in Germany, Argentina, Chile, China, Myanmar, France, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, among others.

"Our program has flourished to a level that would have never been possible, in a large part due to the valuable resources and assistance available through SCI."

-Mary Neilson, Hot Springs, AR

U.S. State Department Assistance

Sister Cities International connects its members with U.S. State Department officials both in the U.S. and abroad. When trying to revive a dormant partnership or starting new partnerships and programming initiatives, meetings and briefings with officials can help provide useful information and networking opportunities for sister city organizations. Sister Cities International also regularly works with members on U.S. State Department exchange programs and grant opportunities.

Events Calendar and Sharing Your Story

In 2013 Sister Cities International's Events Calendar became one of the most popular new initiatives. Members were encouraged to send Sister Cities International details about their organization's upcoming exchanges, events, sister city anniversaries, board meetings, and other activities, which were posted to Sister Cities International's website where other sister city organizations as well as the public could learn more.

To follow up on these activities members were encouraged to “Share Your Story” and submit accounts of their exchanges and accomplishments, which were then promoted via social media and articles posted on Sister Cities International’s website. “Share Your Story” is available through Sister Cities International’s website, and members are encouraged to visit and share with the world how their sister city program connecting communities around the globe.

Grants and Fellowships

Every year Sister Cities International offers competitive grant opportunities to members for exchanges and programming in a number of fields. In 2013 Sister Cities International also began posting grant and fellowship announcements administered by other nonprofits, foundations, and federal and state governments. Available only to members through Sister Cities International’s Member Area, visit us online and find out what opportunities are waiting for your sister city organization.

Visa Assistance

Not sure what type of visa a sister city volunteer or official should be traveling on? Looking to just make sure all visa paperwork is in order? In 2013 Sister Cities International partnered with a number of experts in immigration law and visas to provide members with pro bono advice on specific inbound visa questions they might have. To request visa assistance members can visit the Member Requests section of the Member Area on Sister Cities International’s website.

Insurance

Sister Cities International continues to offer members access to affordable travel insurance in partnership with International Medical Group (IMG) as well as special events insurance. With members participating in thousands of delegation visits and hundreds of events every year, insurance is a needed benefit which Sister Cities International is proud to offer. For up to date information on available insurance and to access these special rates, members can visit the Insurance section of the Member Area on Sister Cities International’s website.

New Partnership and Anniversary Certificates

Sister Cities International wants to make sure that a sister city partnership, whether it’s new or 50 years old, is recognized as a step forward for citizen diplomacy and peace building. All members can now request complimentary certificates for their communities as well as their international partners that recognize new partnerships or milestone anniversaries. These commemorative certificates are available free of charge to Sister Cities International members and can be requested in the Member Area of the website.



All members can proudly display their membership in one of the world’s largest networks of citizen diplomats with Sister Cities International’s Member Badge and tagline “Connect Globally. Thrive Locally.”

Webinars

In 2013 Sister Cities International hosted nine interactive webinars for members, with topics including fundraising, recruiting volunteers, incorporating environmental and economic innovations in programming, sister schools, and doing business in Mexico, among others. These webinars allow members to have live Q&A with staff and guest speakers, and all webinars are recorded and available to members in the Member Area of Sister Cities International’s website.

Toolkits and Templates

Members can take advantage of a number of toolkits and templates available in the Member Area. Whether it’s running sister schools, developing a new partnership agreement, writing a support letter for a visa application, or a number of other common tasks for sister cities organizations, these materials help members expand their programming and save valuable time and resources.

City and Partnership Profiles

Every member community has a profile on Sister Cities International's website providing a list of its partnerships, contact and social media information, and a narrative section about the sister city organization, all customizable by members themselves.

Interactive City Directory

Map Satellite

AFRICA SOUTH AMERICA ASIA AUSTRALIA

Atlantic Ocean Indian Ocean Pacific Ocean

Terms of Use Report a map error

Denver, Colorado

Population: 566,974

Website: www.denversistercities.org

Twitter: @DSCI

Facebook: www.facebook.com/denversistercities

Contact Name: Beth Hendrix

Contact Email: beth@denversistercities.org

Contact Phone: (303) 832-1336

About Our Program

Denver Sister Cities provides opportunities to experience unique social, economic, humanitarian, and cultural exchanges that promote global understanding, cooperation, and respect. Recent programs include providing clean water to Axum; sponsoring educational exchanges with Ulaanbaatar, Takayama, and Brest; building new homes for tsunami victims in Chennai; creating cultural exchanges with Potenza and Karmiel; and performing trilateral business/ municipal exchanges with Nairobi and Kunming.

Sister Cities

- Axum, Ethiopia
- Brest, France
- Chennai, India
- Cuernavaca, Mexico
- Karmiel, Israel
- Kunming, China
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Potenza, Italy
- Takayama, Japan
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Friendship Cities

- Akureyri, Iceland
- Ramat HaNegev, Israel

Seeking New Sister Cities

Denver, Colorado seeks new relationships in the following regions:

- Central America
- South America

Areas of interest for new exchanges:

- Youth/Student exchange programs
- Supporting developing communities

Contact information and social media fields allow the public to get in touch with members and learn more about their program

Sister City, Friendship City, and Emeritus relationships are listed and attractively and conveniently displayed on the map

Click on the info button to learn more about a specific sister city relationship

Members can advertise when they are looking for new partners, including specific regions or program areas where they have an interest

Members can customize a brief description about their sister city program

Sister Cities International drastically increased the ability of members to communicate with the public by adding profiles for each of the over 2,000 partnerships in the network. These profiles can provide partnership specific contact and social media information, narratives about the history of the partnership and its current activities, the date the partnership was established, and even copies of the original partnership agreement, all customizable by members.

Denver, Colorado & Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Map Satellite

Relationship: Sister City
 Date of establishment: 01/01/2001
 Agreement: UlaanBaatar MoU.pdf
 Website: Denver-Ulaanbaatar Website
 Facebook: Denver-Ulaanbaatar Facebook
 Twitter: @DenBaatar
 Primary Contact First Name: Harriet
 Primary Contact Last Name: Downer
 Primary Contact Phone: (303) 601-8591
 Primary Contact Email: hsdowner@logicalconnections.org

About: About: For many years, people in Denver and Ulaanbaatar had been working hard to make a sister city relationship a reality, and in November 2001, after a trade mission took him throughout Asia, former Mayor Webb returned to Denver with the intention of making the Mongolian capital our tenth sister city. Mongolia had already designated an honorary consul for Denver in 1999, prior to the establishment of the sister city relationship, and after the resolution was passed by the city council and signed by the mayors, Ulaanbaatar became the most recent addition to Denver's ever growing family of sister cities. Recent visits to Denver by Mongolia's Prime Minister as well as its President have accelerated recognition of this growing relationship. One of the most compelling reasons for the relationship with Ulaanbaatar is the little-known fact that Denver is home to the largest Mongolian community (2,500) in the U.S. With strong relationships and cultural exchanges having been in place for many years, an official sister city relationship was the next logical step, and the partnership began with a strong core of volunteers from the community. Today, business is increasingly being conducted between the two cities, along with numerous cultural, research, and foundation activities.

Activities: Activities: In 1989 the first group of Mongolian students were sent to the U.S., two of whom attended the Colorado School of Mines; shortly thereafter, a Colorado nonprofit, the Colorado-Mongolia Project, was formed to both promote better relations and to engineer a sister city, or as Mongolians call it a brother city, relationship. From the City and County of Denver and the metro Denver area, Mongolian business, cultural, and educational exchanges flourished. Denver law firms began working in Mongolia, university programs were forged with the University of Colorado at Denver, and Denver-headquartered mining and mining equipment companies began actively operating in Mongolia. The Denver Art Museum put on a trailblazing and highly successful Mongolian art exhibit, with other cultural and art exchanges to follow. In 2008, "The City of Ulaanbaatar Park" was dedicated in Denver. The Luby Jenkins School Pairing Program, an annual high school exchange project of the Ulaanbaatar Denver Sister City Committee, continues, partnering with the Zorig Foundation in Mongolia to allow Mongolian students and teachers to visit three high schools in Denver and the Navajo Nation; the three US schools then send a delegation to three partner schools in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Return to the interactive map

Find out when the partnership first started

Members can upload a copy of the original partnership agreement

Find out who is the contact for specific sister city relationships

Let the world know how your partnership started and what you've been doing recently

To find contact information for Sister Cities International members, search for the city in the Interactive Directory on our website www.sister-cities.org.

Programs

The High School Homestay Exchange

The High School Homestay Exchange program is an opportunity for Sister Cities International's members to host students for a year or semester of high school in the United States. International coordinators in non-U.S. cities select high school students, who must be between the ages of 15 and 18 ½ years old on the first day of school, to apply to the program. Once students are accepted and in the United States, the sister city organization provides oversight of the students, organizes host families, and includes the students in sister city activities. The High School Homestay Exchange program is intended to provide foreign students with exposure to U.S. culture and society, as well as help U.S. citizens build relationships with visitors from abroad.

In partnership with the American Cultural Exchange Service, Sister Cities International assisted over 30 students secure J-1 secondary school exchange visas in 2013. In 2014 the High School Homestay Program will be expanded to allow even more students to participate.



High School Home Stay Exchange students from Shizuoka, Japan spending time with their host family in Omaha, Nebraska

Young Artists and Authors Showcase

Each year, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase encourages high school students from around the globe to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork and literature. All students must submit their work based on a designated theme that is announced each year. Artwork is sent from member cities around the world to Washington, D.C. where a panel of judges selects the



2013 Young Artists Showcase Grand Prize Winner: "Hope" by Faith Tsou of Naperville, Illinois



2013 Young Artists Showcase Finalist: "Worlds Converge" by Vivienne Salisbury of Houston, Texas

winners based on originality, composition, and theme interpretation.

In 2013, young artists and authors reflected on the theme, "The Power of Exchange" and illustrated the long-term impact that exchanges have had on them or their communities. The winning art pieces were showcased at the 2013 Sister Cities International Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas before departing on a yearlong tour to cities across the United States. The Young Artists and Authors Showcase is made possible by the generous support of the Carvey Family.

Leading Asia

2013 was the third and final year of the Leading Asia: Renewing the U.S. and Japan Sister Cities Network program, generously funded by the Japan Foundation. The final programming centered on the Pan-Pacific Summit portion of the Sister Cities International Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Sister Cities International provided exchange funding for over twenty citizens from Japan to attend the Conference, including two Japanese mayors, the director of the Japan Foundation, the Executive Director of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), the Acting Consul General to Japan in Houston, and the Minister, Head of Chancery from the Embassy of Japan. An additional eleven individuals from U.S. cities that participated in the program were also flown in for the conference to network with these dignitaries as well as their peers in the sister cities network. Delegates enjoyed valuable face-to-face opportunities to discuss ideas for exchanges, best practices, and innovative programming focused primarily on business, renewable energy initiatives, and youth and young professional engagement.

What Did Our Programs Do?



Over 100
Participating
Communities



Over \$500,000
in Funding To
Members



Over 100
Flights to
Sister Cities

2013 Youth Leadership Summit

At the 2013 Sister Cities International Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, over 50 students from around the United States participated in the Youth Leadership Summit. The Summit was designed to provide youth in the Sister Cities International network with experience in addressing global challenges and the ways in which different national experiences drive international cooperation on critical issues. The students had the opportunity to speak with



Participants share their experiences representing different countries at the 2013 Youth Leadership Summit

"My overall experience was incredible! It felt amazing to be surrounded by so many people who have similar interests to me and are passionate about diplomacy. I can't believe that I got the chance to listen to so many amazing individuals speak about their careers and experiences."

-Survey response from a
2013 Youth Leadership Summit Participant

representatives from foreign governments, including the Consuls General from Norway and Russia, the Minister Councilor of the Embassy of Japan, and a senior U.S. Department of State official, to learn about the countries they were representing in a Model United Nations-style simulation. In addition, the students had the opportunity to hear from the Ambassador from Indonesia, the Honorable Dino Patti Djalal, about the importance of youth activism in national and international political discourse, which was cited by students as a highlight of the weekend.

The Summit culminated with a simulation intended to explore possible solutions to the critical environmental issues they had been studying throughout the weekend.

Sino-African Initiative



Participants at the 2013 Sino-African Initiative Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Sister Cities International's Sino-African Initiative (SAI) is a two-year program funded through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. SAI is designed to address the manner in which Chinese, African, and U.S. cities can collaborate on economic development and urban poverty issues in Africa. By working with Chinese, African, and U.S. citizen diplomacy networks, local municipal governments, and businesses, this initiative seeks to create strategies that

ensure development and poverty alleviation projects address community needs, safeguard human rights and safety, and promote transparent business practices and government accountability. Activities for this program include research and program design, exchanges, and webinar and conference sessions.

SAI began in early 2013 with a conference and training session in Nairobi, Kenya which served as a platform for all three African-U.S.-Chinese trilateral sister city partnerships to learn more about the larger context of their projects, participate in knowledge sharing between cities, and plan their trilateral projects. General seminar sessions, site visits, project management training, and project planning workshops, all on the theme of "Urban Service Delivery in Public Health and Waste Management," provided conference participants with the tools to execute their projects over 2013. The conference concluded with Memorandum of Understanding signings between the trilateral partnerships pledging to complete their pilot projects. Throughout 2013, Sister Cities International staff provided additional support for the projects through financial administration, project coordination, backstopping, technical site visits, and research.

Nairobi, Kenya – Denver, CO, U.S. – Kunming, China Madaraka Primary School Project

In Nairobi, the trilateral partnership renovated Madaraka Primary School's toilet block by installing 28 new toilets, securing water tanks, adding mirrors and tiles, and fixing the roof. Water experts from Nairobi, Denver, and Kunming worked together to ensure that the water quality was up to healthy standards and that the supply of water was sufficient at Madaraka Primary School. The trilateral partnership also provided school supplies for the students and included trilateral sister city exchanges focused on municipal water management, education, and business in Nairobi and Kunming.

**Water experts from Denver; Kunming,
China; and Nairobi, Kenya at the
Nairobi Water Company.**



Osogbo, Nigeria – Asheville/Raleigh, NC, U.S. – Xiangyang, China Atelewo Model Primary Health Care Center Project

The Osogbo-Asheville/Raleigh-Xiangyang trilateral partnership aimed their work at primary health care. In Osogbo, the group renovated and upgraded one primary health care center to become the only center in the city that offered emergency obstetrics care. In addition, the trilateral partnership provided extra equipment and established a drug revolving fund. Doctors from the U.S. and China joined their Osogbo counterparts and provided medical training to over 150 doctors and nurses in Osogbo and additional business and medical exchanges took place in Xiangyang and Osogbo.

Doctors at a three-day medical workshop in Osogbo, Nigeria focusing on emergency obstetrics care.



Zomba, Malawi – Urbana, IL, U.S. – Haizhu District (Guangzhou), China Integrated Waste Management Project

In Zomba, the trilateral partnership constructed a new composting site, new communal refuse bankers, and procured tools for composting. Community sensitization programs and clean city campaigns were held in Zomba to encourage better waste management in the community. Included in the project were trilateral exchanges on waste management training and job shadowing exchanges to Urbana as well as waste and sanitation exchanges to Haizhu district.



Delegates from Urbana and Zomba, Malawi visit a waste to energy incinerator in Guangzhou, China.

2013 Annual Conference

The 57th Annual Conference in July brought together over 550 citizen diplomats from across the U.S. and the world to San Antonio, Texas to discuss *The Power of Exchange: Creating Sustainable Cities & Sustainable Relationships*.



Over 25 countries were represented during the three-day conference, where attendees participated in specialized sessions on economic development, communications, exchanges and partnerships, and fundraising. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in various off-site tours to the Toyota Factory, Dos Rios Wastewater Treatment Facility, and land sustainability and river improvement tours to both Museum and Mission Reach.

Keynote speakers included David Houle, Author of “Entering the Shift Age” and Carola McGiffert, President of the 100,000 Strong Foundation. A special consular corps panel consisting of Consulates General to Germany, India, Norway, and

Russia, gave remarks on the importance of sister city relationships for their respective countries’ bilateral ties with the U.S. and discussed opportunities for stronger sister cities partnerships for the future.

The conference also included a number of tracks organized with local and international partners. Sister Cities International partnered with The United Nations Environment Programme and The Urban Environmental Accords for a number of shared sessions. A special event on U.S.-Mexico relations at Port San Antonio brought together San Antonio officials and Martha Smith, President of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, to discuss international trade and business development through people-to-people engagement across borders.

The conference culminated with an awards ceremony celebrating leading sister city organizations in the categories of arts and culture, youth and education, humanitarian assistance, economic development, and energy and sustainable development. Learn more about the 2014 conference in San Jose, California from July 31-August 2 by visiting Sister Cities International online at www.SisterCitiesConference.org.

The following programs were recognized at the 2013 Annual Conference for outstanding achievement in 2012:

BEST OVERALL

- Population less than 25,000: Bandera County Sister Partnership Association (TX)
- Population between 25,001 – 50,000: Sister City Association of Prescott (AZ)
- Population between 50,001 – 100,000: Lakeland Sister Cities International (FL)
- Population between 100,001 – 300,000: Tempe Sister Cities (AZ)
- Population between 300,001 – 500,000: Tulsa Global Alliance, Inc. (OK)
- Population greater than 500,001: Indianapolis Sister Cities International (IN)

INNOVATION: ARTS AND CULTURE

- Population less than 100,000: Lakeland Sister Cities International (FL)
- Population between 100,001 – 500,000: Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project (Minneapolis, MN)
- Population greater than 500,001: Chicago Sister Cities International (IL)

INNOVATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Population greater than 500,001: Phoenix Sister Cities, Inc. (AZ)

INNOVATION: ENERGY/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Population greater than 500,001: City of San Antonio (TX)

INNOVATION: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Population greater than 500,001: Fort Worth Sister Cities International (TX)

INNOVATION: YOUTH & EDUCATION

- Population less than 100,000: Suffolk Sister Cities International (VA)
- Population greater than 500,001: County of Santa Clara/Moscow Sister County Commission (CA)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- Dana K. Kelly of Lakeland Sister Cities International (FL)

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Caroline Cole of Hot Springs Sister City Program (AR)

GLOBAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

- MGM Resorts International

2013 Sister Cities International Inaugural Gala



The U.S. Marine Band and the Air Force Color Guard at the 2013 Sister Cities International Inaugural Gala.

On the evening of January 17, 2013, Sister Cities International hosted its first-ever Presidential Inaugural Gala. Sister Cities International holds the distinct honor of having the President of the United States serve as its Honorary Chairperson, and so it was fitting that this event kicked-off the 2013 Presidential Inaugural celebrations in Washington, D.C.

A VIP reception prior to the Gala set an upbeat mood for the start of a great evening. Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, European Union Ambassador to the U.S. João Vale de Almeida, and other visiting dignitaries and elected officials mingled with members of the nonprofit, diplomatic, and corporate worlds. The President's own U.S. Marine Band provided the opening performance, and the Air Force Color Guard presented the colors as the band played the United States national anthem.

Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17), in his address, praised the network's citizen diplomats, calling them "some of the most giving people I've met." He later added, "The energy in the room and spirit of the event showcased the commitment, passion, and strong principles of this network in its efforts to achieve peace and prosperity for all."

Sister Cities International would like to thank its sponsors MGM Resorts International, Amazon Web Services LLC, Mike Hyatt, Mary Ellen & Mike E. Fox Sr., Deloitte LLP, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, The Sister Cities Foundation, Mary Palko, Thelma Press, the late Sharon Receveur, and Ridgewells Catering for their generous support in making this Inaugural Gala a success.

2013 Fall Leadership Meeting

In October 2013, Sister Cities International held its Fall Leadership Meeting in Tacoma, Washington. Board members, State Coordinators, and Honorary Board members gathered to discuss important issues pertaining to the organization as well as brainstorm new initiatives in various committee meetings. Attendees were able to experience the local flavor of the city and see how Tacoma's sister cities play a role in the city's economic development goals. Tours were provided of the Port of Tacoma as well as the Chinese Reconciliation Park, a space that holds a *ting* (a traditional Chinese open pagoda) that was donated by Tacoma's sister city Fuzhou, China. Sister Cities International's Leadership was also invited to attend the 24th Annual Consular Association Reception, an annual meeting of Washington State's Consuls General.

In 2013, the Fall Leadership Meeting was held in conjunction with the Washington State Sister Cities Annual Meeting, and allowed for local members to interact with Sister Cities International's Leadership, increase their awareness of programming resources and best practices, and was an important opportunity to network with volunteers from other cities. Mary D. Kane, President and CEO of Sister Cities International gave a speech on New Directions for Sister Cities and Adam Kaplan, Membership Director, provided useful sessions on volunteer recruitment and taking advantage of Sister Cities International benefits. The Washington State Meeting also included a luncheon address by the Consul General of Japan in Seattle.

The three-day event concluded with Sister Cities International's Leadership and staff attending the Taste of Cuba Gala, a Cuban-themed fundraiser and silent auction to benefit Tacoma's sister city partnership with Cienfuegos, Cuba.

"In addition to educational, cultural and tourism exchanges, we view our sister city relationships as opportunities to promote trade and economic investment."

-Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma, WA

2013 Donors to Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their general support of Sister Cities International and citizen diplomacy in 2013.

\$500,000+

Dr. Hans and Erika Vielberth

\$50,000+

Frances L. and Louise Carvey

\$25,000+

Michael S. Hyatt

MGM Resorts International

\$10,000+

Amazon Web Services

Michael E. Fox Foundation

Thelma Press

Mary Palko

Toyota

\$5,000+

Deloitte

Consulate of Nigeria

Sharon Receveur

\$2,500+

Azores TV

Brooks Development Authority

Anita and Tom Lisk

Dogget Enterprises

Carol Robertson Lopez

U.S. Mexico Sister Cities Association

Carla Walker

\$1,000+

The Robert, Martha, & John Atherton
Foundation

County of Bexar, TX

Carolyn Bishop

Fred Blanton

William T. Boerum

Carol Burdette

Neal Burnham

Brad Cole

Chris Dufour

The Citizen Diplomat

Gilbert "Gil" Garcia

Jane Gehlhausen

Angie Gomez

Jeanne Goodvin

Ron Gossett

Robert Greninger

Norris Hermsmeyer

Nancy Huppert

Frances Lorenz

International Bank of Commerce, TX

David Miller

NTG

Stephen T. "Tim" Quigley

The Louis and Thelma Press Trust

Darrell Smith

Lawrence F. Uebner

Wells Fargo

Paula West

\$250+

Sharon Rae Langdergott Durtka

Gerald and Nancy Eidam

Bill and Judy Hinkle

Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Foundation

Gayle Stallings

Jean van Buskirk

\$100+

Inge Ackermann

Jennifer Bauer

William Fontaine Bell

Boyertown-Bogodukhov Friendship

Committee

Chackles, Carlson, and Halquist LLP

Carl Daiker

Stuart Elliott

Garcia Architects

Christine Hall

James Hromas

Laverne Johnson

Sandra McCormick

Wallace & Joyce Munden

Nicole Rautama

Shirley Rivens Smith

Louise Schoene

Carol Seidberg

Theresa Thomas

\$5+

Ronald Broome

Irene Carol Desmangles

Elizabeth & Lawrence Forte

Stephen Fulling

Neil and Eva Isbell

Dr. J. Michael Korff

Nathalie W. McCulloch

Georgiana McLeod

Frederic Morton

Joseph Palen

Rosemary Pentecost

Nathanael Rudney

Seattle Sister Cities Association

James A. Tribbett

Janis M. Torrey

2013-2014 Sister Cities International Board of Directors

Sister Cities International's Board of Directors is elected by the voting membership of the organization. Directors serve three-year terms (with the Youth and State Coordinator representatives serving two-year terms) and are elected at Sister Cities International's Annual Business Meeting each year at the Annual Conference.

Executive Committee

Chairman

Mr. Tom Lisk
Richmond, VA

Vice Chair

Mr. Bill Boerum
Sonoma, CA

Treasurer

Mr. Norris Hermsmeyer
Boulder, CO

Secretary

Ms. Carol Robertson Lopez
Santa Fe, NM

At Large

Mr. Neal Burnham
Fredericksburg, TX

At Large

Mr. Stephen T. "Tim" Quigley
San Jose, CA

At Large

Dr. Carolyn G. Bishop
Atlanta, GA

Directors

Mr. Leroy Allala
Chicago, IL

Mr. Bill Behrens
Washington, DC

Ms. Carol Burdette
Anderson, SC

**Dr. Jane Cahaly (State Coordinator
Representative)**
Anderson, SC

Mr. Gilbert "Gil" Garcia
Santa Barbara, CA

Ms. Jane Gehlhausen
Indianapolis, IN

Ms. Angie Gomez
Pasadena, CA

Mr. Ron Gossett
Sarasota, FL

Mr. Robert Greninger
Prescott, AZ

Councilmember Ash Kalra
San José, CA

Ms. Holly Lazzerini
Belvidere, IL

Mr. David J. Miller
Lancaster, NY

Ms. Carolina Rendeiro
Coral Gables, FL

Mr. Darrell Smith
Los Angeles, CA

**Mr. Johnson Tilghman
(Youth Representative)**
Eureka, CA

Mr. Lawrence Uebner
Omaha, NE

Ms. Carla Walker
Cincinnati, OH

**Dr. Joshua Walker
(Young Professional Representative)**
Washington, DC

**The Honorable Brad Cole
(Chair Emeritus, Non-Voting
Member)**
Carbondale, IL

State Coordinators

Sister Cities International's State Coordinators are a volunteer group of leaders in the sister cities network who provide expertise and assistance to members in their respective states.

Alabama

Scotty Colson
(205) 254-2317
democolson@aol.com

Arizona

Ana Cadillo
(602) 228-0927 (C)
acadillo@msn.com

California (Northern)

Brenda Brumfield Ross
(707) 642-8015
brenbrum@sbcglobal.net

California (Southern)

Kathleen Roche-Tansey
(858) 481-6856
kroche.tansey@gmail.com

California (Southern)

Pat Fallin
(805) 245-9075
patfallin@msn.com

Colorado

Christine Hall
(970) 402-0433
christinehalle@aol.com

Florida

Pat Buchanan
(801) 425-6305 (C)
buchananpr@aol.com

Georgia

Launa Kowalski
(404) 414-0225 (O)
(404) 702-3535 (C)
Launa.kowalski@comcast.net

Hawaii

Steve Yoshida
(808) 315-7777
steveyoshida@gmail.com

Illinois (Northern)

Susan Minott
(847) 358-2848 (H)
(224) 249-1670 (C)
sueminott@gmail.com

Illinois (Southern)

Josephine C. Wittenauer
(618) 281-5384
jwitt@wisperhome.com

Indiana

Henry C. Cole
(317) 573-2250 x2457
hcole@marketsharefinancial.com

Iowa

Ann Geiger
(563) 289-3267 (H)
(563) 508-3945 (C)
geiger@mchsi.com

Kansas

Barbara Dolci
(913) 669-2628 (C)
btrdolci@gmail.com

Kentucky

Kay Sargent
(859) 258-3137 (O)
kays@lexingtonky.gov

Maryland

Robert Agee
(443) 306-1036
robertagee@comcast.net

Minnesota

Dolores Puente Strand
(763) 571-1709
dpstrand@usfamily.net

Minnesota

Gerry Wenner
(651) 483-2905
kgwenner@yahoo.com

Missouri

Renee Franklin
(314) 323-0950 (C)
rdbfranklin@gmail.com

Nebraska

Larry Uebner
(402) 493-2535
BankOmaha@cox.net

New Mexico

Carol Lopez
(505) 471-9118
crobertsonlopez@comcast.net

New York

Louise Schoene
(716) 851-5727
(716) 481-7045
simonschoene@gmail.com

North Carolina

David Van Pelt
(336) 602-6213
dvanpelt.dvp@gmail.com

South Carolina

Jane Cahaly
(864) 261-8532 (O)
(864) 314-2561 (C)
janecahaly@bellsouth.net

Texas

Mae Ferguson
(817) 632-7104
mae@fwsistercities.org

Virginia

Ruth Hodges Fraser
(757) 385-8343 (O)
(757) 523-1153 (H)
(757) 642-1694 (C)
rhfraser@vbgov.com

Washington

Barbara Sanchez
(360) 671-8766
snabblady@msn.com

Wisconsin

Alexander P. Durtka, Jr.
(414) 225-6220
aldurtka@execpc.com

Wyoming

Noah Miles
(903) 216-7455
nmiles1@uwyo.edu

Honorary Board

The Honorary Board is comprised of key individuals who have shown great leadership in Sister Cities International through the years. They are long-standing volunteers from the membership, former members of the Board of Directors, or former State Coordinators who, because of their outstanding support and involvement in the organization, were voted as Honorary Board members. As a self-governing body, the Honorary Board stands ready to assist Sister Cities International members with a wealth of institutional knowledge and experience.

Mr. James Amato	Mr. Ron Gossett	Mr. Carlos Reyes
Mr. Tony Anderson	Mr. Glenn Gray	Ms. Shirley Rivens-Smith
Ms. Martha Atherton	Ms. Priscilla Harris	Ms. Kathleen Roche-Tansey
Mr. Randy Avon	Mr. Robert Heuermann	Ms. Patricia Sanders
Mr. Sherman Banks	Mr. Kevin Hill	Ms. Kay Sargent
Ms. Mimi Barker	Mr. James Hromas	Ms. Sylvia Sass
Mr. Fred Blanton	Ms. Nancy Huppert	Mr. Raymond Schultz
Mr. Carlo Capua	Mr. Michael Hyatt	Ms. Ethelda Singer
Mr. Alan Chambers	Ms. Laverne Johnson	Mr. Brian Smith
Mr. Henry Cole	Ms. Launa Kowalski	Mr. Charles Stokke
Ms. Mary Cort	Mr. Boubker Mazoz	Dr. Robert Swart
Mr. Michael Curd	Ms. Sandra McCormick	Dr. Tom Tenhoeve
Mr. Rick Donohue	Ms. Georgiana McLeod	Mr. Frank Tripicchio
Ms. Jody Edgerton	Mr. William Mitchell	Ms. Jane Tublin
Ms. Nancy Eidam	Ms. Virginia Mueller	Ms. Jean Van Buskirk
Ms. Mary Jean Eisenhower	Ms. Sue Myrick	Dr. Hans Vielberth
Mr. Bill Evans	Mr. Richard Neuheisel	Mr. Mark Walton
Ms. Pat Fallin	Mr. Len Olender	Ms. Amanda Wash
Ms. Mae Ferguson	Ms. Mary Palko	Ms. Paula West
Dr. Stelle Feuers	Ms. Thelma Press	Dr. Charles Wheeler
Ms. Ruth Fraser	Mr. Brian Propp	Ms. Linda Whitton
Ms. Ann Galloway	Mr. Avi Rabinovitch	Mr. Wylie Williams
Mr. José Luis Garcia	Mr. John Raeside	Ms. Jane Wood
Ms. Roxi Goin	Mr. Rodger Randle	

Global Envoys

Global Envoys are highly distinguished volunteer leaders of Sister Cities International. There is no higher honor in the organization. The role of a Global Envoy is to represent Sister Cities International at events around the world and to serve as a diplomat and spokesperson for the organization.

Nancy Huppert
Rochester, NY
nmhuppert@cs.com

Mary Palko
Fort Worth, TX
marypalko@earthlink.net

Thelma Press
San Diego, CA
louispress@sbcglobal.net

2014 Sister Cities International Staff

Mary D. Kane

President and CEO

Mary Kane has previously served as the Secretary of State in Maryland and as a former assistant state's attorney before joining the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she was responsible for building partnerships and strategic alliances. Mary serves on the boards of Suburban Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Mt. St. Mary's University. She is a graduate of the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law and earned her B.S. in Business and Finance at the Mount Saint Mary's University.

Membership

Adam Kaplan

Membership Director

202.347.8634

akaplan@sister-cities.org

Adam Kaplan first joined Sister Cities International in 2008 as the Program Coordinator for the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program before becoming Membership Director in 2012. He is responsible for member services, recruitment, and policies at Sister Cities International. Adam received his bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown University and his master's in International Communication from American University. He is originally from Cincinnati in the great state of Ohio.

Aveen Karim

Membership Manager

202.347.8636

akarim@sister-cities.org

Aveen Karim came to Sister Cities International after finishing her bachelor's degree in History with a focus in Middle East and South Asian studies from Wake Forest University. The Montgomery County, Maryland native oversees youth programs, including the High School Home Stay Exchange, Young Artist and Authors Showcase, and the Annual Youth Leadership Summit.

Taylor Woodruff

Membership Coordinator

202.650.5080

twoodruff@sister-cities.org

Taylor Woodruff oversees Sister Cities International's Cities Seeking Cities program and serves as the primary contact for cities interested in becoming members, and other general member requests. He is originally from Jonesboro, Arkansas and graduated from Arkansas State University with a bachelor's degree in International Business.

External Affairs

Megha Swamy

Public Relations Specialist (Director of Communications)

202.347.8637

mswamy@sister-cities.org

Megha oversees public and media relations, marketing, social media, and publications. She holds a bachelor's degree in Mass

Media and a master's degree in International Affairs from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University, and is originally from Mumbai, India.

Meghan Schmidt

Conference and Events Manager

202.347.8632

mschmidt@sister-cities.org

Meghan is responsible for the planning and execution of Sister Cities International's conferences and events, including leadership meetings and the Annual Conference. A native of the Washington, DC area, she comes to Sister Cities International with a degree in Corporate Communications from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Programs

Nuole (Lula) Chen

Sino-African Initiative Program Manager

202.650.5082

nchen@sister-cities.org

Lula received both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. She manages and oversees the Sino-African Initiative, and has expertise on China, Africa, and municipal cooperation. She hails from Urbana, Illinois.

Amena Zaman

Sino-African Initiative Program Assistant

202.347.8638

azaman@sister-cities.org

Amena works on Sister Cities International's Sino-African Initiative and on developing content for future publications. She came to Washington, D.C. from Cincinnati, Ohio to study International Affairs/Development at the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University.

Finance and Administration

Yvette Brown

Director of Finance & Administration

202.347.8251

ybrown@sister-cities.org

Yvette oversees Sister Cities International's finances as well as its human resources. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Howard University in Business Administration and Accounting before completing her CPA certification.

Maya Houston

Finance Coordinator

202.347.8252

mhouston@sister-cities.org

Maya works closely with Yvette Brown on managing Sister Cities International's financial documentation and reporting. A DC native, she graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Get Your Own Sister Cities International Gear!



Visit www.cafepress.com/SisterCitiesInternational
to get your hands on new and exciting
Sister Cities International merchandise!

Choose from a range of items customized
with our new logo.

Apparel, accessories, drinkware:
there's something for everyone, even your kids and pets!

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE?



SAN JOSE IS PROUD TO WELCOME THE 58TH
SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SISTER-CITIES.ORG/ANNUAL-CONFERENCE





SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

915 15th Street – 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
P: 202.347.8630
F: 202.393.6524
info@sister-cities.org
www.sister-cities.org

Facebook: Sister Cities International
Twitter: @SisterCitiesInt
Youtube: Sister Cities International