Explore 50 Years of Sister Cities History


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

Table of Contents

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

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 Region

Sister City Partnerships by U.S. State
U.S. Partnerships Worldwide

Sister City Relationships by Region

- Asia 36%
- Europe 33%
- North America 11%
- South/Central America and Caribbean 10%
- Africa 8%
- Oceania 2%
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.

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.

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
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.

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.

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

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 customize a brief description about their sister city program.

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
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.

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

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

Find out who is the contact for specific sister city relationships.

Members can upload a copy of the original partnership agreement.

Find out when the partnership first started.
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.

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 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?

What Did Our Programs Do?

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 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.

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

Over 100 Participating Communities
Over $500,000 in Funding To Members
Over 100 Flights to Sister Cities
Sino-African Initiative

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 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.

“\textit{In addition to educational, cultural and tourism exchanges, we view our sister city relationships as opportunities to promote trade and economic investment.}”

-Mary 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

$250+
Sharon Rae Langdergott Durtka
Gerald and Nancy Eidam
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$100+
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Nicole Rautama
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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**
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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

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Dr. Carolyn G. Bishop
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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
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.

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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. Tony Anderson
Ms. Martha Atherton
Mr. Randy Avon
Mr. Sherman Banks
Ms. Mimi Barker
Mr. Fred Blanton
Mr. Carlo Capua
Mr. Alan Chambers
Mr. Henry Cole
Ms. Mary Cort
Mr. Michael Curd
Mr. Rick Donohue
Ms. Jody Edgerton
Ms. Nancy Eidam
Ms. Mary Jean Eisenhower
Mr. Bill Evans
Ms. Pat Fallin
Ms. Mae Ferguson
Dr. Stele Feuers
Ms. Ruth Fraser
Ms. Ann Galloway
Mr. José Luis Garcia
Ms. Roxi Goin

Mr. Ron Gossett
Mr. Glenn Gray
Ms. Priscilla Harris
Mr. Robert Heuermann
Mr. Kevin Hill
Mr. James Hromas
Ms. Nancy Huppert
Mr. Michael Hyatt
Ms. Laverne Johnson
Ms. Launa Kowalski
Mr. Boubker Mazouz
Ms. Sandra McCormick
Ms. Georgia McLeod
Mr. William Mitchell
Ms. Virginia Mueller
Ms. Sue Myrick
Mr. Richard Neuheisel
Mr. Len Olander
Ms. Mary Palko
Ms. Thelma Press
Mr. Brian Propp
Mr. Avi Rabinovitch
Mr. John Raeside
Mr. Rodger Randle

Mr. Carlos Reyes
Ms. Shirley Rivens-Smith
Ms. Kathleen Roche-Tansey
Ms. Patricia Sanders
Ms. Kay Sargent
Ms. Sylvia Sass
Mr. Raymond Schultz
Ms. Ethelda Singer
Mr. Brian Smith
Mr. Charles Stokke
Dr. Robert Swart
Dr. Tom Tenhoeve
Mr. Frank Tripicchio
Ms. Jane Tublin
Ms. Jean Van Buskirk
Dr. Hans Vielberth
Mr. Mark Walton
Ms. Amanda Wash
Ms. Paula West
Dr. Charles Wheeler
Ms. Linda Whitton
Mr. Wylie Williams
Ms. Jane Wood

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.

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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
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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.

Avene Karim
Membership Manager
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Avene 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
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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)
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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
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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
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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 Zamman
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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
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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
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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.
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