



PROGRAM GUIDE

Souvenir Program Book



2018 ANNUAL
**CITIES LEADING
THE WAY**

AUGUST 2-4 | AURORA, CO

Sister Cities International

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 **Let's
Go
Places**

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WIFI LOGIN

Access Point: @Hyatt_Conference

Code: SCI2018

Connect with Sister Cities International and be part of the conversation at the 2018 Annual Conference! Follow us on our social media platform for updates throughout.

#SClannual

 @SisterCitiesInternational

 @SisterCitiesInt

 @SisterCitiesInt



About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit which serves as the national membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States.

Eisenhower envisioned an organization that would be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures would celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

The Sister Cities International network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers in nearly 500 member communities with over 2,000 partnerships in more than 140 countries.

WELCOME

Dear Fellow Citizen Diplomats,

Welcome to our annual national leadership convocation!

This year, we are delighted to be partnering with and being hosted by Aurora—the third largest city in the state of Colorado with a diverse population of more than 366,000 people. Once a budding frontier town of farmers and ranchers just east of the state’s capital, Aurora has grown from agricultural outpost, to military bastion, to high technology campus full of major industries including aerospace and defense; renewable energy; bioscience and health care; and transportation and logistics. Just minutes away from Denver International Airport, Aurora is now established as a driving force in the West.

As a Sister City member, Aurora is a Welcoming City model with five sister cities: Jaco, Costa Rica; Antiguo Cuscatlán, El Salvador; Adama, Ethiopia; Zielona Góra, Poland; and Seongnam City, South Korea.

Our annual national leadership convocation will include:

- The 2018 SCI Annual Conference, themed this year as “Cities Leading the Way!” We welcome the many elected officials, national statesmen, professional diplomats, civic leaders, and citizen diplomat representatives from our 500 member communities throughout the United States and our 2100 partner communities worldwide.
- The 2018 Youth Leadership Summit, produced in partnership with the US Department of State Center for Diplomacy and hosted by the University of Denver. We anticipate this unique educational and networking opportunity to be “life changing” for our young leaders of tomorrow in attendance.
- The annual SCI Summer Leadership Board of Directors Meeting along with all standing and ad hoc committees and Task Forces updates;

We would like to extend our genuine appreciation to the City of Aurora; the 2018 SCI Annual Conference Host Committee led by Karlyn Shorb; Aurora Sister Cities International; and all of the city staff and citizen leaders for their outstanding partnership. Finally, we acknowledge the strong support of our Board of Directors, Global Envoys and Global Awareness Team, State Representatives, Honorary Board Alumni, SCI Professional Staff, and all of the exceptional conference volunteers for their dedication and service.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Quigley".

Stephen T. “Tim” Quigley, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger-Mark DeSouza".

Roger-Mark DeSouza
President and CEO

WELCOME FROM MAYOR BOB LEGARE



Greetings Sister Cities International Annual Conference Attendees,

Welcome to Aurora, Colorado, Gateway to the Rocky Mountains! On behalf of our beautiful and thriving city, I invite you to experience all that this city has to offer including award-winning trails and golf courses; an amazing and internationally diverse food scene; the best mountain views in Colorado; and a public transportation system that will easily get you anywhere in the Metropolitan area.

We, in Aurora, are proud of our evolution. Once a small agricultural community just east of Colorado's capital, we have grown into a large city that is an important part of the growing international airport region (DEN), and houses the largest medical and innovation campus in the entire state of Colorado. Home to the Buckley Air Force Base, we are also a proud military community. Indeed, our decades-long partnership with that military installation has contributed enormously to our economic growth and prosperity.

I believe you will understand why Aurora is so well positioned to host this international conference as our community is truly a microcosm of globalization. We are, in fact, the most internationally-diverse community in Colorado.

As we have grown, so has our city's commitment to developing international partnerships that will encourage further economic growth, as well as future opportunities to learn from far-away communities. Our local sister cities organization plays a significant role in fostering such relationships. I had the great pleasure of visiting our Sister City of Seongnam, Republic of South Korea last spring and I was greatly impacted by their advances in the areas of technology, SMART cities initiatives and clean energy: I saw that our community might learn from such technological and infrastructure advances, while they, our partners, could also learn from us about efficient business practices, medical advancements and immigrant integration. While technological advances have brought us Skype, Zoom and other web platforms that improve communication, nothing can ever replace the value of meeting and communicating and learning face-to-face.

Thank you for choosing Aurora as the location for your conference.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bob LeGare".

Bob LeGare, Mayor
City of Aurora, Colorado

WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



Dear 2018 SCI Annual Conference Delegates,

As the Annual Conference Program Co-Chairs, we extend warm greetings to you!

The conference committee developed the 2018 content based on SCI members, leadership, past attendee and City surveys. The conference theme of Cities Leading the Way reflects what our members want from their conference: a packed 3 days of useful and duplicable exchange models, paths to relevant city dialogues, tools for growing connections to new and different exchanges, NextGens, and more international briefings with general international and diplomatic networking.

The Aurora conference delivers! As co-chairs, we worked closely with SCI's amazing local and state leaders along with SCI's Professional Staff and the Aurora and Colorado team!

Our "Cities Leading the Way" theme reflects the uniqueness of our organization with its individual solutions and approaches to the vast changes in cities and communities. The goal of the 2018 SCI Annual Conference is two-fold. First, our goal is to brief our members of cities' evolving responsibilities by international and domestic experts on the environment, migration, immigration, Dreamers, violence, tariffs, gender/race inequalities, jobs, entrepreneurs, and nuclear threats. Second, our goal is to provide valuable best practices from powerful individuals and organizations to enable local programs to participate or initiate useful initiatives and partnerships for their city.

In a salute to our heritage as the oldest and largest network of Citizen Diplomats in the world, we are excited to continue the Parade of Flags tradition at our Opening Ceremony. Thank you to all the communities who donated their flag to be part of this colorful pageantry.

We are also looking forward to the continuation of our incredibly successful Youth Leadership Summit. Over three days, the summit will provide students with effective problem solving strategies, leadership skills, and insights into public policy. We are thrilled that the students will also join in special events at our conference.

The grand finale is our Saturday Annual Awards Dinner and Gala where we will thank our award-winning cities with a special musical surprise.

We are delighted to have you join us for this special occasion, and hope you take home strategies to improve and strengthen your programs.



Mary Palko
Mary Palko
SCI Global Envoy



Kathleen Roche Tansey
Kathleen Roche Tansey
SCI State Representative

HOST COMMITTEE WELCOME LETTER

Greetings Conference Attendees and Fellow Citizen Diplomats,

On behalf of the entire conference Host Committee, welcome ... bienvenidos ... inikwani dehina met'ahi ... Anaadhufu, Baga nagaan dhufte ... witamy ... hwan-yeong ... kyaoso ... to our community. We are honored and delighted to have you. While here, we hope you will choose to experience all that Aurora has to offer—including miles of award-winning parks and nature trails; hundreds of authentic ethnic and eclectic independent eateries; fun family attractions; our light rail system; and incredible vistas of Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

We also hope that you will choose to extend your stay to partake in Colorado's majestic mountains—and mountain communities—and also stick around to see Denver's incredible attractions. We are a community that borders Colorado's capital and our residents have the privilege of being able to partake in Denver's incredible historic and cultural sites, such as the world-renowned Denver Art Museum, the Denver Zoo, the new Clyfford Still Museum. and Union Station (to name just a few).

Aurora is Colorado's third largest city and growing. Did you know that we house the only medical school in the state? Those of you joining us for the *Aurora Tour* or *Global Leaders Circle VIP Reception* will have the great treat of visiting the high-tech medical and bioscience campus (just across the street from the conference site) that houses the University of Colorado's schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, bioengineering, nursing and public health; three nationally-renowned hospitals; and the Fitzsimons Innovation Campus—a hub for biomedical researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs. You'll also enjoy learning about the history of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 5-month stay on the campus while he recovered from a heart attack.

Many of our community members have deep international roots, which makes us the perfect host location for this transnational conference. Some of us come from military families, the Buckley Air Force Base (or nearby Peterson, Fort Carson or Schriever Army Bases) having been the last stop for our parents before retirement or discharge from service. Those like me who grew up in military families traveled the globe long before adulthood. Others in our community migrated long distances fleeing unrest or natural disasters or simply to improve their quality of life. Others have come as researchers and doctors to work on the Anschutz Campus.

Aurora is *truly* a melting pot of cultures and our diversity rivals that of big cities like New York or Los Angeles. We are Colorado's *most international* city and as a Welcoming City you will find that we draw from our diversity for both economic *and* social success.

Again, welcome ... and *disfruta de nuestra comunidad!*

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karlyn K. Shorb'.

(On Behalf of the Entire Host Committee)

Karlyn K. Shorb, Esq.

Chief Executive Officer

Aurora Sister Cities International



Welcome To Aurora, Colorado | Gateway To The Rockies

On behalf of Visit Aurora, it is truly my pleasure to welcome Sister Cities International 2018 Annual Conference to our great city. We are delighted to have you here, and it is our goal to ensure every visitor has an excellent experience.

As a destination on the rise, Aurora offers an incredible blend of unique finds and adventurous experiences, bound to please every visitor. We are proud to offer over 200 ethnic restaurants, a booming arts districts, and easy access to our city's backdrop – the Rocky Mountains. You can explore the beauty of one of the dozen parks, 50 miles of trails, five public golf courses, or two sparkling reservoirs.

I must also mention our city's most valuable asset – our people. They are the city's most important ambassadors and will be sure to provide you with warm and genuine hospitality. I can assure you; this will be one of the many reasons you will want to return. We offer a big-city feel, but a small-town heart.

For more information, please visit www.VisitAurora.com

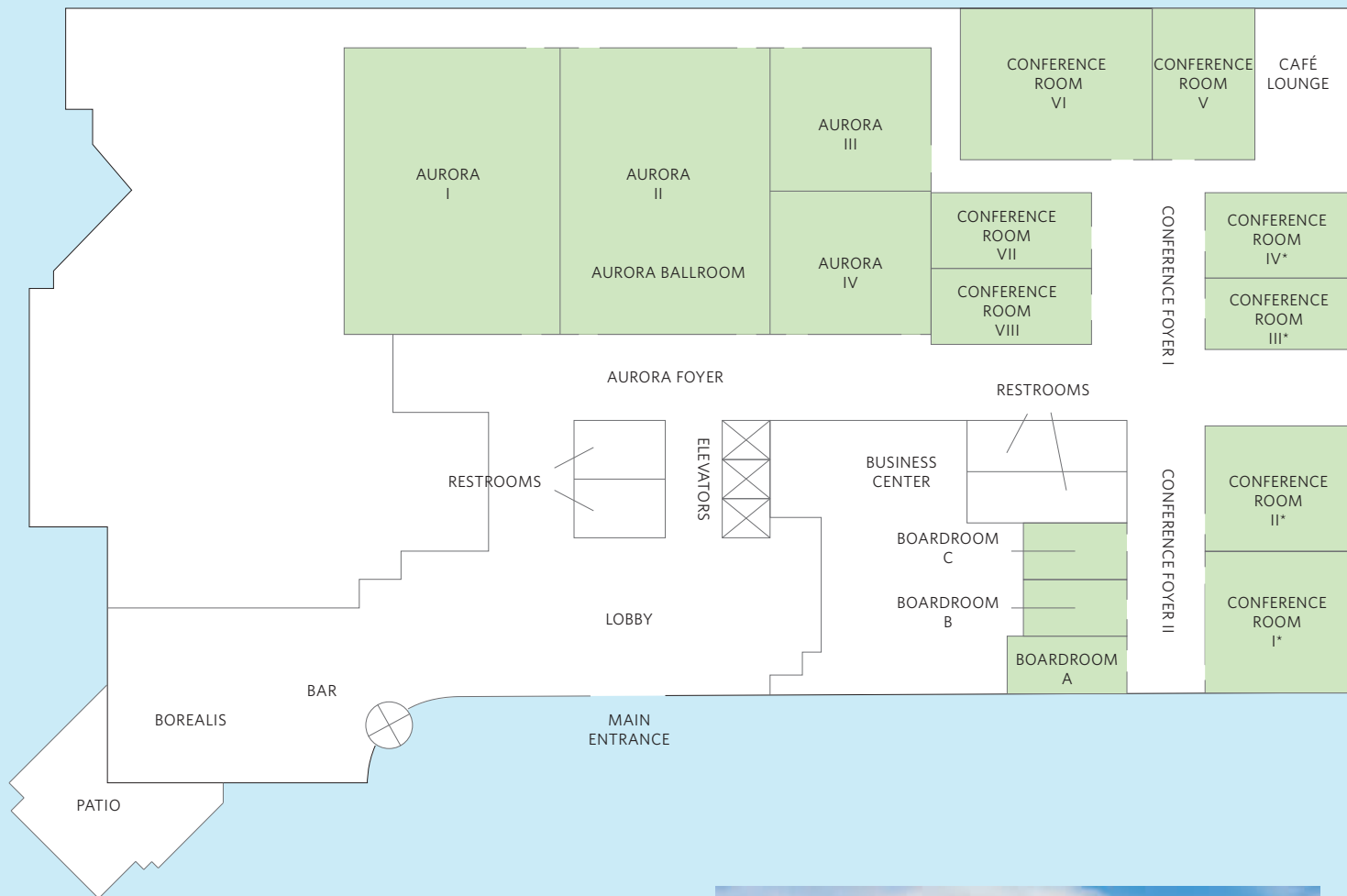
Sincerely,

Bruce Dalton
President | CEO
Visit Aurora



HYATT REGENCY AURORA – DENVER CONFERENCE CENTER

13200 East 14th Place
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hyattregencyaurora.com



REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

WIFI LOGIN

Access Point: @Hyatt_Conference
Code: SCI2018

Registration and Check-in Conference Foyer

Wednesday, August 1	10:30 am – 6:00 pm
Thursday, August 2	7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday, August 3	7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday, August 4	7:30 am – 3:00 pm

The registration area, located in the Conference Foyer, should be your first stop when you arrive at the conference. Tote bags and program guides are available for pickup at the informational desk. Our wonderful volunteers and staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Every person participating in the conference must wear a name badge. This includes all delegates, their families, speakers, guests, and news media representatives.

Sister Cities International staff and honorary board members will be available at the informational desk to answer your questions about membership, programs, cities seeking cities, and resources. Pre-certified voting delegates may obtain their voting credentials here.

If you are interested in taking any tours while you are in Aurora, please visit us at the registration desk to inquire about any available tour opportunities.

Voting Credential Pick-Up

Only individuals pre-certified by their member communities may vote at the Annual Business Meeting. Individuals who have not been pre-certified WILL NOT be permitted to vote on-site.

Pre-certified voting members may pick-up their voting credentials (a ribbon to add to their registration badge indicating number of votes) at the Membership & Elections Desk through Friday, August 3 at 3:30 pm by presenting a photo ID and signing a verification of pick-up receipt.

You must wear your name badge & voter ribbon, and present photo identification the day of the Annual Meeting in order to cast your votes. Your credentials will be checked as you enter the Annual Business Meeting.

Global Marketplace

Friday, August 3

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference Foyer

Saturday, August 4

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference Foyer

Conference delegates can gather in the Conference Foyer to visit the tables of conference sponsors, partners, other national exchange organizations, and global exhibitors and vendors, as well as winning art and writing submissions from the 2018 Young Artists & Authors Showcase.

Vendors and Exhibitors

Threads Worldwide	NFP Property & Casualty
The Sparrow Studio	Services, Inc.
Rosma Designs	Kiwanis
We Made This	Intellicorp
H.I.S. International Tours	Seven Corners
Up with People	Stevens Initiative
Circle of Hands Uganda, Ltd	Kaiser Permanente
Artisans Thrive – by Women's	Colorado Technical University
Partnership Market	Project C.U.R.E.
Rbazaar	Toyota Motor North America
	The Knotty Tie

What to Wear

Business casual should be worn for all daytime sessions and meals. For those participating in tours, weather-appropriate clothes are acceptable. Business and cocktail attire is appropriate for the Annual Awards Dinner. Traditional international attire is appropriate for all events.

Connect with Sister Cities International and be part of the conversation at the 2018 Annual Conference! Follow us on our social media platform for updates throughout.

#SClannual

 @SisterCitiesInternational

 @SisterCitiesInt

 @SisterCitiesInt

Media

Expect to see members of the media throughout the conference. Sister Cities International requires that all members of the press be credentialed and wearing their Press Passes at all times.

Conference Security

The Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center and Sister Cities International are not responsible for loss or damaged articles unless they have been secured properly by the respective facility. Please also note that Aurora sits at an elevation of 5,471 feet (1,668 m). We urge you to stay hydrated to avoid altitude sickness.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

What to Do in an Emergency

For medical or other emergencies at any point during the conference, please locate a Sister Cities International staff member immediately. In the event of a medical emergency, please also dial 9-1-1. In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation of the building, alarms and directions will sound around the building. Please follow the directions of the announcements and hotel staff.

Conference Evaluation and Feedback

Your feedback is extremely important to the success of each Sister Cities International event. Following the conference, all attendees will be invited to complete an online survey about your conference experience.

Getting Around

All conference keynotes and breakout sessions will take place at The Hyatt Regency Aurora Denver Conference Center. Transportation will be provided for tours, optional events, and all events taking place outside of the Hyatt throughout the conference.

Thursday

Global Leaders Circle and VIP Reception

(Invite-Only)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Anschutz Medical Campus

13001 E. 17th Place, Building 500

Transportation will be provided from the Hyatt to Anschutz starting at 5:00 pm. Last pickup from Anschutz to the Hyatt is at 8:00 pm. Please be ready for pickup in the Hyatt lobby.

Friday

Opening Flag Ceremony

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Aurora City Hall, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Outside on the pavilion

Transportation will be provided from the Hyatt to City Hall at 8:30 am. Buses will pick attendees up from City Hall to return to the Hyatt at 10:30 pm. Please be ready for pickup in the Hyatt lobby.

City Welcome Reception

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas Street, The Hangar Room

Transportation will be provided on a loop from the Hyatt to Stanley Marketplace starting at 4:45 pm. The last pickup from Stanley Marketplace to the Hyatt is at 8:30 pm. Please be ready for pickup in the Hyatt lobby.

Parking

Please note that the hotel does not offer free parking for guests or visitors.

Overnight parking rates:

Self-parking – \$12/day

Valet – \$19/day

Daily self-parking rates:

0-6 hours – \$6

6+ hours – \$12

Daily valet parking rates:

0-4 hours – \$8

4-8 hours – \$13

8+ hours – \$19

Hotel Shuttle

The Hyatt Regency offers a complimentary shuttle within a 3-mile radius upon request. The shuttle departs every 60-minutes on the half-hour, starting at 6:30 am in the morning and ending with last departure at 10:30 pm from in front of the hotel.

To enjoy this service, please make arrangements with the bellman or guest services agent to confirm your needs.

RTD-DENVER

RTD-DENVER, Denver's bus and rail service, is the easiest way to get around the metro area. Conference attendees can use the R line to make their way around Aurora or take the H line to downtown Denver. Several bus lines are also available. The closest RTD Light Rail stop is Peoria Station. The Hyatt Regency offers shuttle service by request to and from the Peoria Station track. Please call the hotel directly to make a reservation at +1 303-365-1234.

For more information on RTD-DENVER and to plan your trip, please visit www.rtd-denver.com.

Taxis and Chauffer Services

Aurora and Denver have several taxicab, chauffer, and shuttle services available for your transportation needs. The hotel guest services agent will be glad to help you secure a cab for your trip to the airport or downtown.

Metro Taxi

+1 303-333-3333 | www.riderightdenver.com

Hermes Worldwide

+1 303-577-7600 | www.hermesworldwide.com

ABC Shuttle

+1 303-696-9559 | www.abcsuttle.com



AURORA MUNICIPAL BUILDING



DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



STANLEY MARKETPLACE



FITZSIMONS BUILDING 500



HYATT REGENCY HOTEL



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN AURORA, COLORADO



THURSDAY SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Please see page 27 for Sister Cities International Leadership Meetings on this Day

Registration

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Chat and Chew with Board Candidates and Conference Welcome

7:00 am – 8:00 am | *Conference Break Center*

Morning Workshops: NextGen Track

Conference Room 1

8:00 am – 8:30 am

**Welcome and Workshop Plenary
by Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker**

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Social Entrepreneurs: A Real Difference

9:45 am – 10:45 am

**The Modern Day Gold Rush – Cannabis
as an Opportunity for NextGens and
Entrepreneurs**

10:45 am – 11:45 am

The Success Factor: Women Entrepreneurs

Morning Workshops: Silk Road Track

Conference Room 2

8:00 am – 8:45 am

**Welcome and Workshop Plenary by
Former Ambassador John O’Keefe**

8:45 am – 9:45 am

**Pioneering Sister Cities Programs along
the Silk Road**

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Chinese Belt and Road Initiative

11:00 am – 11:45 am

**The Power of Hydropolitics for Peace and
Water to Flow**

Keynote Luncheon – Derran Moss, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, United Nations

11:45 am – 1:00 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 3 & 4*

Afternoon Workshops: NextGen Track

Conference Room 1

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Ping Pong to Kung Fu:
The Power of Sports Diplomacy**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Developing the Talent of
the Next Generation**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Walls, Bridges, and Rising Tides: Youth
Voices and the American Dream**

Afternoon Workshops: Silk Road Track

Conference Room 2

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Sister City Opportunities for
Communities on the Silk Road**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**The Silk Road and Central Asia:
Developments in Uzbekistan**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Program Resources Found in
the Open World Leadership Center**

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm **Young Professionals Happy Hour and Networking**

Borealis Restaurant, Hyatt Regency

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Global Leaders Circle and VIP Reception** (By Invitation)

Anschutz Medical Campus, 13001 E 17th Place, Building 500

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Thursday, August 2

**All educational sessions will take place at The Hyatt Regency unless otherwise noted*

Morning Track Sessions

8:00 am – 11:30 am

NextGen and Entrepreneurship Track

Five featured panels will dive deep into youth response to the environmental challenges in the world, the emerging cannabis industry, how young women can impact the world through Sister Cities connections, sports diplomacy, and youth dreamers. Selected young entrepreneur speakers will also share their success stories and best business practices.

NextGen and Entrepreneurship Track Welcome and Workshop Plenary

8:00 am – 8:30 am | **Conference Room 1**

Dr. Takeda-Tinker will be introduced by NextGen chairs Carlo Capua and Jason Tatman.

Seismic Shift: The Factors Impacting Your Country's Workforce (and your City)

Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker, *President & CEO, Colorado State University - Global Campus*

Social Entrepreneurs: A Real Difference

8:30 am – 9:30 am | **Conference Room 1**

Can you really pay it forward and profit at the same time? Hear from NextGens and entrepreneurs who use the Sister Cities International network to create business opportunities and make a sustainable, social impact in their communities.

Moderator:

Carlo Capua, *Owner, Z's Café (Fort Worth, TX)*

Panelists:

Creighton Moxey, *COO, Immerse Bahamas*

Jeremy Priest, *Leader, Designer & maker; Knotty Tie Company*

Alex Wise, *CEO, Community Enterprise Development Services*

Silk Road Track

This track will explore the Silk Road's history and share best practices of Sister City members with Silk Road partners. Explore new opportunities for Sister City programs with entities like the National Guard, universities, and a myriad of cultural and commercial public-private partnerships. Special guest speakers, academic experts, and members of the Diplomatic Corps will dive into topics like the Aral Sea crisis and the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.

Silk Road Track Welcome and Workshop Plenary

8:00 am – 8:45 am | **Conference Room 2**

Ambassador O'Keefe will be introduced by Silk Road chairs Kathleen Roche-Tansey and Carol Robertson Lopez.

John O'Keefe, *Former Ambassador of the United States to Kyrgyzstan; Counsel to the Board of Trustees, Open World Leadership Center*

Pioneering Sister Cities Programs along the Silk Road

8:45 am – 9:45 am | **Conference Room 2**

How can Sister City programs tap into the growing impact of the Silk Road? Learn from representatives of current U.S. and Silk Road Region cities regarding best practices and strategies to expand and strengthen your program.

Moderator:

Carol Robertson-Lopez, *Board Member, Uzbekistan Country Representative, Sister Cities International, Santa Fe and Bukhara*

Panelists:

Richard Buckler, *Treasurer, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation, Lanzhou, China and Albuquerque*

Gavhar Osimi, *Board of Directors, Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities, Tajikistan and Boulder, Colorado*

James F. Wagenlander, *Honorary Consul General of Mongolia; Chair, Ulaanbaatar-Denver Sister Cities*

Oguljan Young, *President, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and Albuquerque*

The Modern Day Gold Rush – Cannabis as an Opportunity for NextGens and Entrepreneurs

9:45 am – 10:45 am | Conference Room 1

With worldwide spending on legal cannabis expected to hit \$57 million by 2027, the new legalized cannabis market is exploding with opportunities for organizations, individuals, and cities to collaborate on entrepreneurial endeavors. Hear from Colorado entrepreneurs explain this exploding industry.

Moderator:

Peter Marcus, *Communications Director, Terrapin Care Station*

Panelists:

Kelby Cross, *Chief Technology Officer, WonderLeaf*

Andrew Dunn, *Entrepreneur and Consultant*

Chris Woods, *CEO, Terrapin Care Station*

The Success Factor: Women Entrepreneurs

10:45 am – 11:45 am | Conference Room 1

From breaking glass ceilings to the #MeToo movement, women are taking more responsibility in all levels of their communities. NextGen women are operating at an even higher octanes to make a difference. Hear ways that local Sister City programs can bring these unique women into the mission of Sister Cities.

Moderator:

Clare Petrich, *Commissioner, Port of Tacoma; Board of Directors, Sister Cities International*

Panelists:

Maritza T. Adonis, J.D., *CEO, MTA Visions; Founder, Society of Global Impact Entrepreneurs*

Courtney D. Bennett, *CEO, International Partnership for Economic and Sustainable Development*

Kelley Hancock, *CEO, KEE Concrete & Construction, Inc.*

Chinese Belt and Road Initiative

9:45 am – 10:45 am | Conference Room 2

What is the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, and what is its regional impact on international relations? Attendees will learn the basics of this Chinese development strategy which focuses on connectivity and cooperation with Eurasian countries.

Speaker:

Xie Yuan, *Vice President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)*

The Power of Hydropolitics for Peace and Water to Flow

10:45 am – 11:45 am | Conference Room 2

Water management is, by definition, conflict management: Water is required for just about all human activity as well as for the health of the ecosystems on which our survival depends, yet it ignores the political, sectoral, economic boundaries we craft to manage scarce resources. This presentation will discuss conflict and cooperation over shared water resources internationally and in Central Asia. Attention will be paid to the inter-relationship between upstream water management and the shrinking Aral Sea; the connection between regional hydropolitics and regional geopolitics; and the role that organizations can play in helping to promote hydro cooperation.

Speaker:

Dr. Aaron T. Wolf, *Professor; College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences; Oregon State University*

Keynote Luncheon - Global Communities and Cultural Exchange

11:45 am – 1:00 pm | Aurora Ballrooms 3 & 4



Keynote Speaker: Derran Moss,
*Humanitarian Affairs Officer,
United Nations*

Derran Moss currently works in humanitarian affairs with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. His work focuses in particular on the Middle East. In 2002, Derran was awarded an inaugural Rotary World Peace Fellowship to study in the USA at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

From 2008-2011, Derran was the Chief of Staff for two successive Attorneys-General before moving to East Timor to work with the United Nations as a Legal Advisor. He then worked as Director of the South Asia International Legal Assistance Branch at the Attorney-General's Department.

Derran spent 2013 and the start of 2014 working in Afghanistan as a Political Advisor in the north of the country, before moving to New York to work on Afghan issues with the Department of Political Affairs with the UN.

Awards Ceremony

LueRachelle Brim-Atkins, Seattle-Limbe Sister City Association, Volunteer of the Year Award

Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities, Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance Award

Afternoon Track Sessions

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Ping Pong to Kung Fu: The Power of Sports Diplomacy

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Conference Room 1

Could the Olympics have had an impact on the improved diplomatic climate between the U.S. and North Korea? This panel will examine specific examples of how cities (and Sister Cities) are harnessing the power of sports and NextGen members to ratchet up local programs that are natural conduits for diplomacy.

Moderator:

Jason Tatman, *Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Musical Bridges Around the World*

Panelists:

Suhail Arastu, *Part-Time Yoga Instructor, Division I Collegiate Gymnast*

Laura Dixon, *Director of Government Affairs, San Antonio Spurs Sports and Entertainment*

Sifu Kisu, *West Gate Kung Fu, Martial Arts Consultant for "Avatar: the Last Airbender" animated series*

Developing the Talent of the Next Generation

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Conference Room 1

While NextGen members have prompted higher education and businesses to rethink how they attract, develop, retain this newest wave of students and workers, some fundamental needs remain the same. Infrastructure, transportation, and hospitality persist as critical business sectors for cities. Learn how business leaders from each of these sectors are addressing their unique needs in partnership with a local community college.

Moderator:

Betsy Oudenhoven, *President, Community College of Aurora*

Panelists:

Maria Clemente, *Vice President, Finance & HR, Great Hall Partners, Denver International Airport*

Mike Quirk, *Vice President Operations (retired), Wagner Equipment Co*

Michael Smith, *Director, Colorado Homebuilding Academy*

Walls, Bridges, and Rising Tides: Youth Voices and the American Dream

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Conference Room 1

Sister Cities, with its legacy of reaching across borders, now is connecting with the global youth response to new barriers to peace such as walls, deportations, and ecological threats. Hear how local programs can have a positive impact and facilitate mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

Moderator:

Teri Simmons, *Sister Cities International, Board Member*

Panelists:

Felix Chevalier, *Founder Partner, The Chevalier Law Firm, PLLC*

Crystal Murillo, *Council Member, City of Aurora, Colorado*

Jose Manuel Castillo Perez-Gomez, *Consul General, El Salvador*

Sister City Opportunities for Communities on the Silk Road

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | **Conference Room 2**

This panel will highlight projects on the Silk Road that engage in diverse ways, from our national guard, to folk art, to entrepreneurship, and educational partnerships.

Panelists:

Colonel James Brandon Haynie, Mississippi National Guard, Partnership with Uzbekistan

Dr. Cynthia Elliott, Fort Hays State University, Educational Partnerships

Dr. Jeff Snell, CEO and President, International Folk Art Alliance, Folk Art and Social Entrepreneurism Connecting People

The Silk Road and Central Asia: Developments in Uzbekistan

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | **Conference Room 2**

Uzbekistan's culture and development has been shaped by its unique position on the Silk Road. Uzbekistan's present development plans are forging new relationships as Central Asia opens to the world with renewed emphasis on tourism and cultural exchanges. The Ambassador will highlight the significance of the Silk Road in the rich history of Central Asia.

Speaker:

His Excellency Javlon Vakhobov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States

Program Resources Found in the Open World Leadership Center

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm | **Conference Room 2**

The Open World Leadership Center is one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs for countries of the post-Soviet era. It conducts exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between the up-and-coming leaders of Open World countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions. Panelists will discuss their experiences with the Open World program, its value, and its lasting impact on international diplomacy.

Moderator:

Steve Kalishman, President, Sister City Program of Gainesville; Board Member, Sister Cities International

Panelists:

Gil Garcia, Founder, Garcia Architect; Past President, SoCal Sister Cities; Board Member, Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

John O' Keefe, Former Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan; Counsel to Open World's Board of Trustees, Open World Leadership Center

Doug Rider, Elected Director, San Diego-Vladivostok Sister City Society

Young Professionals Happy Hour and Networking

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm | **Borealis Restaurant**

Wrap up our special NextGen and Entrepreneurship track with a networking happy hour for young professionals (ages 21 - 35).

Global Leaders Circle and VIP Reception

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | **Anschutz Medical Campus, 13001 E. 17th Place, Building 500**

This event is invite only. Attendees will enjoy drinks and visit the Eisenhower Suite, where President Eisenhower spent time recovering from a heart attack in 1955.

Shuttle service will depart from the Hyatt Regency at 5:00 pm. Please meet in the Hyatt Lobby for shuttle service. Final shuttles will depart from Anschutz Medical Campus at 8:00 pm.

Awards Ceremony

Indianapolis Hyderabad Sister City Committee, Innovation: Business & Trade Award

FRIDAY SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Nature Meditation and Mindfulness

6:45 am - 7:30 am | *West Terrace*

Registration

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Chat and Chew with Board Candidates

7:00 am – 8:00 am | *Aurora Foyer*

First Time Attendees Orientation and Cities Seeking Cities Networking

7:00 am – 8:00 am | *Conference Room 6*

Opening Flag Ceremony

9:00 am – 10:15 am | *Aurora City Hall 15151 E. Alameda Parkway*

**Keynote Luncheon – John Thon Majok, Senior Program Analyst,
Global Sustainability and Resilience Program, The Wilson Center**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2*

Workshop 1 – Mountain Cities: Successful City and Sister City Collaboration Models

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 3*

Workshop 2 – Arts and Musical Diplomacy

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 4*

Smarter Cities Track

Workshop 3 – Smarter, More Resilient Cities | *Conference Room 2*

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Workshop 4 – Smarter Cities: India Leading the Way | *Aurora Ballroom 3*

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Workshop 5 – The Human Face of Cities Leading the Way

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 4*

Candidates Forum

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm | *Conference Room 1*

Annual Business Meeting & Election

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2*

City Welcome Reception

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | *Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas Street, The Hangar Room*

Please see page 27 for Sister Cities International Leadership Meetings on this day.

Friday, August 3

**All educational sessions will take place at The Hyatt Regency unless otherwise noted*

Nature Meditation and Mindfulness

6:45 am – 7:30 am | West Terrace

Relax and elevate your practice! Ajay Rastogi of the Vrikshalaya Himalaya Centre will be leading yoga meditation classes for interested attendees. Please bring your own mat.

First Time Attendees Orientation and Cities Seeking Cities Networking

7:00 am – 8:00 am | Conference Room 6

Are you a new member or soon-to-be member that needs a crash course on Sister Cities International's member benefits or how to navigate the website? If so, we welcome you to attend this orientation session to get acquainted with the Sister Cities International membership team and all the ways Sister Cities International can provide you with support.

Speakers:

Adam Kaplan, Vice President, Sister Cities International

Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags

9:00 am – 10:15 am | Aurora City Hall, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Outside pavilion

In a salute to our heritage as the oldest and largest national movement of Citizen Diplomats in the world, Sister Cities International continues the Parade of Flags and officially welcomes you to our 2018 Annual Conference.

Transportation will be provided from the Hyatt Regency starting at 8:30 am. Buses will pick up attendees from City Hall at 10:30 am.

Speakers:

Roger-Mark De Souza, President & CEO, Sister Cities International

Mayor Bob Le Gare, Aurora, Colorado

Lt. Governor Donna Lynne, State of Colorado

Kevin Voelkel, Senior Vice President, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, Inc.

Julián Castro, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Former Mayor, San Antonio

Stephen "Tim" Quigley, Chairman, Board of Directors, Sister Cities International

The Honorable Mike Coffman, U.S. Representative, Colorado's 6th Congressional District

National Anthem: **Tyra Lallo**, City of Aurora
Sister Cities, We Are One: **Up With People**



Julián Castro, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Former Mayor, San Antonio

Introduction by Kevin Voelkel, Senior Vice President, Toyota Manufacturing, Texas, Inc.

Julián Castro was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He was first elected to public office in 2001, when, at the age of 26, he won election to the San Antonio City Council. In 2009, Castro became Mayor of San Antonio, making him the youngest mayor of a top-50 American city. Castro brought a strong focus to improving educational achievement and making San Antonio a leader in the 21st century global economy.

During his tenure, Castro led a voter-approved effort to significantly expand high-quality, full day Pre-K. Castro also brought a sense of urgency to revitalizing the city's urban core, launching a "Decade of Downtown" initiative that has resulted in thousands of new housing units in the center city.

In 2014, President Barack Obama named Castro the 16th Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). At HUD, Secretary Castro led progress that earned the Department recognition as one of the most improved federal agencies.

Secretary Castro's policy achievements include instructing the Federal Housing Administration to lower mortgage insurance premiums, making homeownership more affordable for responsible families; releasing the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule to fulfill the full promise of the Fair Housing Act, helping families access strong neighborhoods with housing choice vouchers and empowering local leaders with new tools to invest in their communities; and in 2015, launching ConnectHome, a partnership among Internet service providers, housing authorities and nonprofits to accelerate internet adoption to public and assisted housing residents.

Today, Castro is a Distinguished Fellow with the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas - Austin and a Fellow of the Dávila Chair in International Trade Policy. He serves on the board of directors of both the LBJ Foundation and Common Sense Media. He recently founded Opportunity First, a political organization supporting young progressive candidates for elected office across the United States. Castro's memoir is due out at the end of 2018.

Keynote Luncheon – Title

11:30 am – 12:45 pm | **Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2**



Keynote Speaker: John Thon Majok, *Senior Program Analyst, Global Sustainability and Resilience Program, The Wilson Center*

John Thon Majok works with the Woodrow Wilson Center's Global Sustainability and Resilience Program. He frequently speaks and writes about refugee issues and other international development topics.

Born and raised in South Sudan, John Thon lived in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya for 13 years before coming to the United States in 2001 through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.

John Thon holds an MPA in public administration from George Mason University, with a focus on public management and international development. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arizona where received an honors BS in public administration, majoring in public management and policy, and health and human services administration. He wrote his honors thesis on globalization and human rights. He speaks English and Dinka, with basic knowledge of Arabic and Swahili.

Awards Ceremony

Hendersonville Sister Cities, Innovation: Youth & Education Award

Houston Guayaquil Sister City Association, Innovation: Youth & Education Award

Smarter Cities Track

Cities are leading the way in engaging the public to improve services, sustainability, and human welfare. These public-private partnerships, along with international exchanges, experiential education, social entrepreneurship, and impact investing are key connection points for local Sister Cities programs to help create smarter and kinder cities. The Smarter City workshops will provide valuable tools for local programs.

Mountain Cities: Successful City and Sister City Collaboration Models

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | **Aurora Ballroom 3**

Mountain regions provide the basis for human livelihood and ecosystem services—and they are endangered. Learn how cities working with Sister Cities in mountain communities leverage their unique global partnerships to accomplish mutual ecological and economically sustainable goals. These models are duplicable in river, valley, or port cities.

Moderator:

Dr. John C. Hausdoerffer, *Founding Dean, School of Environment & Sustainability, Western State Colorado University*

Speakers:

Karinjo DeVore, *Founding Board Member and President, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)*

The Honorable Jim Gelwicks, *Mayor of Gunnison, Colorado*

Ajay Prasad, *Principal Advisor, Foundation for Contemplation of Nature (FCN)*

Ajay Rastogi, *Director, Vrikshalaya Himalaya Centre, Majkhali, India*

Kate Schimel, *Deputy Editor - Digital, High Country News, Paonia, Colorado*

Gillian Steininger, *Student, Coldharbour Fellow, Western State Colorado University*

Arts and Musical Diplomacy**1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | Aurora Ballroom 4**

How can citizen diplomats use the power of music and art to promote peace worldwide? Hear from key community leaders on how they have used arts and culture exchange to advance citizen diplomacy locally and globally.

Moderator:

Shahrazad “Sherry” Dowlatshahi, *Chief Diplomacy & Protocol Officer; Head, International Relations Economic Development Department, City of San Antonio, Texas*

Speakers:

Suhail Arastu, *Advancement, Musical Bridges Around the World; Arts & Culture Chair, Anuja; San Antonio-Chennai Sister Cities*

Vico Diaz, *Bassist, Guadalajara, Mexico*

Tara Compton Parsan, *Managing Director, Co-Director of International Programs, Company | E*

Angelo Rondello, *Director, Seattle Music Exchange Project*

Smarter, More Resilient Cities

(Smarter Cities Track)

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | Conference Room 2

The physical, social, and economic challenges that communities face today can create serious setbacks for the overall well-being of local citizens and the long-term sustainability of a city. Learn how sister city networks can leverage their global relationships to develop resilient strategies for cities.

Speakers:

Mary Bean, *Director, Professional Services, FirstCarbon Solutions*

Dr. Jandel Allen-Davis, *Vice President of Government, External Relations and Research, Kaiser Permanente Colorado*

Michelle Cross Fenty Esq., *Co-Founder & Managing Director, PARSAN CROSS*

Dr. Andreas Rechkemmer, *Professor, American Human Endowed Chair, University of Denver*

Doug Rex, *Executive Director, Denver Regional Council of Governments*

Smarter Cities: India Leading the Way

(Smarter Cities Track)

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 3

In 2015, the Government of India started the Smart Cities Mission to work with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to make 100 Indian cities more citizen-friendly and sustainable. Learn how India is leading the way in smart cities and how Sister Cities can provide key connections for international exchange, social entrepreneurship, and impact investing.

Moderator:

Jason Nagy, *Vice Chair, Denver Sister Cities International; Founder, Mainspring Innovation, LLC*

Speakers:

Raj Chahal, *Executive, Genstor Systems Inc., San Francisco Bay Area*

Nancy Huppert, *Global Envoy, Sister Cities International; India Smart City Conference presenter*

John Tolva, *Co-Founder, Colorado Smart City Alliance*

Purnima Voria, *Founder & CEO, National US-India Chamber of Commerce*

The Human Face of Cities Leading the Way**2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 4**

While migration is a global phenomenon, the effects of migration are most felt at the local level. Cities with innovative strategies have positive, significant results. Hear from city leaders the ingredients that are key to their success and the role that local Sister Cities programs can play.

Introduction by Rodger Randle, Chair, Mayor's Leadership Council, Sister Cities International; Former Mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Moderator:

Ricardo Gambetta, *Manager, Office of International & Immigrant Affairs, City of Aurora, Colorado*

Speakers:

Dave Gruber, *Council Member, City of Aurora, Colorado*

The Honorable Michael B. Hancock, *Mayor of Denver, Colorado*

The Honorable Ron Nirenberg, *Mayor of San Antonio, Texas*

The Honorable Lauren Poe, *Mayor of Gainesville, Florida*

Monsieur Fortuné Pellicano, *Deputy Mayor of Brest, France*

Zoila Milagros Navas Quintanilla, *Mayor of the City of Antiguo Cuscatlán, El Salvador*

Candidates Forum

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Conference Room 1

Get to know the individuals running for the open slots on the Sister Cities International Board of Directors. An open candidates forum provides voters with an opportunity to know the candidates and their positions prior to the Annual Business Meeting & Elections.

To see the candidate line up, visit

<http://sistercities.org/board-candidates/>

Jane Cahaly, *State Representative Liaison, Sister Cities International*

Alexander Durtka Jr., *State Representative, Wisconsin, Sister Cities International*

Annual Business Meeting and Elections

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

Annual Conference Business Meeting Agenda

- I. Call To Order
- II. Presentation of Board Candidates
- III. Election Procedures
- IV. Annual Audit & Financial Report
- V. President & CEO's Annual Report
- VI. Chairman's End of Term Report
- VII. Announcement of Election Results
- VIII. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
- IX. Member Comments
- X. Adjournment

Remember to arrive early and wear your badge.

City Welcome Reception

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas Street, The Hangar Room

Delegates will enjoy entertainment as well as their selection of food and drinks from over 50 independently-owned Colorado businesses in the Stanley Marketplace, Aurora's community-focused gathering space.

Transportation will be provided on a loop from the Hyatt to Stanley Marketplace starting at 4:45 pm. The last pickup from Stanley Marketplace to the Hyatt is at 8:30 pm. Please be ready for pickup in the Hyatt lobby.



The Smart and Sustainable Action Association (SaSAA) is a business league organization that **brings together leaders** in government, business, and the community. SaSAA is a 501(c)(6) business league that innovates the development of local economies in a sustainable and meaningful way.

Members gain access to our **Open Environmental Data Platform**, which can be leveraged and utilized in many ways, including:

- Opening regions to investment
- Environmental Risk Management
- Loan or Insurance Assessments
- Legal and Environmental Due Diligence
- Transactional Screening
- Community Resilience Planning

SaSAA's Open Environmental Data Platform is a **cost-effective** way to get high-level information quickly to counties, cities, and businesses. In turn, these initiatives encourage better decision-making and could lead to a better **quality of life** for local citizens.

facebook.com/smartandsustainable
 twitter.com/SaSAAssociation
 linkedin.com/company/sasaa

Connect with us Online at
smartandsustainable.org

56 Broome Corporate Parkway Conklin, NY 13478 Ph: 607-467-4600

SATURDAY SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Nature Meditation and Mindfulness
6:45 am - 7:30 am | West Terrace

Registration
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

New Board Member Orientation (by invitation)
7:00 am - 8:00 am | Conference Room 1

Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 9:00 am | Aurora Foyer

How Sister Cities Can Change the World
7:30 am - 8:00 am | Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

**Virtual Exchanges in the Middle East:
Steven's Initiative Panel**
7:30 am - 8:30 am | Conference Room 6

**Panel Discussion with Diplomats:
The Value of Sister City Relationships**
8:00 am - 8:30 am | Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

**Sister Cities Global Awareness
and Impact Panels**
Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2
8:30 am - 9:00 am Africa Panel
9:00 am - 9:30 am Middle East Panel
9:30 am - 10:00 am East Asia Panel
10:00 am - 10:15 am Break and Networking
10:15 am - 10:45 am U.S. - Mexico Mayors'
Summit: Mission
Impact Report

**State Department Perspective on the Value
of U.S. Engagement Overseas**
10:45 am - 11:00 am | Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

Country Representative Roundtables
11:00 am - 11:30 am | Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

Keynote Luncheon
11:30 am - 12:20 pm | Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

Sister Cities "How To" Roundtables
12:30 pm - 1:20 pm | Aurora Ballroom 3 & 4
The Value of In-Kind Donations
to Your Program
Diplomatic Missions to D.C.
Grant Writing
Hospitality 101
How to Jumpstart Stalled Programs
Value of Meeting U.S. Embassies Abroad

**Fast Track Session 1 - Are You Covered?
Risk Management**
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm | Conference Room 2

**Fast Track Session 2 -
Killer Presentations**
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm | Conference Room 3

**Fast Track Session 3 -
Knock Their Socks off Sports**
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm | Conference Room 8

**Fast Track Session 4 -
Development in Action**
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm | Conference Room 2

**Fast Track Session 5 -
Leveraging Your Community**
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm | Conference Room 3

**Fast Track Session 6 -
Nuts and Bolts of a City's
Economic Development**
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm | Conference Room 8

**Photo Opportunity with SCI President
and CEO**
3:20 pm - 3:45 pm | The Photobooth

**Youth Leadership Summit Final
Simulation Presentation &
Closing Remarks**
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 3 & 4

**Global Leaders Circle and
VIP Cocktail Reception**
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | Regency Club, 2nd Floor

Conference Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Aurora Foyer

Annual Awards Dinner and Gala
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 1,2,3, & 4

Please see page 27 for Sister Cities International
Leadership Meetings on this day.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Saturday, August 4

Nature Meditation and Mindfulness

6:45 am – 7:30 am | **West Terrace**

Relax and elevate your practice! Ajay Rastogi of the Vrikshalaya Himalaya Centre will be leading yoga meditation classes for interested attendees. Please bring your own mat.

New Board Member Orientation (by invitation)

7:00 am – 8:00 am | **Conference Room 1**

Newly elected board members are required to attend this orientation.

How Sister Cities Can Change the World

7:30 am – 8:00 am | **Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2**

Learn how ordinary people are doing extraordinary things through Sister Cities programs in communities worldwide in this early morning energizer session.

Plenary Speaker:

Dr. Douglas Jackson, CEO, Project C.U.R.E

Awards Ceremony

Aspen Sister Cities: Aspen Bariloche Medical Exchange Program, Innovation: Professional & Technical Assistance Award

Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership, Innovation: Professional & Technical Assistance Award

Highland Park, Illinois Sister Cities Foundation, Innovation: Youth & Education Award

Virtual Exchanges in the Middle East: Steven's Initiative Panel

7:30 am – 8:30 am | **Conference Room 6**

Virtual exchanges can provide opportunities for groups/individuals that otherwise are not able to participate in in-person exchange. This session will focus on a grant that Sister Cities International received from the Stevens Initiative to conduct virtual exchange programs between youth in the United States and the Palestinian Territories. Panelists will discuss the program objectives, planning and implementation, best practices in virtual exchange, logistics, differences from in-person exchanges, and more.

Panel Discussion with Diplomats:

The Value of Sister City Relationships

8:00 am – 8:30 am | **Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2**

A panel of embassy diplomats will give remarks on the importance of Sister City relationships for their respective country's bilateral ties with the United States, and will discuss opportunities for stronger, more impactful Sister City relationships for the future. The representatives will touch on the importance of all exchange sectors, including business, culture, technology, and youth and education.

Moderator:

Roger-Mark De Souza, President & CEO, Sister Cities International

Sister Cities Global Awareness and Impact Panels

Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2

8:30 am – 9:00 am Africa Panel

9:00 am – 9:30 am Middle East Panel

9:30 am – 10:00 am East Asia Panel

10:00 am – 10:15 am Break and Networking

10:15 am – 10:45 am U.S. – Mexico Mayors Summit:
Mission Impact Report and
Future Implications

Moderators:

Nancy Huppert, Global Envoy, Sister Cities International

Mary Palko, Global Envoy, Co-Chair, Global Awareness Team; Country Representative, Argentina, France; Sister Cities International

State Department Perspective on the Value of U.S. Engagement Overseas

10:45 am – 11:00 am | **Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2**

Speaker:

Rick Ruth, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of State

Country Representative Roundtables

11:00 am – 11:30 am | **Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2**

Sister Cities International Country and Regional Representatives will host a mobile session to discuss relationships, programs, and resources available for local programs.

Break Out Sessions:

Caribbean

Africa

Jordan Valley (break out room)

Keynote Luncheon - Building Sustainable Cities - Energy Secure, Climate Smart - A Caribbean Initiative

11:30 am – 12:20 pm | **Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2**



Dr. Neil Parsan, *Former Ambassador of Trinidad & Tobago to the United States & the OAS*

Dr. Neil Parsan assumed the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, non-resident Ambassador to the United Mexican States, and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the Organization of American States (OAS) in February, 2011. He also held the Cabinet position of Executive Secretary for Integral Development at the Organization of American States (OAS) as confirmed by 34 countries through the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in September, 2015.

Awards Ceremony

City of Issaquah, Innovation: Arts & Culture Award

Greater Columbus Sister Cities International, Innovation: Arts & Culture Award

Sister Cities 'How To' Roundtables

12:30 pm - 1:20 pm | **Aurora Ballroom 3 & 4**

Diplomatic Missions to D.C.

Featuring Mae Ferguson, President and CEO of Fort Worth Sister Cities, and Irina Karmanova, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State

Grant Writing

Featuring Pat Fallin, Southern California State Representative for Sister Cities International

Hospitality 101

Featuring Kekee Bailey, Hospitality Expert, Marriott

How to Jump-start Stalled Programs

Featuring Rick Gerrard, International Relations Deputy Director, City of Phoenix - International Relations Division; Vice President, Phoenix Sister Cities

Value of Meeting U.S. Embassies Abroad

Featuring Carolina Rendeiro and Rick Ruth, Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of State

The Value of In-Kind Donations to Your Program

Featuring Barbara Shepard, State Representative, North Carolina, Sister Cities International

Are You Covered? Sister Cities Insurance and Risk Management

1:30 pm - 2:20 pm | **Conference Room 2**

Local Sister City programs' exposure to lawsuits has never been higher, especially for exchange-related programs. This session will discuss insurance, risk culture of an organization, and top claims on non-profits. Learn the ins and out of insurance and risk management so you can focus on your mission.

Speakers:

Brian Johnson, *Vice President of Insurance Operations, Nonprofits Insurance Alliance Group*

Paul Waters, *Senior Client Executive, NFP Property & Casualty Services, Inc.*

Killer Presentations

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm | **Conference Room 3**

Want to build a new partnership? Recruit new volunteers? Convince a donor to support your Sister City program? You need a killer presentation! This hands-on and interactive workshop will help you practice and think about compelling ways to present your Sister Cities story so that your target audience will be motivated to join you. You will leave this session with concrete suggestions to engage your audience, homework to help you craft your message, and new ideas to address your presentation challenges.

Speaker:

Roger-Mark De Souza, *President and CEO, Sister Cities International*

Knock Their Socks off Sports

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm | **Conference Room 8**

Large venue sports are becoming a large part cities' sports marketing and tourism development, and Sister City programs are the natural partner for international sports events. Learn more about how Sister Cities can fit in with a city's sports marketing plan.

Moderator:

Len Olender, *Former Young Professional Board Member, Former Olympic Committee Member, Sister Cities International*

Speakers:

Matt Graves, *Chair, Tricolore Olympic Program*

Starr Walton-Hurley, *State Representative, Northern California; 1964 Olympic Gold Medalist; Honorary Consul, New Zealand*

Development in Action**2:30 pm – 3:20 pm | Conference Room 2**

Small cities can raise big bucks! The session will present the fundamentals of fundraising and share small city strategies for in-kind and monetary support for their programs.

Speakers:

Pat Fallin, *State Representative, Southern California, Sister Cities International*

Johanna Kelly, *Director of Development, Denver Botanic Gardens*

Sarah McCarthy, *Ambassador Engagement, Project C.U.R.E.*

Susie Moss, *Advancement Manager, Denver Museum of Nature & Science*

Gayle Stallings, *State Representative, Colorado, Sister Cities International*

Leveraging Your Own Community**2:30 pm – 3:20 pm | Conference Room 3**

This workshop will guide participants through a process of defining their community's values, relationships, and goals in order to leverage other organizations, businesses, and their local government. By setting your priorities, you will create a stronger local program image, provide value to your community, and develop a platform for networking to help you reposition your program for new and expanded funding and support.

Speaker:

Anna Stout, *Executive Director, Foundation for Cultural Exchange*

Nuts and Bolts of a City's Economic Development – Why It Matters to You**2:30 pm – 3:20 pm | Conference Room 8**

How does a city do business? Why is this important to you? As Sister City volunteers and program administrators, it is essential to learn how we as citizen diplomats fit into a city's broader economic picture. Experts from the economic development, tax financing, and tourism sector will walk you through the essential components of city economic development by using a case study example that will impact the Aurora community for years to come.

Speakers:

Yuriy Gorlov, *Vice President, Aurora Economic Development Council (AEDC)*

Bruce Dalton, *President & CEO, Visit Aurora*

Dan Lynch, *Partner, Kutack Rock, LLC*

Photo Opportunity with SCI President and CEO**3:20 pm – 3:45 pm | The Photobooth****Youth Leadership Summit:****Final Simulation Presentation & Closing Remarks****3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 3 & 4**

Hear from the 2018 Youth Leadership Summit participants as they present their solutions and defend their positions regarding the issue they discussed during their diplomatic simulation. This session will also mark the closing of the conference. Formal remarks will be given.

Awards Ceremony

Ria Grewal, Santa Clara Sister Cities Association, Youth Leadership Award

Global Leaders Circle and VIP Cocktail Reception**5:30 pm – 6:30 pm | Regency Club, 2nd Floor**

Members of the Sister Cities International Global Leaders Circle and other VIPs will partake in an exclusive cocktail reception at the Hyatt. All invitees must have wristbands to enter.

Conference Cocktail Reception**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Aurora Foyer****Annual Awards Dinner and Gala****7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Aurora Ballroom 1,2,3, & 4**

Since 1962, Sister Cities International has recognized exceptional Sister City programs. Come celebrate the achievements made in 2017 with dinner and dancing.

Awards Ceremony

Hays Sister City Committee, Best Overall Award
Sister Cities of Jasper, Best Overall Award
Culver City Sister City Committee, Best Overall Award
Birmingham Sister Cities, Best Overall Award
Fort Worth Sister Cities International, Best Overall Award
Chairman's Awards
President's Awards

Awards Presenters:

Roger-Mark De Souza, *President & CEO, Sister Cities International*

Stephen "Tim" Quigley, *Chairman, Board of Directors, Sister Cities International*

LEADERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 1

State Representative Meeting

8:30 am – 11:30 am | *Conference Room 6*

HR Subcommittee Meeting

9:00 am - 10:00 am | *Conference Room 1*

Annenberg/German Task Force Meeting

10:30 am - 11:30 am | *Conference Room 1*

Mayor's Leadership Council Luncheon

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm | *Borealis, Hyatt Regency*

Strategy & Programs Committee Meeting

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | *Conference Room 6*

Fund Development Committee Meeting

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | *Conference Room 1*

Membership Committee/Lapsed Member Task Force Meeting

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm | *Conference Room 6*

Finance & Investment Committee Meeting

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm | *Conference Room 1*

Executive Committee Meeting

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | *Conference Room 1*

Honorary Board Dinner (By Invitation)

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm | *Borealis, Hyatt Regency*

Thursday, August 2

Chair Emeritus Council Luncheon (By Invitation)

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm | *Regency Club, 2nd Floor*

Board of Directors Meeting

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm | *Conference Room 6*

Friday, August 3

Candidates Forum

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | *Conference Room 1*

Annual Business Meeting & Elections

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | *Aurora Ballroom 1 & 2*

Sunday, August 5

Chair Emeritus Breakfast (By Invitation)

8:00 am – 9:00 am | *Regency Club, 2nd Floor*

Board Group Photo

9:15 am | *Conference Room 6*

Board of Directors Meeting

9:30 am – 12:00 pm | *Conference Room 6*

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SCHEDULE

The Youth Leadership Summit empowers young people to think globally through specially selected activities that introduce them to the world of international affairs and spark a passion for citizen diplomacy. Learn more at <http://sistercities.org/yls>.

Wednesday, August 1

Students Arrive at University of Denver

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Campus Tour of the University of Denver

4:00 pm

Campus Welcome Dinner and Orientation

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, August 2

Community Service Projects and Mobile Workshops

9:00 am – 11:30 am

Lunch at Union Station

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Community Service Projects and Mobile Workshops

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Speaker: Irina A Karmanova – Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Team-Building Activities and Culture Night

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Friday, August 3

Visit Aurora History Museum

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Speaker: Anthony Catajan, Global CEO Alliance, ADEC Innovations

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Introduction to U.N. Style Simulation with U.S. Diplomacy Center (U.S. Department of State)

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

U.N. Style Simulation Group Work

2:15 pm – 4:30 pm

City Welcome Reception

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm



Saturday, August 4

Simulation Small Group Work

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Luncheon with Keynote Speaker

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Youth Engagement with SCI – Jason Tatman, Shin Koyamada, and Carlo Capua

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Final Simulation Preparation

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Speaker: Cynthia Matson, President of Texas A&M, San Antonio

2:00 – 2:30 pm

Keynote Speaker: John Thon Majok

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Youth Leadership Summit Final Simulation Presentations

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Annual Awards Dinner and Gala

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Sunday, August 5

Student Departures

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

2018 ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS

The Annual Awards program highlights Sister City programs' achievements and brings international recognition to a community's contributions to the citizen diplomacy movement. Sister Cities International established the program in 1962 to recognize exceptional Sister City programs.

Below are the winners of this year's 2018 Annual Awards, who are recognized for achievements made in 2017.

Best Overall

Population between 10,000 - 25,000:
Hays Sister City Committee (Kansas)

Population between 10,000 - 25,000:
Sister Cities of Jasper (Indiana)

Population between 50,000 - 100,000:
Culver City Sister City Committee (California)

Population between 100,000 - 300,000:
Birmingham Sister Cities (Alabama)

Population Greater Than 300,000:
Fort Worth Sister Cities International (Texas)

Innovation: Arts & Culture

Population between 25,000 - 100,000:
City of Issaquah (Washington)

Population Greater Than 100,000:
Greater Columbus Sister Cities International (Ohio)

Innovation: Youth & Education

Population Less Than 25,000:
Hendersonville Sister Cities (North Carolina)

Population between 25,000 - 100,000:
Highland Park, Illinois Sister Cities Foundation (Illinois)

Population Greater Than 100,000:
Houston Guayaquil Sister City Association (Texas)

Innovation: Business & Trade

Population Greater Than 100,000: **Indianapolis Hyderabad Sister City Committee (IHSCC) (Indiana)**

Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance

Population Greater Than 100,000: **Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities (Georgia)**

Innovation: Professional & Technical Assistance

Population Less Than 25,000: **Aspen Sister Cities: Aspen Bariloche Medical Exchange Program (Colorado)**

Population Greater Than 100,000: **"Cincinnati to Kharkiv, People to People" Cincinnati - Kharkiv Sister City Partnership (Ohio)**

Volunteer of the Year

LueRachelle Brim-Atkins, Seattle-Limbe Sister City Association (Washington)

Youth Leadership

Ria Grewal, Santa Clara Sister Cities Association (California)

Learn more about how to enter our Annual Awards program at
<http://sistercities.org/what-we-do/programs/annualawards/>

2018 YOUNG ARTISTS & AUTHORS SHOWCASE WINNERS

“The Art of Diplomacy”

Each year, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase encourages youth from around the globe to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork and literature.

The 2018 theme, “The Art of Diplomacy,” encouraged students to submit entries that highlight the importance of the ways that citizen diplomats achieve peace through people-to-people interaction.

After finalists are announced, the winning pieces go on a year-long tour hosted by local sister city programs. View all submissions online at www.sistercitiesyaas2018.tumblr.com

2018 YAAS Grand Prize & Finalists

Artwork

U.S. Grand Prize Winner:

McKay Osborne (Mesa, AZ)

International Grand Prize Winner:

Minori Sakamoto (Fukui, Japan)

U.S. Finalists:

Alex Avila (Belvidere, IN)

Isabella Bustanoby (Culver City, CA)

Jessica Clemont (Delray Beach, FL)

Elizabeth Linn (Lexington, KY)

Jodi Nguyen (Hampton, VA)

International Finalists:

Saori Arakawa (Hanamaki, Japan)

Victoria E. Ibanez (Barranquilla, Colombia)

Nuamah Mathias (Accra, Ghana)

Ryunosuke Sakano (Osaka, Japan)

Yuhe Zhao (Shanghai, China)



“The Diary of 1000 Years” – Minori Sakamoto
(Fukui, Japan)

Photography

U.S. Grand Prize Winner:

Anton Edward Kot (New Haven, CT)

International Grand Prize Winner:

Nicolle Pico (Barranquilla, Colombia)

U.S. Finalists:

Joshua Cortez (San Antonio, TX)

Jennifer Lam (Aurora, CO)

Carmela Velasquez (Santa Barbara, CA)

International Finalists:

Marianna Bernardis (Capo d' Orlando, Italy)

Andres Hincapie Cardenas (Barranquilla, Colombia)

Hayeong Park (Icheon (Gyeongido, Korea)

Antonella Tascone (Capo d' Orlando, Italy)

Writing

Essay Grand Prize Winner:

Michelle Zhao (Chandler, AZ)

Poetry Grand Prize Winner:

Tara Ruhland (Meza, AZ)

Essay Finalists:

Deyona Burton (Jacksonville, FL)

Beibhinn Cullen (Tullamore, Ireland)

Skye Gabbard (Lexington, KY)

John Guilfoil (Lexington, KY)

Alex Wilerson (Suffolk, VA)

Poetry Finalists:

Kaitlyn Adams (Indianapolis, IN)

Alyssa Goden (Suffolk, VA)

Rylee McNiff (Lakeland, FL)

Kyle Polen (Scottsdale, AZ)

Emily Wang (Lexington, KY)

Learn more about the Young Artists and Authors Showcase on our website at <http://sistercities.org/YAAS>

AURORA HOST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sister Cities International and the City of Aurora would like to thank the working Host Committee for their hard work in preparation for the 2018 Sister Cities International Annual Conference. Their enthusiasm and embrace of the conference as an opportunity to come together and showcase the best of Aurora.

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The Sister Cities International staff would like to thank the experts who contributed their time to helping us make Aurora the best conference yet!

Kekee Bailey

Brandy Jackson

Darlene Drummond

Nadia Monroe

Kevin O' Donnell

Sachin Radhakrishnan

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers from Aurora, Colorado who helped make the conference a success!

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

We want to extend a warm welcome to our international delegations who came for the conference this year. Cities Leading the Way is a wonderful opportunity for you as citizen diplomats, community leaders, and international representatives to come together and learn how cities are at the apex of leading efforts to create smarter, healthier, more inclusive, and more innovative communities worldwide.

We hope that you will exchange big ideas, explore global opportunities, and connect with other citizen diplomats.

The Bahamas

El Salvador

Ghana

Jamaica

Mongolia

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Cameroon

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Haiti

Kenya

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We're Kaiser Permanente and we're here to spread health and make healthy communities.

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