
COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CITIZEN DIPLOMATS USE THEIR PASSION TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD AT “CITIES MEAN BUSINESS” July 17-19, 2019

WASHINGTON, DC (May 21, 2019) – Houston, Texas will be the nexus of worldwide connections as Sister Cities International hosts its 2019 Annual Conference and Youth Leadership Summit July 17-19. Over 700 elected and municipal officials, business leaders, and citizen diplomats, along with over 100 students from around the globe will learn about resilience and citizen diplomacy.

“This year’s conference will be one of the most diverse and vibrant gatherings with citizen diplomats from all over the world coming together in Houston to share insights and discuss solutions to current global issues,” said Roger-Mark De Souza, President & CEO of Sister Cities International.

The conference theme focuses on “Cities Mean Business”, where community leaders, citizen diplomats, and youth delegates will hear from expert leaders in health, aeronautics, arts and music, business and trade, urban resilience, and disaster relief. SCI’s most international, most action-oriented, and most networking-focused conference will feature pre-conference events including an all-day China-U.S. Sister Cities Mayors’ Summit and an Africa Forum focusing on economic development. The conference will also have special sessions on Mexico, Germany, and Japan; highlight strong NxtGen leaders and women entrepreneurs; and tackle emerging issues such as innovation through adversity, resilience and disinformation.

The annual conference will include a Parade of Flags; a Mayor’s Welcome Reception; and an Awards Dinner at the Marriot Marquis in Houston. The winners of SCI’s Young Artists and Authors Showcase featuring art, literature, and photography created by youth from around the world will also be on display throughout the conference site.

Parallel to the conference, a Youth Leadership Summit for high school students with the theme “Resilience: Using your Passion to Build a Better World” will convene to engage the next generation leaders and expose them to global challenges through a diplomatic simulation, participation in various speaker discussions, as well as a service learning project. Youth delegates will choose from five training tracks designed to resolve real-world problems using their own initiatives. The Summit is designed to provide students with effective problem solving strategies, leadership skills, and insights into international affairs.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for sister city programs in nearly 500 communities, with relationships in over 2,000 communities in more than 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development.

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