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.
Dear Fellow Citizen Diplomats,

Welcome to our annual conference!

This year, we are delighted to be in Houston, the fourth most populous city in the United States, which boasts an ethnically and culturally diverse population of almost 2.4 million people. Houston has expanded from its roots as a small port town in the 1800s, to a massive industrial shipping port, to the focus of the national space program at Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. Today, Houston is a world leader in petrochemical production and industry; high-technology industries; medical research and healthcare; and aerospace engineering.

Houston is an outstanding model city, that maintains 19 sister city partnerships: Luanda, Angola; Perth, Australia; Baku, Azerbaijan; Shenzhen, China (friendship city); Shanghai, China; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Nice, France; Leipzig, Germany; Basrah, Iraq; Chiba City, Japan; Tampico, Mexico; Stavanger, Norway; Karachi, Pakistan; Tyumen, Russia; Grampian Region, Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom; Huelva, Spain; Taipei, Taiwan; Istanbul, Turkey; and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. At this year’s conference, we hope to capture the vibrancy and innovation of our host city.

Our national leadership convocation will include:

• The 2019 SCI Annual Conference, themed “Cities Mean Business,” where you will hear from leaders in health, aeronautics, arts and music, business and trade, urban resilience, and disaster relief. We will also feature two pre-conference events: an all-day China-U.S. Sister Cities Mayors’ Summit, and an Africa Forum focusing on economic development. We expect to bring together over 500 elected and municipal officials, business leaders, engaged citizen diplomats, and more than 100 youth participants.

• The 2019 Youth Leadership Summit hosted by Rice University organized around the theme “Resilience: Using Your Passion to Build a Better World,” will convene to engage future leaders and educate them on global challenges, citizen diplomacy, and the importance of community service.

• The annual SCI Summer Leadership Board of Directors Meeting along with all standing ad hoc committees and Task Force updates.

We would like to extend our genuine appreciation to the City of Houston, the 2019 SCI Annual Conference Host Committee, Houston Sister Cities International, and all of the city staff and citizen leaders for their outstanding work in making this event possible. Lastly, we would like to 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 incredible dedication and service.

Ron Nirenberg
Chair, Sister Cities International
Mayor, City of San Antonio

Roger-Mark De Souza
President and CEO, Sister Cities International
Dear Attendees of the 2019 Sister Cities International Conference:

As the Mayor of Houston, it is my honor to welcome you to the most diverse city in America, where one in four residents is foreign born. Ever since its establishment as a trade hub where the railroads met the sea, Houston has thrived because of its international connections. We have the third largest Consular Corps in the country, with over 90 consulates. Today, we are known as a global capital of energy, home to NASA, a thriving port, and the largest medical center in the world. And with the establishment of our innovation corridor, we have also begun to take great strides toward becoming a center of technology and innovation. With all of this in mind, I believe we are a fitting city to host the Sister Cities International Conference this year under the theme, “Cities Mean Business.”

But make no mistake, Houston is not just about business. We are also about community. Here, we embrace globalization and encourage its unifying ability. We celebrate our different languages, cultures and origins, and feel enriched by our connections to our 18 sister cities. In Houston, we do not build walls, we build relationships.

That is why we are so excited to host both the Sister Cities International Annual Conference and Youth Leadership Summit, which will teach the next generation how to reach out and build lasting relationships around the world. It is our priority to provide a platform for these future citizen diplomats to grow and prosper.

While attending this conference, I encourage you all to experience and learn about our city, just as we intend to do with yours. We can take you around the world through the global cuisines served in our 10,000 restaurants, and we can also show you the way to the moon at the Johnson Space Center and Space Center Houston. I look forward to sharing with you all that this city has to offer.

Thank you for choosing to attend this year’s 2019 Sister Cities Conference, and welcome to the city of Houston.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Mayor, City of Houston
Dear Citizen Diplomat,

*Enduring peace.*

How ironic that this was President Dwight Eisenhower’s bold vision 63 years ago during his Summit on Citizen Diplomacy that created Sister Cities.

Remember, this is the same Eisenhower who was a five-star US Army general and served as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II.

A legendary man of war who was, at the same time, one of modern history’s most vocal champions of citizen diplomacy as a force for peace.

We are President Eisenhower’s legacy – a modern day army of citizen diplomats. How appropriate that this year’s Sister Cities International Conference will be our most international, most action-oriented, and most networking-focused conference ever. Key topics include:

- Active participation from global Presidents, Mayors and Elected Officials
- Strong NextGen and Women Entrepreneurship
- Partnership model with Rotary International, the world’s largest volunteer network
- Fast-track HOW-TO sessions on the Business of Sports, Arts and Culture, Combating Human Trafficking, Resilient Cities, Disinformation, and more.

*“Cities Mean Business”* is a benchmark of Sister Cities’ mission - to be the global resource for international cities.

We hope these sessions recharge your network, introduce you to dynamic new partners, and share exciting and successful programs.

And one more thing. World peace cannot be achieved through serious, hard work alone. Let’s have a little fun while we are all here.

Mary Palko  
Carlo Capua

Conference Co-Chairs

CITIES MEAN BUSINESS
Greetings to our fellow citizen diplomats and Sister Cities International Conference attendees:

A very warm heartfelt welcome to our visitors from around the world who have graced our fair city. On behalf of the Conference Host Committee, I wish to extend to you our hand in friendship as we endeavor to make your visit to Houston most enjoyable, memorable, and educational. To get the full flavor of our community we encourage you to take the opportunity to visit the great Texas Medical Center, the Johnson Space Center at NASA, the exquisite arts district, and the many educational institutions. The outstanding shopping venues and the many different ethnic communities offer you many international variations.

We are honored to host the fourth annual Sister Cities International China Mayors conference and the newly initiated African Economic forum together with the mini summits with Germany and Mexico. It is appropriate that these events are scheduled here as Houston has over 90 consulates from around the world. You will only be able to savor our diversity by extending your stay and visiting some of the venues listed above.

We are pleased that Rice University has been selected for the Youth Leadership Forum and we believe that the friendships made during the conference will endure and begin to build additional bridges amongst a new generation.

Many academics have recognized that Houston is among the most diverse communities in America and many have sought to emulate the traditions being established here by its 18 individual Sister Cities around the world. Now that you have had a taste of Houston hospitality, we shall engage you to become a citizen diplomat for Houston wherever you may travel. Have a great conference!

Sincerely,

Harry Gee
President of Sister Cities of Houston
Chair, Houston Host Committee
What’s Unique About Sister Cities International?

Mission
We promote national and international peace and security

Opportunity
We seize the opportunity to make a difference

Reach
We reach far and wide

Efficient Networks
We leverage and sustain networks and partnerships

Thank you to our sponsors and partners, who together with our Global Leaders Circle, provide support for our 2019 annual conference*

Conference – Ambassador Level
Midland Energy
Houston Karachi Sister City Association
State of Qatar
Houston First
East West Bank
Rice University
Sister Cities of Houston
City of Houston
International District

Conference – Minister Level
Consulate General of the PRC in Houston
Spring Branch District
UT Health Science Center at Houston
MD Anderson
Greater Houston Partnership
Yasuhiko and Akemi Saitoh
South West District

Conference – Special Envoy Level
Global Linkages
Westlake Chemical
Houston Community College
Sueba
HEB
Susan Young
Texas Southern University

Conference – Diplomat Level
International Port of Texas
Houston Business Journal
Texans

Conference – International Attaché Level
Zoetic Global
Ambassadorway Travel

*as of July 2nd.
Marriott Marquis Hotel Map

WiFi access code: SCIAC2019

Level 2

SALON VII
SALON VI
SALON V
SALON IV
SALON III
SALON II
HOUSTON BALLROOM
SALON I
GALVESTON
FORT BEND
LIBERTY
MONTGOMERY
HARRIS

ESCALATORS
ELEVATORS
ELEVATORS

BRAZORIA
CHAMBERS
Registration and General Information

The registration area should be your first stop when you arrive at the conference. The full conference program is available digitally at https://sistercities.org/annual-conference-2019, the abbreviated version will be in the conference tote bag. To access speaker bios visit https://sistercities.org/annual-conference/2019-annual-conference-speakers/. 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. Voting members must present a photo ID and sign a verification of pick-up receipt.

Voting Credential Pick-Up
Individuals pre-certified by their member communities may vote at the Annual Business Meeting. Individuals who have not been pre-certified by their member community or have already voted electronically WILL NOT be permitted to vote on-site.

Pre-certified voting members may pick-up their voting credentials (a ribbon will be added to their registration badge indicating number of votes) at the Membership & Elections Desk through Thursday, July 18 at 3:30p.m. 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.

Exhibit Hall
Conference delegates can gather on the 2nd Level to visit the tables of conference sponsors, partners, and other national exchange organizations, as well as winning art and writing submissions from the 2019 Young Artists & Authors Showcase.

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

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

Connect with Sister Cities International and be part of the conversation at the 2019 Annual Conference!
Follow us on our social media platform for updates throughout.
# U.S.-China Summit Schedule

**4th U.S.-China Mayors’ Summit**  
**Sister Cities International Annual Conference**  
**“Cities Mean Business”**  
Houston, Texas  July 17- 19, 2019

## 40 Years Ahead: Stronger Friendships, Closer Cooperation

### Wednesday, July 17

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| 7:00am - 8:30am | **Breakfast and Viewing of the Shanghai Photo Exhibition**  
“Trans-Pacific Exchanges and Cooperation, Shanghai Commemorates the 40th Anniversary of China - US Diplomatic Relations,  
2nd Floor Foyer, Marriott Marquis** |
| 8:00am | **Pick up Translation Equipment** |
| 8:30am - 9:00 | **Opening Ceremony and Welcome**  
**MC:** Carol Robertson Lopez, Chair, 4th US-China Sister Cities Mayor’s Summit and Vice Chair, Sister Cities International (SCI)  
**Speakers:**  
1. The Honorable Ellen Cohen, Mayor Pro Tempore of Houston  
2. Madame Li Xiaolin, President, Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)  
3. The Honorable Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio and Chair, Sister Cities International  
4. Honorable Liu Jianyang, Mayor, Nanchang Municipal People’s Government  
5. Honorable Robert W. Ogburn, Director, Office of Citizen Exchanges, DCA, US Dept of State  
| 9:00 - 9:15 | **Official Ribbon Cutting for Shanghai Photo Exhibition**  
**Madame Li Xiaolin**  
President, Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)  
**Zhang Xiaosong**  
Director-General of Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office  
**The Honorable Ellen Cohen**  
Mayor Pro Tempore of Houston  
**H. E. Li Qiangmin**  
Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Houston  
**Minister Counselor Yin Chengwu**  
Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the United States.  
**Carol Robertson Lopez**  
Chair, 4th US-China Sister Cities Mayor’s Summit and Vice Chair, Sister Cities International (SCI)**
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| 9:15      | **Keynote Address:** 40 Years of Diplomatic Relations between the US and China  
  **China** - H. E. Li Qiangmin, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Houston  
  *(Introduced by Harry Gee, Chair of Houston Sister Cities)*  
  **United States** - Charles Foster, Chair, US China Partnership  
  *(Introduced by Bo Fan, Sister Cities International Foundation Representative, US China Endowment)*  |
| 9:45am    | **Innovation and Smart Cities:** How Cities in China and the United States are enhancing competitiveness through technology, creativity and innovation and protecting the urban environment.  
  **Moderator:** The Honorable Helene Schneider, Former Mayor of Santa Barbara  
  **Speakers:**  
  1. Honorable Anise Parker, Former Mayor of Houston  
  2. Li Li, Vice President of Chengdu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries  
  3. Zhong Jiajun, Deputy Director General of Foreign Affairs Office of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government  
  4. Yuan Liming, Vice Chairman, Standing Committee of Changsha People's Congress  
  5. The Honorable Helene Schneider, Former Mayor of Santa Barbara  |
| 10:45am   | Break  |
| 11:00am   | **Maritime Silk Road and Impact:** Highlighting Sister Cities relationships and documenting the impact over time  
  **Moderator:** Mary Blankenship Pointer, President, Oklahoma City Sister Cities/Sister City Haikou  
  **Speakers:**  
  1. Peng Nian, Assistant Research Fellow, National Institute of South China Sea Studies  
  2. Jie Xiaoqiang, Vice Chairman, Haikou Municipal People’s Congress  
  3. Mary Blankenship Pointer, Oklahoma City/Haikou Sister Cities  
  4. Lihuang Wung, Urban Planner, City of Tacoma representing Tacoma/Fuzhou Sister Cities Committee  
  5. Zhang Ping, Consultant, Foreign Affairs Office of Fuzhou Municipal People’s Government  
  6. Luo Shijian, Vice Mayor, Baise Municipal People’s Government  
  7. Port of Houston Authority Representative, Harry Gee  |
| 12:00pm   | **LUNCHEON** Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China  
  **MC:** Roger-Mark De Souza, President and CEO Sister Cities International  
  1. Tim Quigley, Chair, SCI Foundation, US China Endowment  
  2. Nanchang Municipal People's Government Presentation  
  3. Cultural Offering: Dance of Asian American, Janie Yao  |
| 1:30pm    | **Metroplex Collaborations, and the Future for Economic Growth**  
  **Moderator:** Mae Ferguson, President/CEO Ft. Worth Sister Cities  
  **Speakers:**  
  1. Jensen Shen, Director, Asia, Australia, Oceania, Greater Houston Partnership  
  2. Song Ping, Vice Chairman, Standing Committee of Guiyang Municipal People’s Congress  
  3. Dr. Jiajie Zhang, UT Health, The University of Texas Houston Medical Center, Disruptive Technology in Healthcare |
4. Liu Dehui, Director General, Nanchang High-Tech Development Zone Administrative Committee
5. Gao Houping, Director General, Foreign Affairs Office of Luliang Municipal People’s Government, Shanxi Province

2:30pm - 3:30pm  **Sino-Foreign Educational Cooperation and Exchanges**  
**Moderator:** Cindy Elliott Assistant Vice President for Global Partnerships, Fort Hays University  
**Speakers:**  
1. Dr. Kurt Ewen, Vice Chancellor for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, Houston Community College  
2. Yan Ping, Vice Chairman, Jiujiang Municipal People’s Political Consultative Conference  
3. Steven Chen, Assistant to the Chairman of Sias University Xinzeng, Henan, China  
4. Zhou Hong, President, Yunnan Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries  
5. Dr. Carolyn Bishop, President for the Consortium for Global Education  
6. Lan Aiping, Director General, Yan’an Education Bureau  
7. Nian Qi, Deputy Director General, Fuzhou Municipal Education Bureau

3:30pm - 3:45pm  **Break**

3:45pm - 4:45pm  **Energizing Sister Cities Relationships between US and China:** Case studies on successful partnerships, documenting impacts on local communities; best practices; how to overcome challenges, and potential areas for strategic growth. Self Introduction of Cities seeking new sister cities relationships.  
**Moderator:** The Honorable Alix DeSulme, Vice Mayor, North Miami  
**Speakers:**  
1. Lin Ye, Albuquerque, Lanzhou Sister Cities Committee, Representative of Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque  
2. Zhang Jun, Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Office of Nanjing Municipal People’s Government  
3. Peng Daiyuan, Vice Mayor, Guilin Municipal People’s Government  
4. Chen Baiwei, Deputy Director General, Shandong Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
5. Cao Hui, Executive Vice President, Shaanxi Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries  
6. Honorable Peter Svarsbein, El Paso City Councilor  
7. Yang Wumin, Deputy Mayor, Weinan Municipal People’s Government  
8. Chen Yi, Principal Staff, Beijing People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

4:45pm - 5:00pm  **Summit Observations and Conclusions**  
**Rapporteur:** Roger-Mark de Souza, CEO and President, SCI

**Closing Address**  
**United States** - Honorable Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio, Chair of SCI  
**China** – Peng Daiyuan, Vice Mayor, Guilin Municipal People’s Government

**Adjourn:** Carol Robertson Lopez, Summit Chair and Vice Chair of US China Summit

5:00pm - 6:30pm  **Reception in Foyer**
## Africa Forum Schedule

**Wednesday, July 17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Registration (Lobby)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast (Lobby)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks and Greeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Welcome!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15am</td>
<td>Greetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Coffee Break and Vendors</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45am</td>
<td>Coffee Break and Vendors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>U.S. Tools for Economic Development Partnerships with Africa</td>
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### Welcome Remarks and Greeting

**Welcome!**

- Lorna K Johnson, JD
- SCI Board of Directors Chair, Africa Forum
- Newark, NJ

**Greetings**

- **Hon. Ron Nirenberg**, SCI Chairman, Board of Directors Mayor, City of San Antonio, TX
- **Roger-Mark DeSouza**, President & CEO Sister Cities International Washington, DC
- **Ellen Goldberg**, Immediate Past President, Sister Cities of Houston Co-Vice Chair, 2019 Sister Cities International Conference Co-Chair, Africa Forum
- **Dr. Kendall T. Harris, Ph.D., R.E.**, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Texas Southern University
- **Edson Ventura**, President, Houston, Luanda Sister Cities Association
- **Introduced by Dr. Robert Ford**, Membership Chair, HLSCA CEO, DRF Industries, LLC

### Keynote Speaker

**Ambassador Jerome Ringo**

Goodwill Ambassador for the Pan African Parliament

### African Consuls in the U.S.: A Resource for Development

- **Honorable Julia Machado** (Angola)
  - Consul General of Angola, Houston, TX
- **Honorable Khaled Rizk** (Egypt)
  - Consul of Egypt in Houston, TX.
- **Honorable Jack Webb** (U.S.)
  - Honorary Consul of Ghana, Houston, TX
- **Ms. Gayle Stallings** (U.S.)
  - State Colorado, SCI Coordinator Honorary Consul of Ethiopia (TBC)

### Coffee Break and Vendors

### U.S. Tools for Economic Development Partnerships with Africa

- **Ms. Nyamusi Igambi** (U.S.)
  - Director, U.S. Commerce Service-Houston, U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Mr. Mazda Denon** (Benin)
  - Global Engagement Manager, Mayor’s Office of Trade & International Affairs, City of Houston
- **Ms. Nneka Achaou** (U.S.)
  - Executive Director & CEO, U.S. Bilateral Africa Chamber of of Commerce, Houston, TX
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1:00pm – 2:30pm | **A Taste of Africa Luncheon** (1st and 2nd Floor Lobby)  
**Welcome!**  
Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
SCI Chairman |
| 2:30pm – 3:30pm | **SCI African Economic Development Sister Cities Models**  
**Dr. Ernestine Thomas-Robertson (U.S.)**  
President, Los Angeles-Lusaka (Zambia) Sister City Committee  
**Mr. George Hartz (U.S.)**  
Director & Past President, of Scottsdale (Arizona) Sister Cities Association  
**Ms. Brenda Brumfield (U.S.)**  
Vallejo, CA, Tanzania, Africa Committee Chair SCI California State Representative (Northern) Africa Trade Show Foundation, President |
| 3:30pm – 3:45pm | **Break** |
| 3:45pm – 4:45pm | **Partners for Africa!**  
**Mr. Christian Epps (U.S.)**  
Founder & CEO  
**Lights, Camera, Diaspora!**  
Los Angeles, CA, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**Dr. Chris Ulas (U.S.)**  
Chair and Professor of Radio, TV and Film Texas Southern University |
| 4:45pm – 5:00pm | **Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks** |
| 5:00pm – 5:30pm | **Networking/One-on-One Meetings/Vendors** |
| 5:30pm – 8:00pm | **SCI Africa Region Reception**  
University Museum, TSU |
### Leadership Meeting

**Tuesday, July 16**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Investment Committee Meeting and Fund Development</td>
<td>Montgomery, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Global Awareness Team Lunch</td>
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<td>2:00pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>State Representative Training Program</td>
<td>Fort Bend, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Houston I-III, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Africa Forum Welcome Reception: Kulture Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>US - China Sister Cities Mayors Summit Welcome Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm - 9:30pm</td>
<td>Chinese Consul General Dinner (by invitation)</td>
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### Annual Conference Schedule at-a-glance

**Wednesday, July 17**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Foyer, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>GLC VIP Reception (Invitation only)</td>
<td>Greater Houston Partnership Building</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Awards Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td>Fort Worth</td>
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<td>Sister Cities International</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Innovation: Business &amp; Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags, Sponsored by AMD</td>
<td>George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010</td>
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<td><strong>Awards Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td>Kathleen Kennedy Townsend</td>
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<td>Sister Cities International</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Innovation: Business &amp; Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am - 11:40am</td>
<td>Board Candidates Forum</td>
<td>Liberty, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Mayoral Plenary Panel Discussion: “Compassion is Good Business”</td>
<td>Houston IV, Level 2</td>
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<td><strong>Awards Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td>Long Beach-Qingdao Association</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Innovation: Youth &amp; Education Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm - 2:20pm</td>
<td>e-Diplomacy – The New Era of Exchange and Programs</td>
<td>Montgomery, Level 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm - 2:20pm</td>
<td>Diplomacy through Music Festivals</td>
<td>Harris Level 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Culture is Business Track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm - 2:20pm</td>
<td>Dynamic Cities/Dynamic Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Fort Bend, Level 2</td>
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<td>(Unique Cities Track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 3:20pm</td>
<td>Sports Diplomacy: Get in the Game</td>
<td>Montgomery, Level 2</td>
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<td>(Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 3:20pm</td>
<td>Diplomacy through Art and Folk Art</td>
<td>Harris Level 2</td>
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<td>(Culture is Business Track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 3:20pm</td>
<td>Emerging Issues – Innovation through Adversity and Resilience</td>
<td>Fort Bend, Level 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Unique Cities Track)</td>
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</table>
3:20 pm – 3:30 pm **Awards Ceremony**  
Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, CEO, People to People International | Houston I-III, Level 2  
**Lakeland Sister Cities International**  
Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance Award

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Annual Business Meeting and Election of Board Members** | Houston I-III, Level 2  
Annual Conference Business Meeting Agenda  
1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks - Chair  
2. Presentation of Board Candidates - Chair  
3. Election Procedures - Secretary  
4. Member Certified Representative Voting - Secretary  
5. Financial Report - Treasurer  
6. Foundation Report - SCIF President  
7. President & CEO’s Annual Report - President  
8. Chair’s Report - Chair  
9. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members - Vice Chair  
10. Announcement of Election Results - Chair  
11. Member Comments  
12. Closing Remarks and Adjournment - Chair

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Mayor’s City Welcome Reception  
| George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010

Friday, July 19

7:00 am – 7:40 am New Board Member Orientation | Houston III, Level 2

7:00 am – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast | Foyer, Level 2

7:30 am – 4:00 pm Registration | Harris, Level 2

8:00 am – 9:30 am Annual Global Awareness Diplomatic Plenary Panel, Sponsored by State of Qatar | Houston IV, Level 2

9:30 am – 9:40 am **Awards Ceremony**  
**Foundation for Cultural Exchange, Grand Junction Colorado**  
Innovation: Youth & Education Award  
Professional and Technical Assistance Award

9:40 am – 10:30 am City Connection Marketplace Plenary Panel Discussion, Sponsored by ADEC Innovations | Houston II, Level 2

10:40 am – 11:30 am Sister Cities How-To Roundtables  
**(Sister Cities Program How-To Track)** | Houston III, Level 2  
- How to Recruit, Train, and Retain Volunteers  
- How to Show Value to your Mayor/Council  
- How to do a City Self-Assessment  
- How to Engage your Young Professionals and NextGens  
- Small Cities – Big Successes  
- Preparing your Students for a Foreign Exchange  
- Event 101 (Fundraising)  
- Developing Local Relationships with Other Groups  
- How to Sell your Programs via Social Media  
- Free Resources for Non-Profits

10:40 am – 11:30 am Women Mean Business  
**(Mayors-Cities How-To Track)** | Montgomery, Level 2

10:40 am – 11:30 am Partnerships with International Humanitarian and Peace Entities  
**(Partnership How-To Track)** | Fort Bend, Level 2

11:30 am – 12:45 pm Sponsored by HIS and BNSF Railway Company, Keynote Luncheon – Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: Assistant Secretary Royce will discuss how the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and Sister Cities International work together to strengthen people-to-people ties through citizen diplomacy, and to spur global economic development at the local level. | Houston IV, Level 2
11:30am - 12:45pm (cont.)  **Awards Ceremony**

- **Danville Sister Cities Commission**
  Innovation: Arts & Culture Award
- **City of Oak Ridge**
  Innovation: Arts & Culture Award
- **Sister Cities of Nashville**
  Innovation: Arts & Culture Award

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Human Trafficking in my Town? (Sister Cities Program How-To Track)</td>
<td>Montgomery, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Disinformation: The Human Dimension and Diplomatic Minefield</td>
<td>(Mayors-Cities How-To Track)</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Expanding your Opportunities: How to Partner with Your Rotary Club</td>
<td>(Partnership How-To Track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Engaging Mid-Career Professionals in Sister Cities</td>
<td>(Mayors-Cities How-To Track)</td>
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<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>U.S. – Mexico Mini Summit</td>
<td>Montgomery, Level 2</td>
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<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>U.S. – Germany Mini Summit</td>
<td>Fort Bend, Level 2</td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Connecting Local City Government, Universities and Sister Cities</td>
<td>Diplomacy</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Youth Leadership Summit: Final Simulation</td>
<td>Harris, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Conference Cocktail Reception</td>
<td>Foyer, Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>2019 Annual Awards Dinner and Gala</td>
<td>Houston Ballroom I-IV, Level 2</td>
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**Awards Ceremony**

- **S. Javaid Anwar**
  Distinguished Leadership Award
- **Brooks**
  Distinguished Corporate Diplomacy Award
- **Aspen Sister Cities**
  Best Overall Award
- **Highland Park, Illinois, Sister Cities Foundation**
  Best Overall Award
- **Asheville North Carolina Sister Cities, Inc**
  Best Overall Award
- **Lexington Sister Cities**
  Best Overall Award
- **San Antonio Sister Cities Program – City of San Antonio**
  Best Overall Award
- **Maxine Hankins Cain, Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission**
  Volunteer of the Year Award
- **Olivia Connor, Sister Cities of Nashville**
  Youth Leadership Award
- **Chairman’s Award**
- **President’s Award**

**Saturday, July 20**

8:00am - 11:00am  Board Group Photo and Board of Directors Meeting | Montrose, Level 3
### Wednesday, July 17  *(Detailed Schedule)*

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00am - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>GLC VIP Reception <em>(Invitation only)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Awards Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fort Worth Sister Cities International</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Innovation: Business &amp; Trade</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sister Cities of Jasper</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Innovation: Business &amp; Trade</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Neighbors Abroad, Palo Alto</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Innovation: Business &amp; Trade</strong></td>
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### Thursday, July 18  *(Detailed Schedule)*

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00am - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30am - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am - 9:00am</td>
<td>SCI Leadership Coffee</td>
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<td>All SCI Board Members, State Representatives, GAT members and Honorary Board members are to meet with Chairman Ron Nirenberg and President and CEO Roger-Mark de Souza for a pre-conference briefing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags, Sponsored by AMD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sponsored by AMD</td>
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<td>In 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 2019 Annual Conference.</td>
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<td><strong>Speakers:</strong></td>
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<td>Roger-Mark De Souza, President &amp; CEO, Sister Cities International</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio and Chair of SCI Board</td>
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<td>David Leebron, President of Rice University</td>
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<td>Christine Warnke, Capitol Hill Consulting Group</td>
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<td>Harry Gee Jr. President, Sister Cities of Houston</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Awards Ceremony and Remarks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Kathleen Kennedy Townsend</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sister Cities International Dwight D. Eisenhower Peace Prize</td>
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<td>11:00am - 11:40am</td>
<td>Board Candidates Forum</td>
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<td>Get to know the individuals running for the open slots on the Sister Cities International Board of Directors. An open candidates forum provided voters with an opportunity to know the candidates and their positions prior to the Annual Business Meeting and Elections.</td>
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<td>To see the candidate line up, visit <a href="https://sistercities.org/board-candidates">https://sistercities.org/board-candidates</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Mayoral Plenary Panel Discussion: “Compassion is Good Business”</td>
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<td>Sponsored by Brooks</td>
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<td>This session will examine the Charter for Compassion and why it has become popular among cities around the world.</td>
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</table>
Moderator: Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio and SCI Board Chair

Speakers
- Marilyn Turkovich, Executive Director of the Charter for Compassion International;
- Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston;
- Hector Castillo, Former Mayor of Santa Catarina Mexico;
- Cristina Gonzalez, Official representative of the Mayor of Monterrey and Director of Encuentro Mundial de Valores (Human Values Conference)

Awards Ceremony

Long Beach-Qingdao Association
Innovation: Youth & Education Award

1:30pm - 3:20pm  Afternoon Track Sessions

Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track
Think BIGGER with your sports exchanges. Industry experts from the NBA and Esports will share trends, ideas, and what works.

Culture is Business Track
Music and Art are ubiquitous, but how can you maximize (and monetize) their potential? Our panelists will share ideas and examples

Unique Cities Track
Capitalize on what makes your hometown unique and tap into the energy of your city, especially in the face of adversity

1:30pm - 2:20pm  e-Diplomacy – The New Era of Exchange and Programs (Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track) | Montgomery, Level 2

This workshop will feature panelists that will speak about their experiences in establishing esports venues in a commercial or academic setting, managing esports facilities, and being part of an esports team.

The workshop how the rise in esports represents both unique opportunities and challenges for cities that want a part of the projected $1 billion revenue generated by esports. Esports presents a unique opportunity to get people involved and connected, whether they are across town or across the world.

Moderator: David Hsu, International trade, import, export and compliance attorney at Givens and Johnston PLLC

Speakers:
- Mike Hunter, Esports Stadium Arlington
- Justin Grimsley, Esports Stadium Arlington
- Jonathon Oudthone, President of Esports Venues
- Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz, President of the University of Houston-Downtown

1:30pm - 2:20pm  Diplomacy through Music Festivals (Culture is Business Track) | Harris Level 2

Music crosses boundaries of language, geography, religion, gender, race and age. Music and festivals are among the most ancient and powerful ways for diverse peoples to come together and to better know their hearts and histories.

Cultural leaders from three cities will describe the programs they conduct that celebrate rich musical heritages and how these are shared across geographic boundaries. San Antonio is the location of the largest Diwali Festival outside of India. Houston’s Miller Outdoor Theatre offers more than 100 musical and theatrical performances free in a park setting, featuring many international art forms from Houston and abroad. Leipzig has longstanding musical exchanges with Sister City Houston and collaboration with Rice University.

Moderator: Suhail Arastu, San Antonio Mayor’s appointee to the Public Art Commission.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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</table>
| 1:30pm - 2:20pm | Dynamic Cities/Dynamic Entrepreneurs (Unique Cities Track)                           | Fort Bend, Level 2 | Dr. Gabrielle Goldfuss, Director of the Office for International Affairs for the City of Leipzig  
Cissy Segal Davis, Managing Director, Miller Outdoor Theatre 
Kausi Subramaniam, Founder of Anuja San Antonio that sponsors the San Antonio-Chennai Sister City relationship and created Diwali San Antonio |
| 2:30pm - 3:20pm | Sports Diplomacy: Get in the Game (Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track)           | Montgomery, Level 2 | Basya Benshushan, artist, mother and PinkCilantrro founder and CEO 
Lance Black, MD, MBID, head of medical device innovation, TMCx. 
Jeff Reichman, SKETCH City Founder, entrepreneur, chair of Mayor’s innovation council |
| 2:30pm - 3:20pm | Diplomacy through Art, Craft and Folk Art (Culture is Business Track)                | Harris Level 2   | Laura Dixon, Head of External Relations, Spurs Sports and Entertainment                           |
| 2:30pm - 3:20pm | Emerging Issues – Innovation through Adversity and Resilience (Unique Cities Track) | Fort Bend, Level 2 | Marissa Aho, Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Houston participating in the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities Initiative |
Speakers:
Kellie Bentz, Head of Global Disaster Response & Relief at Airbnb
James Donovan, Co-founder and CEO of ADEC Innovations
Amir Reisman, Director of Israel Northern Training Centers at the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC)

3:20pm - 3:30pm  
**Awards Ceremony**
Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, CEO, People to People International | Houston I-III, Level 2

**Lakeland Sister Cities International**
Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance Award

3:30pm - 5:00pm  
**Annual Business Meeting and Election of Board Members** | Houston I-III, Level 2
Annual Conference Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks - Chair
2. Presentation of Board Candidates - Chair
3. Election Procedures - Secretary
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8. Chair’s Report - Chair
9. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members - Vice Chair
10. Announcement of Election Results - Chair
11. Member Comments
12. Closing Remarks and Adjournment - Chair

5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Mayor’s City Welcome Reception
George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010

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**Friday, July 19 (Detailed Schedule)**

7:00am - 7:40am  
**New Board Member Orientation** | Houston III, Level 2
Newly elected board members are required to attend this orientation.

7:00am - 8:00am  
Continental Breakfast | Foyer, Level 2

7:30am - 4:00pm  
**Registration** | Harris, Level 2

8:00am - 9:30am  
**Annual Global Awareness Diplomatic Plenary Panel** | Houston IV, Level 2
Sponsored by State of Qatar
Session highlighting citizen diplomacy initiatives and opportunities with China, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Mexico, and Russia
Moderator: Ambassador Chase Untermeyer, Former Ambassador to Qatar
Speakers:
- **Mr. Heqiang Zhang**, Director General, Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
- **Ms. Alexandra Ignatyeva**, General Director, Union of Russian Cities
- **Mr. Hideo Fukushima**, Consul General to Japan in Houston
- **Mr. Prince Kwame Kludjeson**, Africa Global Sister Cities Foundation
- **Ms. Alicia Kerber**, Consul General to Mexico, Houston (invited)
- Representative from the State of Qatar (invited)
- **Mr. Thomas Meister**, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Houston

9:30am - 9:40am  
**Awards Ceremony**

*Foundation for Cultural Exchange, Grand Junction Colorado*
Innovation: Youth & Education Award
Professional and Technical Assistance Award
### 9:40am - 10:30am  
City Connection Marketplace Plenary Panel Discussion  |  *Houston II, Level 2*

Sponsored by ADEC Innovations  
This plenary panel will discuss the benefits to an SCI member community for a sister city relationship, how to form a sister city program, the different models of sister city programs, and available local and national partners to assist and grow your sister city program.

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

**Speakers:**
- **Dr. Alix Delsume**, Councilmember 4th District of North Miami
- **Dr. Carolyn Bishop**, President of the Consortium for Global Education
- **Chris Olsen**, Trade and Investment Officer, City of Houston
- **Jeffrey Blair**, Director, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Greater Houston Partnership
- **USAF Col Dan McGuire**, Deputy Director J5 National Guard Bureau

### 10:40am - 11:30am  
Sister Cities How-To Roundtables  (**Sister Cities Program How-To Track**)  | *Houston III, Level 2*

#### How to Recruit, Train, and Retain Volunteers  
**Table Facilitator:** Joel Cowley, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

#### How to Show Value to your Mayor/Council  
**Table Facilitator:** Kay Sargent, Kentucky State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### How to do a City Self-Assessment  
**Table Facilitator:** Jane Cahaly, South Carolina State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### How to Engage your Young Professionals and NextGens  
**Table Facilitator:** Ruth Frasier, Virginia State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### Small Cities – Big Successes  
**Table Facilitator:** Barbara Shepard, North Carolina State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### Preparing your Students for a Foreign Exchange  
**Table Facilitator:** Richard Buckler, New Mexico State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### Event 101 (Fundraising)  
**Table Facilitator:** Pat Fallin, So Cal State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### Developing Local Relationships with Other Groups  
**Table Facilitator:** Kathleen Roche Tansey, So Cal State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### How to Sell your Programs via Social Media  
**Table Facilitator:** Ricki Garrett, Mississippi State Representative for Sister Cities International

#### Free Resources for Non-Profits  
**Table Facilitator:** Fred Blanton, Virginia State Representative for Sister Cities International

### 10:40am - 11:30am  
Women Mean Business  (**Mayors-Cities How-To Track**)  | *Montgomery, Level 2*

Our expert panel for “Women Mean Business” will discuss how women are impacting policy, entrepreneurship and STEM fields. The discussion will include how to leverage the amazing global networking platform that Sister Cities International provides women leaders around the globe – whether navigating culture, capital, talent acquisition or technology— an effective network leads to business opportunities as well as channels to give back to local and global communities.

**Moderator:** Kelley Eubanks, Managing Partner, KEE Concrete and Construction, Inc

**Speakers:**
- **Julie Goodman**, CEO Goodman Global Consulting
- **Ksenia Mokrushina**, Urban Researcher and Planner
- **Dr. Naoko Ozaki**, Professor, Rice University
10:40am -11:30am Partnerships with International Humanitarian and Peace Entities  
(Partnership How-To Track) | Fort Bend, Level 2  
Global humanitarian organizations help millions of people around the world by protecting, feeding, healing, sheltering, educating, and nurturing communities daily. They serve YOUR countries too and can be a valuable partner in the pursuit to achieve your international development goals. This workshop is an opportunity to learn about the use of international relationships and it offers a ‘speed-networking’ activity for attendees to establish an immediate collaboration with some of the largest global players of this sector.  
**Moderator:** Olivera Jankovska, Global Citizenship Fellow, UNICEF USA  
**Speakers:**  
Sherry Bernard, Executive Director of Social Responsibility, YMCA of Greater Houston  
Pamela L. Cruz, Representative, Peace Corps  
Henry Van de Putte, CEO, Texas Gulf Coast Region, American Red Cross  
Alexis Thompson, Director of Development and Community Relations, The Salvation Army of Greater Houston

11:30am -12:45pm Keynote Luncheon – Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational And Cultural Affairs (ECA) | Houston IV, Level 2  
Sponsored by HIS and BNSF Railway Company. Assistant Secretary Royce will discuss how the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and Sister Cities International work together to strengthen people-to-people ties through citizen diplomacy, and to spur global economic development at the local level.  
**Moderator:** Carol Robertson-Lopez (Introducer), SCI Board Member  
**Speaker:**  
Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs

**Awards Ceremony**
- Danville Sister Cities Commission  
  Innovation: Arts & Culture Award  
- City of Oak Ridge  
  Innovation: Arts & Culture Award  
- Sister Cities of Nashville  
  Innovation: Arts & Culture Award

1:00pm -1:50pm Human Trafficking in my Town?  
(Sister Cities Program How-To Track) | Montgomery, Level 2  
This workshop will raise awareness of human trafficking issues in cities small and large and programs that are in place to address some of the aspects of human trafficking. The panel will also look at this issue from an international perspective. Attendees will learn how human trafficking is affecting cities and how they, and their local sister cities program can become involved in solutions  
**Moderator:** Sarah Craven, Director Washington D.C. Office, United Nations Population Fund  
**Speakers:**  
Naomi V Estaris, Executive Director ENJEWEL  
Linda “Jay” Jackson, founder and director of Helping Hand Nepal  
Minal Patel Davis, Special Advisor for the Mayor on Human Trafficking, Houston  
Larinda Smith, Community Outreach Director for Unbound, Fort Worth

1:00pm -1:50pm Disinformation: The Human Dimension and Diplomatic Minefield  
(Mayors-Cities How-To Track) | Fort Bend, Level 2  
Countering disinformation and manipulation of the media and the Internet is a challenge facing many parts of the national and local Governments as well as many aspects of American society. Rick Ruth, ECA Senior Advisor, will discuss the differences between disinformation and misinformation, the motivations behind disinformation, common characteristics of foreign disinformation and practical ways for individuals, local governments and Sister City programs.
can foster resilience to disinformation. This interactive workshop on disinformation is valuable to all local programs and local governments.

**Speaker:**
Rick Ruth, Senior Advisor, U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

**1:00 pm - 1:50 pm**

**Expanding your Opportunities: How to Partner with Your Rotary Club**
**Partnership How-To Track**  |  *Harris, Level 2*

This workshop aims to set the stage for Rotary and Sister Cities to explore partnerships by having Rotarians join Sister Cities in their communities to help increase projects fundraising, joint projects thus advancing the mission of both organizations.

**Moderator:** Kathleen Roche-Tansey, State Representative Sister Cities International & Member La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club

**Speakers:**
- David Campbell, Board Member Fort Worth Sister Cities International & Past President Rotary Club of Fort Worth
- Rick Burns, Board Member Sister Cities of Council Bluffs & SCI Afghanistan Country Representative, Member of the Atlantic (Iowa) & Leavenworth (Kansas) Rotary Clubs, Founder and President of Karadah Project Int’l
- Gil Garcia, SCI Honorary Board & SOCAL Board of Governors & Member Rotary Club Santa Barbara North
- Cristal Montanez Baylor, Board Member Sister Cities of Houston & International Committee Member Rotary e-Club of Houston & Hope For Venezuelan Refugees Project Coordinator

**2:00 pm - 2:50 pm**

**Engaging Mid-Career Professionals in Sister Cities**
**Mayors-Cities How-To Track**  |  *Harris, Level 2*

This session will focus on how to navigate change through leadership. The session will provide practical skills and resources for developing leadership that fosters bipartisanship and enables problem solving. This session will be organized with a focus on information sharing, networking, and hands-on training, brainstorming, and strategizing. Furthermore, discussion will focus on leveraging career experience to help develop citizen diplomacy programs.

**Moderator:** Ashley Turner, Executive Director of Community Relations at Lone Star College, and Houston's First Daughter

**Speakers:**
- Matthew Combe, Executive Director of Seattle 2030 District
- Stephanie Celt, Washington State Policy Coordinator at BlueGreen Alliance
- Radha Friedman, Founder of Radha Friedman Global Philanthropy
- Brandon Hersey, Primary Educator at Public Way Federal School District
- Christina Sciabarra, Political Science Professor at Bellevue College

**2:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

**U.S. – Mexico Mini Summit: The New Era for the Southern Border**  |  *Montgomery, Level 2*

The interaction between the US and Mexico has become an integrated and dependent economy interwoven by imports and exports ranging from agriculture to industrial products with over $300 billion of trade reported during the last year. Along with the expansion in trade, talent development that has evolved and will play a role in increasing the quality of life in border regions. The conversation on trade, education & innovation will provide new venues and points of view presented in the current era of trade wars and increase technological advances with skills development being key to the expansion.

**US-Mexico Entrepreneurship**

**Moderator:** Peter Svarzbein, photographer, curator, media specialist, and Representative for District 1, El Paso Texas

**Speakers:**
- Veronica Garza, Attorney
- Carlos Martinez Vela, CEO, The Hub of Human Innovation
- Dr. Juan Muñoz, President, University of Houston Downtown
US-Mexico Trade: Myths and Realities

**Moderator:** Roberto Ransom, Operations Director, Hunt Institute for Global Communications

**Speakers:**
- Daniel Dominguez, Senior Vice President & CEO, Air Matrix LLC  
- Alan Russell, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, co-founded the Tecma Group of Companies  
- Jose Luis Valencia Montano, Founder and CEO of Silogiat Worldwide Logistics

2:30pm - 5:15pm  U.S. – Germany Mini Summit  

|Fort Bend, Level 2|  

The U.S. – German Mini Summit track will highlight how closely the United States and Germany are linked by heritage, common values, and shared interests. These areas of mutual interest can be leveraged to develop inclusive, flexible, and equitable citizen networks that support and engage each other. Ultimately, this track will provide guidance and encouragement on how to develop their partnerships to improve community resilience. The Mini Summit will have two separate tracks: economic development and its relation to resilience, and culture and community programs as a means of enhancing social capital and community resilience. This session will include participation from the German American chamber of commerce, the Consular Corps and key members of German American Sister Cities’ programming.

Economic Development and Strong Communities

The goal of this session will be to model successful strategies for development within the context of U.S. – German sister city relationships. This workshop and panel discussion will focus on how economic development strengthens communities, with an eye to resilience. Speakers will highlight local businesses, policy initiatives, and strategies that promote sustainable local development.

**Moderator:** Teri Simmons, Partner at Arnall Golden Gregory

**Speakers:**
- Miriam Bruns, Director of Partner Relations Deputy Director, Deutschlandjahr USA  
- Rochelle Jonson, German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S., Inc  
- Thomas Meister, Consul General for Germany to Houston  
- Angelika Schmidt-Lange, Executive Director of the German Institute for the Southwest

Culture, Community Programs, and Social Capital: Fostering Resilient Communities

The goal of this session will be to understand how culture and community programs enhance social capital, thereby increasing community resilience. Discussion will center on existing community outreach models within the U.S. – German sister city network, and how to leverage models of success in future partnerships.

**Moderator:** AM Kinney III, SCI Board Member

**Speakers:**
- Dr. Gabriele Goldfuß, Director of the Office for International Affairs of the City of Leipzig  
- Mary Johnson, President of St. Charles – Ludwigsburg Sister Cities and Board Member of St. Charles Sister Cities  
- Wolfgang Schmidt, Founder and Managing Director of IMEC Corporation  
- Martin Wilhelmy, Senior VP for Investments at Frank Wilhelmy Hearn Wealth Consulting Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Honorary Consul to the Federal Republic of Germany

3:00pm - 3:50pm  Connecting Local City Government, Universities and Sister Cities Stakeholders for Citizen Diplomacy  

|Harris, Level 2|  

The workshop is intended to help Sister City programs struggling with coordinating projects and/or cities interested in creating new Sister City programs to save money and time by providing an example of a proven framework that they could modify based on their needs. Sister City Programs will learn from a University President, Council Member, and Consulates what it could be achieved by working together toward achieving common goals.
Moderator: Robert Gallegos, Council Member Robert Gallegos represents District I on Houston City Council

Speakers:
Luis W. Moyano, President of HGSCA
Andrew Sherr, US Consul General in Guayaquil
Ruth Duenas, Consul General of Ecuador
Cecilia Paredes, President of ESPOL

4:00pm - 5:00pm  Youth Leadership Summit: Final Simulation | Harris, Level 2

Hear from the 2019 Youth Leadership Summit participants as they present their solutions and defend their positions regarding the issue they discussed during the diplomatic simulation. This session will also mark the closing of the conference. Formal remarks will be given.

6:00pm - 7:00pm  Conference Cocktail Reception | Foyer, Level 2

7:00pm - 10:30pm  2019 Annual Awards Dinner and Gala | Houston Ballroom I-IV, Level 2

Since 1962, Sister Cities International has recognized exceptional Sister City programs. Come celebrate achievements made in 2018 with dinner and dancing.

Awards Ceremony

S. Javaid Anwar
Distinguished Leadership Award

Brooks
Distinguished Corporate Diplomacy Award

Aspen Sister Cities
Best Overall Award

Highland Park, Illinois, Sister Cities Foundation
Best Overall Award

Asheville North Carolina Sister Cities, Inc
Best Overall Award

Lexington Sister Cities
Best Overall Award

San Antonio Sister Cities Program – City of San Antonio
Best Overall Award

Maxine Hankins Cain, Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission
Volunteer of the Year Award

Olivia Connor, Sister Cities of Nashville
Youth Leadership Award

Chairman’s Awards

President’s Awards

Saturday, July 20 (Detailed Schedule)

8:00am -11:00am Board Group Photo and Board of Directors Meeting | Montrose, Level 3
The Youth Leadership Summit empowers young people to think globally through especially 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

### Youth Leadership Summit Schedule

**Tuesday, July 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Students Arrive at Rice University - Track registration and room assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:20 pm - 5:45 pm</td>
<td>SCI and SCH Welcome Message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm - 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Speaker: Dr. Camille Wardrop Alleyne, Ed.D. NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - 7:45 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Rules and Regulations - Signing Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 pm - 9:15 pm</td>
<td>Team Building Activity: “Meet your Peers”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, July 17 Celebrating Japan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 8:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 8:15 am</td>
<td>National Anthem - Raul Edwards, Dancer and Vocalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 am - 8:30 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks - Mrs. Ping Sun - Rice University Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Special Performance by Kaminari TAIKO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Tracks Begin - Working with Mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Speaker: Tom Kolditz - Institute for New Leaders at Rice University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm - 12:45 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Panel: Teaching Abroad (Focus Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 pm - 3:15 pm</td>
<td>Speaker: Japanese Cultural Experience - Shin Koyamada, Japanese-born American actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Team Building Activity - Focus Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 5:45 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Tracks - Independent Group Work</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Thursday, July 18 Celebrating Mexico**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 7:45 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 9:30 am</td>
<td>Flag Ceremony at the Adult Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05 am - 12:05 pm</td>
<td>Tracks - Working with Mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm - 1:10 pm</td>
<td>Speakers: Robert Ogburn; Irina Karmanova - U.S. Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20 pm - 2:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Speaker: Kamlesh (Kam) Lulla - NASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:35 pm - 3:50 pm</td>
<td>Special Performance by Ambassador International Ballet Folklorico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Team Building Activity - Focus Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm - 6:15 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Tracks - Independent Group Work</td>
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**Friday, July 19 Celebrating the Beauty of Africa**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 7:45 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 8:15 am</td>
<td>Special Performance - Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 9:05 am</td>
<td>Panel: The Faces of Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am - 9:50 am</td>
<td>Speaker: Jackson Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05 am - 11:05 pm</td>
<td>Tracks - Working with Mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20 am - 12:20 pm</td>
<td>Tracks Evaluations - Jury Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50 pm - 2:25 pm</td>
<td>Speaker: Adria Baker, Ed.D., Associate Vice Provost for International Education; Executive Director, OISS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 pm - 3:25 pm</td>
<td>Panel: Overcoming Barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Award Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>YLS Prom / Dinner</td>
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Annual Awards Winners

The Annual Awards Program highlights Sister City Programs’ achievements and brings international recognition to a community’s contribution 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 2019 Annual Awards, who are recognized for achievements made in 2018.

### Best Overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population less than 10,000</td>
<td>Aspen Sister Cities (Colorado)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population between 25,001-50,000</td>
<td>Highland Park Sister Cities Foundation (Illinois)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population between 50,001-100,000</td>
<td>Asheville North Carolina Sister Cities, Inc. (North Carolina)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population between 100,001-300,000</td>
<td>Lexington Sister Cities (Kentucky)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population greater than 300,000</td>
<td>San Antonio Sister Cities Program (Texas)</td>
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### Innovation: Arts and Culture

<table>
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<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population less than 25,000</td>
<td>Danville Sister Cities Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population between 25,001-100,000</td>
<td>City of Oak Ridge (Tennessee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population greater than 100,000</td>
<td>Sister Cities of Nashville (Tennessee)</td>
</tr>
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### Innovation: Youth and Education

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<th>Population category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population between 25,001-100,000</td>
<td>Foundation for Cultural Exchange Grand Junction (Colorado)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population greater than 100,001</td>
<td>Long Beach – Qingdao Association (California)</td>
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</table>

### Innovation: Business and Trade

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<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population less than 25,000</td>
<td>Sister Cities of Jasper (Indiana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population between 25,001-100,000</td>
<td>Neighbors Abroad Palo Alto (California)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population greater than 100,001</td>
<td>Fort Worth Sister Cities (Texas)</td>
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### Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance

<table>
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<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population greater than 100,001</td>
<td>Lakeland Sister Cities International (Florida)</td>
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### Innovation: Professional and Technical Assistance

<table>
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<th>Population category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population between 25,001-100,000</td>
<td>Foundation for Cultural Exchange Grand Junction (Colorado)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Volunteer of the Year

- Maxine Hankins Cain – Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission (Michigan)

### Youth Leadership

- Olivia Connor – Sister Cities of Nashville (Tennessee)
The Young Artists & Authors Showcase Winners

“Global Citizens: Resilient Communities”

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

About the theme: Resilience refers to how well an individual/community is able to anticipate, adapt, and respond to adversity or challenges. How can internationally-engaged future leaders help communities respond to the various global challenges to the 21st century? This year’s theme asks students to explore this question through the lens of citizen diplomacy.

After finalists are announced, the winning pieces go on a year-long tour hosted by local sister city programs.

### Art

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Prize</td>
<td>“Craftmanship”</td>
<td>Lakeland, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Amerson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Be Like an Umbrella”</td>
<td>New Brunswick, NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mizuki Tomita</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Chisom Ezigbo</td>
<td>Roanoke, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolyn Hanson</td>
<td>Red Wing, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dautey Jeremiah</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashley Nicole Koeing</td>
<td>Columbia Heights, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mizuki Nakagawa</td>
<td>Hot Springs, AR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Wong</td>
<td>Chandler, AZ</td>
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### Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poems Grand Prize</td>
<td>“People Came a Marching”</td>
<td>Veronica Butler</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bowling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucy Sangobrin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakeland, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays Grand Prize</td>
<td>“Perspective”</td>
<td>Rebecca Holden</td>
<td>Chandler, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>“Similarities and Differences”</td>
<td>Katherine Denzin</td>
<td>Santa Clarita, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Faces of a Future”</td>
<td>Caroline Parker</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Prize</td>
<td>Aanya Jain</td>
<td>Naperville, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Gemma Mangano</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valarie Ramos Parado</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sister Cities International would like to thank the working host committee for their hard work in preparation for the 2019 Sister Cities International Annual Conference. Their enthusiasm and embrace of the Conference as an opportunity to come together and showcase the best of Houston.

**Honorary Event Chair**

- **Sylvester Turner** Mayor of Houston

**Sister Cities Leadership**

- **Ron Nirenberg** Sister Cities International Chair and Mayor of San Antonio
- **Roger-Mark De Souza** Sister Cities International President and CEO
- **Harry Gee** Sister Cities Houston President

**Host Committee**

- **Sylvester Turner** Mayor of Houston, Honorary Event Chair
- **Murad Ajani** Aga Khan Council for Southwest United States
- **Philamena Baird** Houston Arts Alliance
- **Leroy Chiao** Former Astronaut
- **Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D.** The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- **Donna Fujimoto Cole** Cole Chemical
- **Dean E. Corgey** Port of Houston Authority
- **Joel Cowley** Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- **Sonia Garza-Monarchi** Garza Protocol Associates, LLC
- **Bob Harvey** Greater Houston Partnership
- **Austin Lane** Texas Southern University
- **Truett Latimer** Houston Museum of Natural Science
- **Cesar Maldonado** Houston Community College
- **Bill McKeon** Texas Medical Center
- **David Mincberg** Houston First
- **Peter Pisters, M.D.** UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- **Ping Sun** Rice University
- **Ellen Spencer Susman** U.S. Department of State
- **Chase Untermeyer** Former Ambassador to Qatar
Thank you to our conference subcommittee for leading this year’s content in Houston, Texas!

Carlo Capua (Co-Chair)  Owner, Z’s Café and Locavore  
Country Representative for eSwatini, Fort Worth, Texas

Mary Palko (Co-Chair)  Global Envoy,  
Country Representative for Argentina and France, Fort Worth, Texas

Stephen T. “Tim” Quigley, Jr.  Sister Cities International Chair Emeritus, San Jose, California

Carol Robertson Lopez  Sister Cities International Vice Chair, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Chair, U.S.-China Sister Cities Mayors’ Summit

Lorna Johnson  Sister Cities International Board Member, East Orange, New Jersey  
Chair, Africa Forum

Ellen Goldberg  Immediate Past President, Sister Cities of Houston,  
Co-Vice Chair Houston Host Committee

Harry Gee  President, Sister Cities of Houston, Chair Houston Host Committee

Susan Young  Vice President, Sister Cities of Houston,  
Co-Vice Chair Houston Host Committee

Kenia Mosquera  Co-Chair, Youth Leadership Summit Committee

Alex Chang  Treasurer, Sister Cities of Houston  
Co-Chair, Youth Leadership Summit Committee

Cristal Montañés Baylor  At Large Board Member, Sister Cities of Houston

Kham Vargas  At Large Board Member, Sister Cities of Houston,  
Volunteer Committee Chair

David Godwin  At Large Board Member, Sister Cities of Houston, Logistics Chair

Akhtar Abdullah  At Large Board Member, Sister Cities of Houston,  
Flag Ceremony Committee Chair

Jessica Ngo  Mayor’s Office of Trade and International Relations  
Mayor’s Reception Committee Chair
The Sister Cities International staff would like to thank the experts who contributed their time to helping us make Houston the best conference yet!

We would like to thank and acknowledge the volunteers and conference ambassadors who helped make the conference a success!

- Kekee Bailey
- Dani Brass
- Elizabeth Brogley
- Philip Brogley Brown
- Heather E. Craig
- Nadia Monroe
- Kevin O’Donell
- Henry C. Pitcher
- Annette Souder Rizzo
- Doug teDuits
- Nathan Butorac

**International Delegations**

We want to extend a warm welcome to our international delegations who came for the conference this year. Cities Mean Business 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.

- Australia
- Bahamas
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- China
- Costa Rica
- Czech Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Germany
- Ghana
- Haiti
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Macedonia (North)
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Republic of Korea
- Saudi Arabia
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe
Sister Cities International is governed by a 28-member Board of Directors who are elected by the voting membership of the organization. Board members serve three-year terms, and state, youth, and young professional representatives serve two-year terms. Board members are elected at Sister Cities International’s Annual Business Meeting during the Annual Conference each summer. Board members each generously support Sister Cities International through a $2,500 donation every year they serve on the Board.

**Executive Committee**

**Chair**
Ron Nirenberg

**President & CEO (ex officio)**
Roger-Mark De Souza

**Vice Chair**
Carol Robertson-Lopez

**Parliamentarian of the Board**
Tom Lisk

**Treasurer**
Lawrence F. Uebner

**Secretary**
Clare Petrich

**Executive Committee (At-Large)**
Lee Guio
Helene Schneider

**Young Professional Representative**
Courtney Bennett

**Directors**
Ed Adams
Suhail Arastu
Sheri Capehart
Magdalena Carrasco
Willow Darsie
Alix Desulme
Cindy Elliott
Mae Ferguson
Greg Jackson
Lorna K. Johnson
Steve Kalishman
Shin Koyamada
Roger Lawrence
Tim Quigley
Carolina Rendeiro
Barbara Shepard
Teri Simmons
Peter Svarzbein
Christine Warnke
Polly Yu
Global Leaders Circle

**President - $50,000+**
- Brooks

**Ambassador - $25,000+**
- AMD
- Port San Antonio

**Chargé D'Affaires - $10,000+**
- ADEC Innovations
- Henry M. Jackson Foundation
- Airbnb
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas LLC
- Michael Hyatt

**Diplomat - $5,000+**
- Air China
- Carol Robertson Lopez
- Ed Adams
- Mary Palko
- BNSF Railway Company
- Stephen T. Quigley
- Sheri Capehart
- Lawrence Uebner
- Alix Desuleme
- Vutex, Inc.
- Cynthia Elliott
- Polly Yu
- Houston Community College
- Sueba
- A.M. Kinney III
- United Nations Population Fund

**International Attaché - $2,500+**
- Suhail Arastu
- Roger Lawrence
- Frederick Blanton
- Thomas Lisk
- Magdalena Carrasco
- Ron Nirenberg
- Cole Chemical
- Nissui Plastic Machinery America, Inc.
- Willow Darsie
- Clare Petrich
- Mae Ferguson
- PPG Global LLC
- Presley Guio Jr.
- Carolina Rendeiro
- Nancy Huppert
- Helene Schneider
- Lorna Johnson
- Teri Simmons
- Steven Kalishman
- Peter Svarzbein
- Shin Koyamada
- Christine Warnke

**Special Envoy - $1,000+**
- James Amato
- Sherry Mueller
- Raveen Arora
- Elizabeth and Hank Pitcher
- Bill Boerum
- Kathleen Roche-Tansey
- Nathan Butorac
- Barbara Shepard
- Carlo Capua

**Counselor - $500+**
- Richard Buckler
- Kay Sargent
- Karen Karkula
- Louise Schoene

**Citizen Diplomat - $100+**
- Brenda Brumfield
- Ricki Garrett
- John Roy Castillo
- Starr Walton Hurley
- Heather Cochran
- Mary Blankenship Pointer
- Emma Delrosario
- Laura Smit
- Roger-Mark De Souza

*Sister Cities International gratefully acknowledges the support of the U.S. Department of State for its mission through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

*2019 Global Leaders Circle as of June 4, 2019*
Sister Cities International’s State Representatives are a volunteer group of leaders in the sister cities network who provide expertise and assistance to members in their respective states. If you are interested in becoming a state representative, please email Jane Cahaly at jcahaly@sistercities.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Scotty Colson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:democolson@aol.com">democolson@aol.com</a></td>
<td>205-254-2317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Linda Jackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:director@hhnepal.org">director@hhnepal.org</a></td>
<td>907-338-8128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Dick Neuheisel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richard@neuheisel.com">richard@neuheisel.com</a></td>
<td>480-350-8181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Henry Jones</td>
<td><a href="mailto:htjones@me.com">htjones@me.com</a></td>
<td>501-435-3297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California (Northern)</td>
<td>Starr Hurley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:starrned@msn.com">starrned@msn.com</a></td>
<td>916-425-5558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brenda Brumfield</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brenbrum@sbcglobal.net">brenbrum@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td>707-642-8015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California (Southern)</td>
<td>Pat Fallin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patfallin@msn.com">patfallin@msn.com</a></td>
<td>805-245-9075</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathleen Roche-Tansey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kroche.tansey@gmail.com">kroche.tansey@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>858-481-6856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Gayle Stallings</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ColoSCI@gmail.com">ColoSCI@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>303-246-7528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>Courtney Bennett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cbennett@ipesd.org">cbennett@ipesd.org</a></td>
<td>202-695-2450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Carolina Rendeiro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rendeirocarolina@gmail.com">rendeirocarolina@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>305-542-0299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Teri Simmons</td>
<td><a href="mailto:teri.simmons@agg.com">teri.simmons@agg.com</a></td>
<td>404-873-8612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Lily Ong</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lilyhawaii@gmail.com">lilyhawaii@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>808-779-0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Sue Minott</td>
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President George W. Bush, Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Ail Jahangir Siddiqi, President of Pakistan to the U.S., Consul General of Pakistan Aisha Farooqui at the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award presentation ceremony to Mr. Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, President HKSCA.

HKSCA Executive Board Members presenting a City of Houston Welcome Certificate to Mayor Waseem Ashraf of Karachi, Pakistan.

Mr. S. Javaid Anwar Chief Patron HKSCA, with Consul General of Pakistan Aisha Farooqui, Roger Mark, President of Sister Cities International, and Muhammad Sheikh President HKSCA, presented a traditional pair of Texan boots to Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to the U.S., as a token of appreciation at the World Affairs Council (WAC) and Houston Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA) “Dinner & Diplomacy” event.

Governor of Sindh, Pakistan, presenting Special Appreciation to Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Chief Patron, during HKSCA Goodwill Delegation visit to Pakistan.

Group photo of the Organizing Committee of Houston Iftar with Mayor Sylvester Turner, Guest of Honor S. Javaid Anwar, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congressman Al Green.
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Look around and you'll find us. We're in the classroom supporting education. We're fighting hunger with donations and warm meals. We're protecting the environment by recycling. We're volunteering our time for a worthy cause. And we're answering the call for help in times of need. In short, we're committed to Helping Here for one reason. We're proud to call Texas home.
Thank you for your support for our honored guest

Thank you for your support and partnership

中华人民共和国驻休斯敦总领事馆
CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN HOUSTON

Stephen T. Quigley  Elizabeth and Hank Pitcher  Yasuhiko and Akemi Saitoh