



JULY 17-19 2019
HOUSTON



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

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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

Welcome from Mayor Sylvester Turner



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sylvester Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

Welcome from Host Committee



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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Harry Gee, Jr." in a cursive style.

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

What's Unique About Sister Cities International?



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

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

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

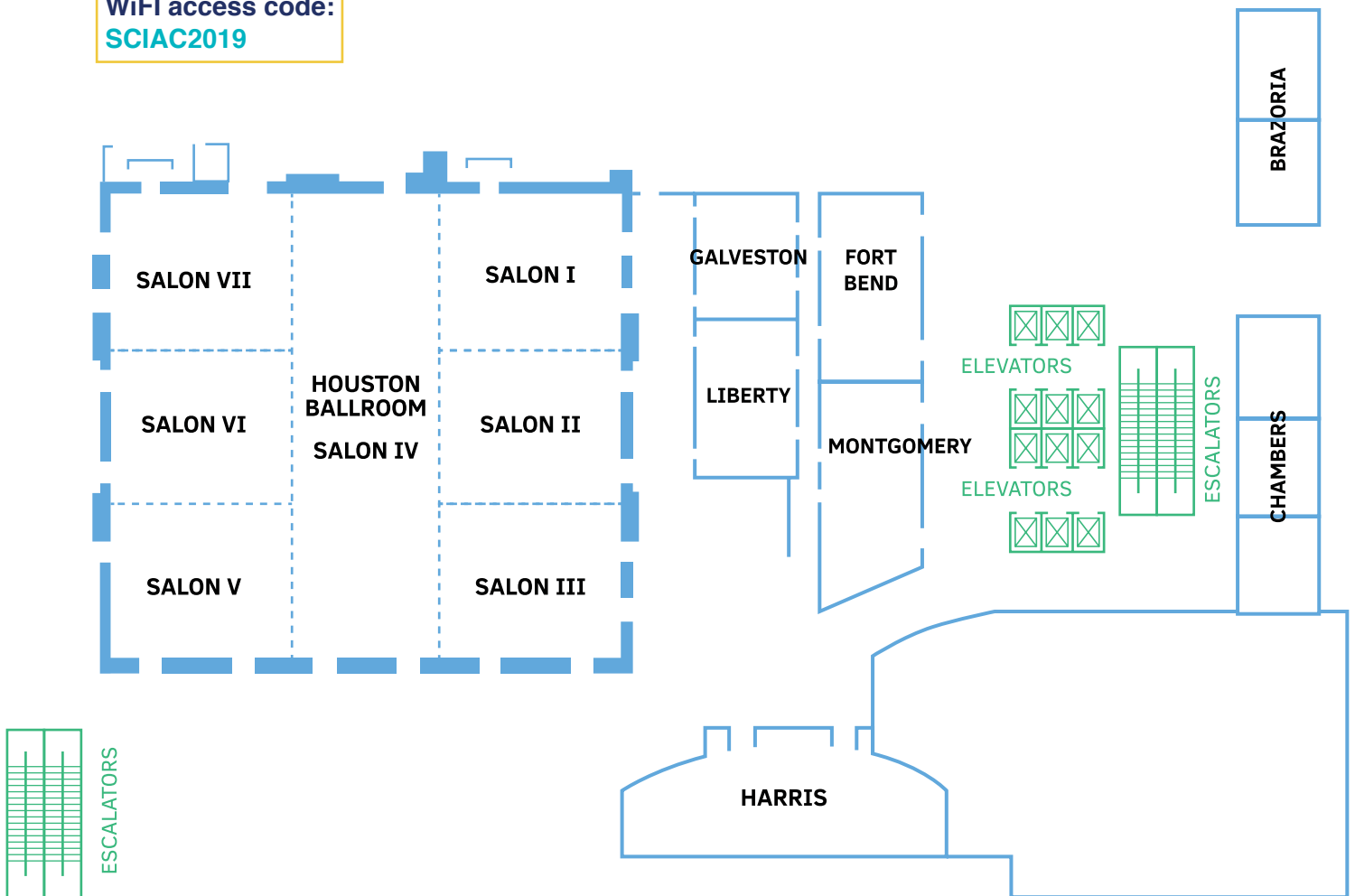
Zoetic Global
Ambassadorway Travel

**as of July 2nd.*

Marriott Marquis Hotel Map

Level 2

WiFi access code:
SCIAC2019



Registration and General Information

Registration and Check-in

Wednesday, July 17	7:00 am – 4:00 pm	(U.S. – China Mayors' Summit Only)
Thursday, July 18	7:00 am – 4:00 pm	
Friday, July 19	7:30 am – 4:00 pm	

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 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.

Voting members must present a photo ID and sign 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.

Exhibit Hall

Thursday, July 18	11:30 am – 4:00 pm	2nd Level Houston Foyer
Friday, July 19	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	2nd Level Houston Foyer

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.

Conference Security

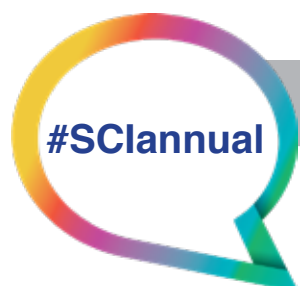
The Marriott Marquis Houston and Sister Cities International are not responsible for loss or damaged articles unless they have been secured properly by the respective facility.

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.



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.



Sister Cities International



@SisterCitiesInt



@SisterCitiesInt

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

- 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
6. Minister Counselor Yin Chengwu, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States, Letter from H.E. Cui Tiankai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States
- 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)

9:15	-9:45	<p>Keynote Address: 40 Years of Diplomatic Relations between the US and China</p> <p>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)</p> <p>United States - Charles Foster, Chair, US China Partnership (Introduced by Bo Fan, Sister Cities International Foundation Representative, US China Endowment)</p>
9:45am	-10:45am	<p>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.</p> <p>Moderator: The Honorable Helene Schneider, Former Mayor of Santa Barbara</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	-11:00am	Break
11:00am	-12:00pm	<p>Maritime Silk Road and Impact: Highlighting Sister Cities relationships and documenting the impact over time</p> <p>Moderator: Mary Blankenship Pointer, President, Oklahoma City Sister Cities/ Sister City Haikou</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	-1:30pm	<p>LUNCHEON Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China</p> <p>MC: Roger-Mark De Souza, President and CEO Sister Cities International</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	-2:30pm	<p>Metroplex Collaborations, and the Future for Economic Growth</p> <p>Moderator: Mae Ferguson, President/CEO Ft.Worth Sister Cities</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Xinzheng, 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**



Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
 Texas Southern University
 3100 Cleburne Street Houston, Texas 77004

Wednesday, July 17

8:00am –2:30pm **Registration (Lobby)**

8:00am –9:15am **Continental Breakfast (Lobby)**

9:15am –9:30am **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

9:30am –10:00am **Keynote Speaker**

Ambassador Jerome Ringo

Goodwill Ambassador for the Pan African Parliament

10:15am –11:30am **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)

11:30am –11:45am **Coffee Break and Vendors**

11:45am –1:00pm **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 Commerce, Houston, TX



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 Ulasi (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

Tuesday, July 16

11:00am -12:00pm	Investment Committee Meeting and Fund Development <i>Montgomery, Level 2</i>
12:00pm -1:30pm	Global Awareness Team Lunch
2:00pm -5:00pm	State Representative Training Program <i>Fort Bend A, Level 2</i>
2:00pm -5:00pm	Board of Directors Meeting <i>Houston I-III, Level 2</i>
6:00pm -8:00pm	Africa Forum Welcome Reception: Kulture Restaurant
5:30pm -7:00pm	US - China Sister Cities Mayors Summit Welcome Reception
7:00pm -9:30pm	Chinese Consul General Dinner (by invitation)

Annual Conference Schedule at-a-glance

Wednesday, July 17

7:00am -4:00pm	Registration <i>Foyer, Level 2</i>
6:00pm -8:00pm	GLC VIP Reception (Invitation only) <i>Greater Houston Partnership Building</i> Awards Ceremony Fort Worth Sister Cities of Jasper Neighbors Abroad, Palo Alto Sister Cities International Innovation: Business & Trade Innovation: Business & Trade Innovation: Business & Trade Innovation: Business & Trade

Thursday, July 18

7:00am -4:00pm	Registration <i>Foyer Level 2</i>
7:30am -8:45 am	Continental Breakfast <i>Foyer Level 2</i>
8:00am -9:00am	SCI Leadership Coffee <i>Houston V, Level 2</i>
9:00am -10:30am	Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags, Sponsored by AMD <i>George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010</i> Awards Ceremony Kathleen Kennedy Townsend Sister Cities International Dwight D. Eisenhower Peace Prize
11:00am -11:40am	Board Candidates Forum <i>Liberty, Level 2</i>
12:00pm -1:30pm	Lunch and Mayoral Plenary Panel Discussion: "Compassion is Good Business" Sponsored by Brooks <i>Houston IV, Level 2</i> Awards Ceremony Long Beach-Qingdao Association Innovation: Youth & Education Award
1:30pm -2:20pm	e-Diplomacy – The New Era of Exchange and Programs (Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track) <i>Montgomery, Level 2</i>
1:30pm -2:20pm	Diplomacy through Music Festivals (Culture is Business Track) <i>Harris Level 2</i>
1:30pm -2:20pm	Dynamic Cities/Dynamic Entrepreneurs (Unique Cities Track) <i>Fort Bend, Level 2</i>
2:30pm -3:20pm	Sports Diplomacy: Get in the Game (Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track) <i>Montgomery, Level 2</i>
2:30pm -3:20pm	Diplomacy through Art and Folk Art (Culture is Business Track) <i>Harris Level 2</i>
2:30pm -3:20pm	Emerging Issues – Innovation through Adversity and Resilience (Unique Cities Track) <i>Fort Bend, Level 2</i>



3:20pm –3:30pm	Awards Ceremony Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, CEO, People to People International <i>Houston I-III, Level 2</i> Lakeland Sister Cities International <i>Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance Award</i>
3:30pm –5:00pm	Annual Business Meeting and Election of Board Members <i>Houston I-III, Level 2</i> Annual Conference Business Meeting Agenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
5:30pm –7:30pm	Mayor's City Welcome Reception <i>George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010</i>

Friday, July 19

7:00am –7:40am	New Board Member Orientation <i>Houston III, Level 2</i>
7:00am –8:00am	Continental Breakfast <i>Foyer, Level 2</i>
7:30am –4:00pm	Registration <i>Harris, Level 2</i>
8:00am –9:30am	Annual Global Awareness Diplomatic Plenary Panel, Sponsored by State of Qatar <i>Houston IV, Level 2</i>
9:30am –9:40am	Awards Ceremony Foundation for Cultural Exchange, Grand Junction Colorado <i>Innovation: Youth & Education Award</i> Professional and Technical Assistance Award
9:40am –10:30am	City Connection Marketplace Plenary Panel Discussion, Sponsored by ADEC Innovations <i>Houston II, Level 2</i>
10:40am –11:30am	Sister Cities How-To Roundtables (Sister Cities Program How-To Track) <i>Houston III, Level 2</i> 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
10:40am –11:30am	Women Mean Business (Mayors-Cities How-To Track) <i>Montgomery, Level 2</i>
10:40am –11:30am	Partnerships with International Humanitarian and Peace Entities (Partnership How-To Track) <i>Fort Bend, Level 2</i>
11:30am –12:45pm	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. <i>Houston IV, Level 2</i>

11:30am -12:45pm (cont.)	Awards Ceremony Danville Sister Cities Commission <i>Innovation: Arts & Culture Award</i> City of Oak Ridge <i>Innovation: Arts & Culture Award</i> Sister Cities of Nashville <i>Innovation: Arts & Culture Award</i>
1:00pm -1:50pm	Human Trafficking in my Town? (Sister Cities Program How-To Track) <i>Montgomery, Level 2</i>
1:00pm -1:50pm	Disinformation: The Human Dimension and Diplomatic Minefield (Mayors-Cities How-To Track) <i>Fort Bend, Level 2</i>
1:00pm -1:50pm	Expanding your Opportunities: How to Partner with Your Rotary Club (Partnership How-To Track) <i>Harris, Level 2</i>
2:00pm -2:50pm	Engaging Mid-Career Professionals in Sister Cities (Mayors-Cities How-To Track) <i>Harris, Level 2</i>
2:30pm -5:30pm	U.S. – Mexico Mini Summit <i>Montgomery, Level 2</i>
2:30pm -5:15pm	U.S. – Germany Mini Summit <i>Fort Bend, Level 2</i>
3:00pm -3:50pm	Connecting Local City Government, Universities and Sister Cities Stakeholders for Citizen Diplomacy <i>Harris, Level 2</i>
4:00pm -5:00pm	Youth Leadership Summit: Final Simulation <i>Harris, Level 2</i>
6:00pm -7:00pm	Conference Cocktail Reception <i>Foyer, Level 2</i>
7:00pm -10:30pm	2019 Annual Awards Dinner and Gala <i>Houston Ballroom I-IV, Level 2</i> Awards Ceremony S. Javaid Anwar <i>Distinguished Leadership Award</i> Brooks <i>Distinguished Corporate Diplomacy Award</i> Aspen Sister Cities <i>Best Overall Award</i> Highland Park, Illinois, Sister Cities Foundation <i>Best Overall Award</i> Asheville North Carolina Sister Cities, Inc <i>Best Overall Award</i> Lexington Sister Cities <i>Best Overall Award</i> San Antonio Sister Cities Program – City of San Antonio <i>Best Overall Award</i> Maxine Hankins Cain, Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission <i>Volunteer of the Year Award</i> Olivia Connor, Sister Cities of Nashville <i>Youth Leadership Award</i> 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)*

7:00am -4:00pm	Registration <i>Foyer, Level 2</i>
6:00pm -8:00pm	GLC VIP Reception (Invitation only) <i>Greater Houston Partnership Building</i> Awards Ceremony Fort Worth Sister Cities International <i>Innovation: Business & Trade</i> Sister Cities of Jasper <i>Innovation: Business & Trade</i> Neighbors Abroad, Palo Alto <i>Innovation: Business & Trade</i>

Thursday, July 18 *(Detailed Schedule)*

7:00am -4:00pm	Registration <i>Foyer Level 2</i>
7:30am -8:45 am	Continental Breakfast <i>Foyer Level 2</i>
8:00am -9:00am	SCI Leadership Coffee <i>Houston V, Level 2</i> 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.
9:00am -10:30am	Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags, Sponsored by AMD <i>George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010</i> Sponsored by AMD 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. Speakers: Roger-Mark De Souza , President & CEO, Sister Cities International Ron Nirenberg , Mayor of San Antonio and Chair of SCI Board David Leebron , President of Rice University Christine Warnke , Capitol Hill Consulting Group Harry Gee Jr. President , Sister Cities of Houston Awards Ceremony and Remarks Kathleen Kennedy Townsend <i>Sister Cities International Dwight D. Eisenhower Peace Prize</i>
11:00am -11:40am	Board Candidates Forum <i>Liberty, Level 2</i> 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. To see the candidate line up, visit https://sistercities.org/board-candidates
12:00pm -1:30pm	Lunch and Mayoral Plenary Panel Discussion: "Compassion is Good Business" <i>Houston IV, Level 2</i> Sponsored by Brooks This session will examine the Charter for Compassion and why it has become popular among cities around the world.

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.

**Speakers:**

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

1:30pm -2:20pm

Dynamic Cities/Dynamic Entrepreneurs
(Unique Cities Track) | [Fort Bend, Level 2](#)

Cities that attract young entrepreneurs sustain vibrant and innovative economies and cultures. Challenges for cities are what are the urban features that attract young entrepreneurs and permit them to thrive on a local, national and global scale. The panel brings together dynamic young entrepreneur innovators who are working in a variety of realms including medicine, public policy and online marketing and will discuss their impact on economies, connection to global creativity and sources of inspiration.

Moderator: Alix Desulme, SCI Board Member

Speakers:

Basya Benshushan, artist, mother and PinkCilantro 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

Sports Diplomacy: Get in the Game
(Business and Diplomacy of Sports Track) | [Montgomery, Level 2](#)

Looking to rejuvenate your sports exchanges or take them to the next level? Laura Dixon from Spurs Sports and Entertainment will share best practices for engage through the spirit of competition.

Speaker:

Laura Dixon, Head of External Relations, Spurs Sports and Entertainment

2:30pm -3:20pm

Diplomacy through Art, Craft and Folk Art
(Culture is Business Track) | [Harris Level 2](#)

This workshop explores how Art and Folk Art are emblematic of the history and character of a people reaching into their myths, materials, passions and skills. Cities benefit from celebrating art and folk art that emerge from their local communities and from exchanges with communities abroad.

The workshop will be moderated by former director of art exchanges through the framework of US Embassies and will feature panelists who represent some of the most dynamic art and folk art exchanges between cities in the United States and communities abroad – the International Folk Art Market, Asia Society Texas Center and Project Row Houses.

Moderator: Perry Price, Director, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

Speakers:

Bridget Bray, Nancy C. Allen Curator and Director of Exhibitions, Asia Society of Texas Center
Ryan Dennis, Curator and Arts Program Director, Project Row Houses
Carol Robertson Lopez, SCI Board Member

2:30pm -3:20pm

Emerging Issues – Innovation through Adversity and Resilience
(Unique Cities Track) | [Fort Bend, Level 2](#)

Resilient cities innovate in the face of adversity through disasters and stresses as diverse as severe weather, homelessness, fires, earthquakes, grid failure, cyber disruption, hazardous spills and explosions, terrorism and communicable diseases. This panel addresses lessons learned about preparedness, responses to, and mitigation of emergencies and stresses that also create business opportunities and community activation solutions.

Moderator: 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 CeremonyMerrill 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 |
| 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 |

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Mayor's City Welcome Reception

| *George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010***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)

1:00pm -1:50pm

**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

2:00pm -2:50pm

**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

2:30pm -5:30pm

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 MatrixLLC

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*

Youth Leadership Summit Schedule

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>

Tuesday, July 16

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Students Arrive at Rice University - Track registration and room assignments
5:20 pm – 5:45 pm	SCI and SCH Welcome Message
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	Speaker: Dr. Camille Wardrop Alleyne, Ed.D. NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
7:00 pm – 7:45 pm	Dinner
7:45 pm – 8:00 pm	Rules and Regulations - Signing Contract
8:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Team Building Activity: "Meet your Peers"

Wednesday, July 17 Celebrating Japan

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

Thursday, July 18 Celebrating Mexico

7:00 am – 7:45 am	Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Flag Ceremony at the Adult Conference
10:05 am – 12:05 pm	Tracks - Working with Mentors
12:30 pm – 1:10 pm	Speakers: Robert Ogburn; Irina Karmanova - U.S. Department of State
1:20 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Speaker: Kamlesh (Kam) Lulla - NASA
3:35 pm – 3:50 pm	Special Performance by Ambassador International Ballet Folklorico
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Team Building Activity - Focus Japan
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Tracks - Independent Group Work

Friday, July 19 Celebrating the Beauty of Africa

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

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

Population less than 10,000	<i>Aspen Sister Cities (Colorado)</i>
Population between 25,001-50,000	Highland Park Sister Cities Foundation (Illinois)
Population between 50,001-100,000	Asheville North Carolina Sister Cities, Inc. (North Carolina)
Population between 100,001-300,000	Lexington Sister Cities (Kentucky)
Population greater than 300,000	San Antonio Sister Cities Program (Texas)

Innovation: Arts and Culture

Population less than 25,000	Danville Sister Cities Commission
Population between 25,001-100,000	City of Oak Ridge (Tennessee)
Population greater than 100,000	Sister Cities of Nashville (Tennessee)

Innovation: Youth and Education

Population between 25,001-100,000	Foundation for Cultural Exchange Grand Junction (Colorado)
Population greater than 100,001	Long Beach – Qingdao Association (California)

Innovation: Business and Trade

Population less than 25,000	Sister Cities of Jasper (Indiana)
Population between 25,001-100,000	Neighbors Abroad Palo Alto (California)
Population greater than 100,001	Fort Worth Sister Cities (Texas)

Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance

Population greater than 100,001	Lakeland Sister Cities International (Florida)
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Innovation: Professional and Technical Assistance

Population between 25,001-100,000	Foundation for Cultural Exchange Grand Junction (Colorado)
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Volunteer of the Year

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

Youth Leadership

Olivia Connor – Sister Cities of Nashville (Tennessee)
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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



Grand Prize:

“Craftmanship”	
Rachel Amerson	Lakeland, FL
“Be Like an Umbrella”	
Mizuki Tomita	New Brunswick, NJ

Finalists:

Chisom Ezigbo	Roanoke, VA
Carolyn Hanson	Red Wing, MN
Dautey Jeremiah	San Diego, CA
Ashley Nicole Koeing	Columbia Heights, MN
Mizuki Nakagawa	Hot Springs, AR
Amanda Wong	Chandler, AZ

Literature



Poems Grand Prize:

“People Came a Marching”	
Veronica Butler	Lexington, KY

Finalists:

Elizabeth Bowling	Lexington, KY
Lucy Sangobrin	Lakeland, FL

Essays Grand Prize:

“Perspective”	
Rebecca Holden	Chandler, AZ

Finalists:

“Similarities and Differences”	
Katherine Denzin	Santa Clarita, CA
“Faces of a Future”	
Caroline Parker	Lexington, KY

Photography



Grand Prize:

Aanya Jain	Naperville, IL
------------	----------------

Finalists:

Gemma Mangano	-
Valarie Ramos Parado	San Antonio, TX

Houston Host Organizing Committee

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

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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!

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

Sister Cities International Staff Assistance Team

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.

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Polly Yu

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Citizen Diplomat - \$100+

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Heather Cochran

Emma Delrosario

Roger-Mark De Souza

Ricki Garrett

Starr Walton Hurley

Mary Blankenship Pointer

Laura Smit

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

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Thelma Press.....	San Diego, CA
Hans Vielberth	Germany (Regensburg, Germany)

Honorary Board

Sister Cities International's Honorary Board is comprised of key individuals who have shown great leadership in Sister Cities International through the years. They are long-standing volunteers from membership, former members of the Board of Directors, or former State Coordinators who, because

of their outstanding support and involvement in the organization, were voted as Honorary Board members. As a self-governing body, the Honorary Board stands ready to assist Sister Cities International members with a wealth of institutional knowledge and experience.

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Roxana Goin	<i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>	Hans Vielberth	<i>Regensburg, DEU</i>
Angie Gomez	<i>Alhambra/Pasadena, CA</i>	Carla Walker	<i>Cincinnati, OH</i>
Glenn Gray	<i>Vashon Island, WA</i>	Joshua Walker	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Bob Greninger	<i>Prescott Valley, AZ</i>	Mark Walton	<i>New York, NY</i>
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Kevin Hill	<i>Newington, AUS</i>	Jane Wood	<i>Jacksonville, FL</i>

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Sister Cities International

A large, circular, golden-colored graphic resembling a stylized eye or a complex circuit board, with many concentric rings and radial lines. The AMD logo and '50' are centered over this graphic.

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Sister Cities International Presents Annual Distinguished Leadership Award to **Mr. S. Javaid Anwar**



CEO Midland Energy and Chief Patron of Houston Karachi Sister City Association for His Continuous and Generous Support Towards Sister Cities Mission in Promoting Peace, Understanding and Citizen Diplomacy



President George W. Bush, Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Ali Jahangir Siddiqui Ambassador 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 Akhtar of Karachi, Pakistan.



S. Javaid Anwar Chief Patron HKSCA, with Consul General of Pakistan Aisha Farooqui, Roger Mark President 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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Rebecca Richards-Kortum
Malcolm Gillis University Professor, professor of Bioengineering
and Director of Rice 360: Institute for Global Health Technology



Guided by the belief that everyone deserves the benefits of health innovation, Rice's Rebecca Richards-Kortum provides vulnerable populations in the developing world access to lifesaving health technology. Working alongside student and clinical collaborators, she has spent her career developing point of care medical technologies to address global health disparities in low-resource settings as well as training and inspiring students to address global challenges.

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RICE

Hello & Welcome

To the 2019 Sister Cities~Houston attendees!

We hope you enjoy the experience.



Tell us about your visit & share your pictures.
We'd love to hear from you!

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Hello & Welcome

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Hello & Welcome

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