



U.S.-German Business and Community Partnerships to Be Highlighted at Sister Cities BMW Spartanburg Event

WASHINGTON, DC (October 22, 2019) – Regional Sister Cities members and representatives, community leaders, and youth will convene to discuss U.S.-German city and citizen diplomacy opportunities and benefits on November 2 at the BMW Zentrum in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The regional meeting, titled “America and Germany: Friends in Business and Community,” focuses on how sister city partnerships in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, can strengthen U.S.-German business partnerships and community ties. The event is in partnership with Wunderbar Together.

The United States and Germany sustain strong economic ties and business partnerships, including at the city level. The event host BMW Spartanburg Zentrum, the largest BMW plant in the world by volume, is itself a testament to the strength of U.S.-German ties. Business partnerships are also increasingly facilitated by 100 U.S. German sister city partnerships. Sister cities are often chosen due to similarities, such as size and industry. In addition to compatibility, an official city partnership creates greater stability in a long-term business relationship. U.S.-German sister cities also collaborate in numerous other ways, including in climate resilience, student exchange, knowledge sharing, disaster relief, art exhibitions, and more, all of which foster community ties and citizen diplomacy. The accomplishments of these partnerships in the region, as well as strategies for expanding them further, will be discussed at the event.

The event will include a panel presentation on “U.S.-German Sister Cities in Virginia and the Carolinas,” knowledge sharing between sister cities, lunch, and a tour of the BMW plant and Zentrum Museum. It will also feature special guest Carol Robertson Lopez, Chairman-Elect of the Sister Cities Board of Directors. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 and available [here](#). Further details can be found on the event website.

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About Wunderbar Together

This event is a part of Sister Cities’ 2019 partnership with Wunderbar Together (#SCIWunderbarTogether), designed to highlight and strengthen the person-to-person connections between the US and Germany through sister cities partnerships. Wunderbar Together is a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut, and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI). Working with over 200 partners, it is showcasing the close bonds between the US and Germany in over 1,500 events in all 50 states. For more information, visit Wunderbar Together’s website at wunderbartogether.org and Sister Cities International’s webpage at sistercities.org/wunderbartogether.

About Sister Cities International

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

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