



AGENDA

“America and Germany Friends in Business and Community”

11/2/2019 | 8:30-4:00 | Wunderbar Together & Sister Cities International

Location: BMW Zentrum – 1400 Highway 101 South, Greer, South Carolina 29651

Planning Committee: Barbara Shepard, SCI NC State Representative; Fred Blanton, SCI VA State Representative; Jane Cahaly, SCI SC State Representative; Dean Suozzi-Aubury, SCI Staff; Carolina Krauskopf, SCI Staff; Beata Pirchmoser, Spartanburg Sister Cities; Alix Akulli, Spartanburg Sister Cities; Craig Lundgren, Greenville Sister Cities; Carol Burdette, Anderson Sister Cities

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Introductions

Carol Burdette – Chair South Carolina Sister Cities Association

Roger-Mark De Souza – President and CEO Sister Cities International

Beate Pirchmoser – Chair Spartanburg Sister Cities

Barbara Shepard –SCI North Carolina State Representative

Fred Blanton – SCI Virginia State Representative

9:30 – 9:45 SCI - Wunderbar Together – “Fall of the Wall Display”

Jane Cahaly – SCI South Carolina State Representative

10:00 – 11:15 Tour BMW Manufacturing Facilities & Museum Tour BMW Manufacturing

11:30 – 12:30 US-German Sister Cities Panel – Moderator – Fred Blanton

Dr. Alexander Akull – USC Upstate Spartanburg Sister Cities

Fred Blanton – Norfolk and Newport News Sister Cities

Sabine Schmid-Rankin – Gastonia Sister Cities

12:30 – 1:15 Buffet Lunch – (30 Years Fall of the Wall Exhibit) – BMW Atrium

1:15 – 1:45 Sister Cities International Past, Present and Future

Carol Lopez – Chair Elect – Sister Cities International Board of Directors

1:45 – 3:45 Sister Cities Knowledge Sharing – Moderator – Barbara Shepard

How Do You Prepare for Exchanges?

How Are You Organized for Sustainability?

3:45 – 4:00 Closing Remarks

Carol Robertson Lopez

Chair Elect Sister Cities International Board of Directors

After service as Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors of Sister Cities for nine years, in August of 2018, Carol was elected Vice Chair and Chair Elect of Sister Cities International. Previous to serving on the Board, Carol was a State Coordinator/Representative for New Mexico and was also appointed to the SCI Honorary Board.

At the local level, she serves as the Chair of the Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee and her passion has been the Bukhara/Santa Fe Sister Cities.

She is a recent Past President of the International Women's Forum-New Mexico. Carol is the immediate Past President of the American Women for International Understanding and recently returned from an AWIU delegation to Ethiopia. Carol is an active member of the International Women's Forum having served as President of New Mexico's Chapter.

Carol is currently serving as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Children's Foundation. She has been a member of the Board or Advisory Board of the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market since its creation. This Market is juried and for 16 years, the number of artists from Uzbekistan have been second because of the incredible quality of the work. Only neighboring Mexico has a greater number of artists.

Carol served two terms on the Santa Fe City Council and six as Mayor ProTempore. In addition to Chairing Public Works, Finance and Public Safety, a major accomplishment was the securing the funds for the building of the Southside Library. She served as President of the New Mexico Municipal League and traveled extensively throughout New Mexico in her positions. She chaired the International Council for the National League of Cities.

Carol served a long career in various administrative positions in state government including: the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the Office of the Attorney General in Santa Fe, the State Personnel Office, and the State Planning Division. She received the 2004 Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women. While engaged in these positions she worked with the NM State Legislature and continues to do so on behalf of the IFAA and Museum Hill Partnership.

Carol has traveled numerous times to Uzbekistan and the government of Bukhara and Uzbekistan with the title "Honorary Citizen of Bukhara." She cut the ribbon for the Silk and Spices Market and spoke at the International Conference on Tourism in Bukhara. She also monitored elections in Uzbekistan twice.

Carol has completed all coursework for a Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in higher education management and also earned her Master's Degree from New Mexico State University. Her passion is travel and learning about the world with her husband Jeff, a former Peace Corp Volunteer. She gardens, swims and is an avid reader.

Carol has been a member of the Milagro Community Garden for the last ten years where her tomatoes have twice won blue ribbons.