
SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL APPOINTS LEROY ALLALA AS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

WASHINGTON, DC (January 10, 2020) – Sister Cities International, the national association of U.S. sister city programs/organizations and the premier global leader in citizen diplomacy, today announced the appointment of Mr. Leroy Allala as its new President and CEO, effective January 10th, 2020.

“We congratulate, and welcome Leroy Allala as our new President & CEO. We are honored to have Leroy take over the executive leadership of our national network,” said San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Sister Cities International Board Chair. “He is a globally recognized civic, business and community leader with a depth of executive leadership and entrepreneurial organization. Combined with his passion for productive people and community relationships that strengthen bonds worldwide Leroy is the right fit to lead the Sister Cities International network movement at this crucial point in time.”

Mr. Allala has most recently been Executive Vice President, World Business Chicago, a public-private partnership to drive inclusive economic growth and promote Chicago as a leading global business destination. Allala also served as Executive Director of Chicago Sister Cities International for eleven years; responsible for developing and growing its 29 sister city network, recognized as the “Best Overall” national major-sized city program. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the Mid America Chapter of the United States – Mexico Chamber of Commerce (USMCOC) for fifteen years, a binational Chamber with 19 offices, supporting its mission to promote trade and investment between the US and Mexico.

President Allala stated “I am honored for the opportunity to lead Sister Cities International and to work with the board and staff to further the mission to promote peace and mutual understanding through citizen diplomacy. The work of sister cities has always been a passion of mine and I look forward to leading the organization into its next chapter. With its highly committed leadership and passionate and dedicated volunteers in communities across the U.S and around the globe, I am confident we will grow our network and continue to build on our successes.”

He is a proud native of Chicago with deep roots in South Texas, fluent in Spanish, and graduate of Southern Methodist University with a B.A. degree in Political Science. Mr. Allala is also a 2014 Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, Fellow of the BMW Foundation, Member of the Host Committee for the 2012 NATO and G8 Summit and International Board Member of the Delice Network, based in Lyon, France from 2010-2019.

“We are thrilled to have a longstanding colleague in the national citizen diplomacy movement as our new President,” said Carol Robertson Lopez, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. “We also congratulate and wish our outgoing President Roger-Mark De Souza the very best in his new responsibilities and thank him for his stewardship these past two years.”

Roger-Mark De Souza has been recruited to join Amnesty International (AIUSA) as its new Chief Movement Building Officer in charge of oversees research and programs designed to document human rights abuses and direct AIUSA’s engagement of its membership base in order to leverage AIUSA’s grassroots activism from the local to the global level.

Mr. Allala will be responsible for leading and serving Sister Cities International's diverse 100,000+ network of volunteers, civic and cultural organizations, elected officials, educators, and private businesses that partner together to provide people-to-people international exchanges and promote sustained community-to-community connection.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 member communities with relationships in over 2,000 communities in 145 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, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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