



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WASHINGTON, DC (October 8, 2021) – Following a membership-wide election, eleven individuals were elected, and one individual was appointed to Sister Cities International’s 24-member Board of Directors. The election took place virtually with electronic voting that was accessible to SCI’s membership between June 1 and July 15, 2021.

Appointed by Carol Robertson-Lopez, Chair of SCI Board of Directors:

- **Jessey Lee** of Plano, Texas was appointed to a one-year term. He will serve on the Board Development Committee and the Fund Development Committee until 2022.

Elected to a three-year term:

- **Councilman Joe Buscaino** of Los Angeles, California was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the Vice Chair of the NLC/SCI Collaboration Task Force and will serve on the Fund Development Committee and the Governance Committee.
- **Ivan Jaime** of San Antonio, Texas and Director of Public Affairs at Walmart, was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as Vice Chair of the Fund Development Committee and on the US Mexico Affairs Council (UMAC).
- **Councilman Sergio Jimenez** of San Jose, California was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the Vice Chair of the Fund Development Committee, on the Board Development Committee, the NLC/SCI Collaboration Task Force, and the US Mexico Affairs Council (UMAC).
- **Dr. Carole Kenner** of Ewing, New Jersey was elected as an At-Large director and will serve on the Finance Committee and the Strategy and Partnerships Subcommittee of the Strategy and Programs Committee.
- **Ronda Pierce** of Durham, North Carolina was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the Co-Chair of the Virtual Programs Subcommittee of the Strategy and Programs Committee, and on the Membership Committee.
- **Helene Schneider**, former mayor of Santa Barbara, California, was re-elected as an At-Large director and will continue to serve as the Human Resources Sub-Committee Chair, the Chair of the Board Development Committee, co-chair of the Mayors Leadership Council and member of the NLC/SCI Collaboration Task Force. Additionally, she was elected to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Mildred Vanderpuije** of Columbia, South California was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the NEXTGEN Co-Chair of the Strategy and Programs Committee and as a member of the Governance Committee.

Elected to a two-year term:

- **James Donovan** of Geneva, Switzerland, was re-elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the Chair of the Strategy and Partnerships Subcommittee of the Strategy and Programs Committee. In addition to being an SCI UN Envoy, he will serve as a member of the Fund



Development Committee, the GAT Subcommittee, and as the Kenya and Philippines Country Representative.

- **Kevin O'Donnell** of San Francisco, California was re-elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the Young Professionals Representative to the Board. He will also serve as the Co-Chair of the NEXTGEN Subcommittee of the Strategy and Programs Committee, member of the Board Development Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Virtual Programs Subcommittee of the Strategy and Programs Committee. Additionally, he was elected to serve as Secretary of the Executive Committee.
- **Mario Porras** of El Paso, Texas was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as the Co-Chair of the US Mexico Affairs Council (UMAC), and Vice Chair of the Fund Development Committee. He will also serve in the Virtual Programs Subcommittee and the Strategy and Partnership Subcommittee of the Strategy and Programs Committee.

Elected to a one-year term:

- **Mucki Wright**, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was elected as an At-Large director and will serve as Co-Chair of the Fund Development Committee. She will also serve on the HR Subcommittee. She is the former secretary of Sister Cities Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Sister Cities International congratulates the new Board Members and looks forward to their contribution to advancing Sister Cities International's mission to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over **400** individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in over **1,800** communities in **145** countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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