

Sister Cities International  
Attn: Board Member Selection Committee  
915 15th Street NW, 4th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Martha Vera for the position of Board Member at-large for Sister Cities International. As an accomplished professional with a rich background in international affairs, diplomacy, and business, Martha has consistently demonstrated her dedication and expertise in fostering global relationships and promoting cultural understanding.

I have worked with Martha on several Sister Cities Summits since 2018. She was part of the organization and execution of the Guadalajara US-Mexico Mayors' Summit which she attended. She was also instrumental in the planning committee for the El Paso/Cd. Juárez US-Mexico Mayors' Summit that was held in El Paso, Texas and Juárez, Mexico in 2020. She is currently the Marketing Committee Chair for the first ever All Americas Summit and Sister Cities Marketplace that will be held in San Antonio, Texas. Her responsibility has increased as has her experience with Sister Cities International and Sister Cities programs. She also has been serving as SCI Country Representative for Spain. She understands the vision, mission, and the needs of Sister Cities International as our organization continues to grow and evolve as we approach our 70th year. Put simply, Martha is a doer. She is not a talker but a walker and gets things done.

As the Honorary Consul of Spain in El Paso, Texas, Martha has been responsible for representing 20 counties in Texas since her appointment on October 1, 2015. In addition to her role as a consul, she is an arbitrator and the business owner of The Vera Group, LLC. Martha's educational background is impressive, with a BS and MS in Cell Biology and Biochemistry from the University of Texas at El Paso, a Master's degree in international law, Foreign Policy, and Foreign Trade from the Instituto Superior de Derecho y Economía in Madrid, Spain, and the completion of the United Nations' UNITAR Executive Diploma in International Diplomatic Law for Honorary Consuls. Martha has also recently received her Arbitrator Certification. Furthermore, she is a member of the American Society of International Lawyers and Transparency International which works towards ending global corruption.

Her commitment to international relations is evident in her work as President of the World Affairs Council of El Paso and Board Member of Heroes de Cavite based in Cartagena, Spain. She is a member of the PDI/POA Protocol and Diplomacy International-Protocol Officers Association.

Martha's passion for promoting business, education, and the history of Spain in the New World is unmatched, with a particular focus on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. She has given numerous presentations on this subject in various cities in Spain and the US and continues to share her knowledge in upcoming speaking engagements and two new films.

I am confident that Martha Vera's extensive knowledge, experience, and passion for international relations will make her an invaluable asset to the Sister Cities International Board of Directors. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the position of Board Member at-large and believe she will contribute significantly to the organization's mission and goals.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Peter Svarzbein  
Chairman of the Board, Sister Cities International