



To SCI Board,

It is my pleasure to recommend **Leda Summer** for a position on the Board of Directors of **Sister Cities International**. Through her decades of community service, professional leadership, and unwavering commitment to international cultural exchange, Leda has consistently demonstrated her dedication to building meaningful global relationships at the local level.

When I served as Director of the Birmingham Sister Cities Commission for many years and in 2007–2008, I asked Leda to help re-establish communication with our friendship city, **Chaoyang District in Beijing**. The following year, I assigned her to coordinate travel arrangements and hospitality for a visiting Chaoyang delegation. She completed the task with efficiency and care, ensuring a successful visit that strengthened the relationship between our cities. Later, Leda also organized performances by Beijing artists at the Birmingham Chinese New Year Festival — further enriching local cultural life and fostering international goodwill.

More recently, Leda has worked to initiate a virtual school exchange program between a Birmingham middle school and a school in Chaoyang. In addition, she has taken the lead in identifying **Haikou**, the capital of **Hainan Province**, as a potential sister city for Birmingham. Thanks to her efforts, Haikou has expressed strong interest and is prepared to move forward, pending formal steps from our side.

Leda has also served as President of the Birmingham Chinese Association, the Birmingham Chinese Festival Association, and the Chinese-American Business Association of Birmingham. She brings leadership, cultural insight, and a deep commitment to public service.

Given her strong relationships and deep understanding of Chinese and Asian cultures, I believe she would be an especially valuable asset to Sister Cities International in strengthening partnerships with China and other Asian countries.

I fully support her candidacy for the Sister Cities International Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "R. Scott Colson".

R. Scott Colson

Birmingham Sister City Commission

Honorary Consul for Ukraine to Alabama