

01 May 2025

To the Sister Cities International Elections Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Ms. Leda Summer's candidacy for the Sister Cities International Board of Directors.

I have had the privilege of serving alongside Leda on the Birmingham Sister Cities Board for the past four years, where I currently serve as Vice President. In that time, I've come to know her as a highly committed, principled, and visionary leader with a deep passion for international collaboration and cultural diplomacy.

Leda brings more than two decades of experience in Sister Cities work, along with over 30 years in engineering and technology fields. Her longstanding commitment to bridging cultural and community divides has been evident in her work with the Haikou interest committee and in our joint efforts to facilitate exchanges between local middle school students and students in Chinyoung, China. Her ability to connect people, foster meaningful partnerships, and follow through with excellence has been an invaluable asset to our board and to Birmingham's international outreach.

Leda's experience spans civic, business, and cultural sectors—including leadership roles with the Chinese-American Business Association, the Birmingham Chinese Festival Association, and the Alabama Asian Culture Center Foundation. She is a dedicated Rotarian with a decades-long record of community service. Her inclusive spirit, global perspective, and work ethic make her exceptionally qualified to serve on the Sister Cities International Board.

If elected, Leda will be the only board member representing the southern United States—a region rich in cultural heritage and eager for greater global engagement. Her voice on the board will bring regional balance, professional excellence, and an unwavering commitment to SCI's mission.

I recommend her without reservation and look forward to supporting her continued leadership on the international stage. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at sqsmith@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Sonja Q. Smith

Vice President, Birmingham Sister Cities Board