



April 24, 2025

Dear Sister Cities International Voting Delegates,

My name is Mami Kikuchi, and I wholeheartedly recommend Tommis Meyer for the Young Professional (YP) role on the Sister Cities International (SCI) board of directors. As President of the Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association (PSSCA), I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Tommis, who consistently demonstrates outstanding skills, maturity, and dedication. His extensive involvement in sister city initiatives, combined with a strong academic background, gives him a unique perspective that makes him an invaluable asset to the U.S.-Japan relationship.

I first met Tommis in 2019 when he participated in Sapporo Summer Institute (SSI), where selected Portland high school students attended local schools in Sapporo while living with host families for four weeks. At just 16, he already demonstrated his strong leadership as a sub-leader of the group. Soon after, he joined PSSCA as our Youth Representative, a role he held throughout high school. Even after relocating to Washington, D.C. and Kyoto for college, he remained an active supporter of our mission. Over the past six years, he has proven to be a thoughtful, capable, and committed contributor to our sister city activities.

Our board is diverse in nationality, age, language, and cultural understanding—from high school students to retired professionals. Tommis's ability to engage meaningfully with this group speaks to his excellent communication skills. With a Japanese mother and American father, he brings a natural understanding of cross-cultural dynamics. I've been especially impressed by his calm, respectful, yet assertive presence, even during challenging discussions. His maturity and ability to navigate complex situations demonstrate his potential as a valuable contributor to SCI.

I believe Tommis's passion for international exchange was sparked by the SSI program. Many of us on the board witnessed his personal growth through it, and he has remained committed to creating similarly meaningful experiences for others. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, he played a key role in designing and leading our online exchange

programs, which sustained engagement and connection during the suspension of in-person visits. These sessions promoted friendship, cultural exchange, and language learning, while reinforcing the resilience of sister city ties. He consistently advocated for youth-centered approaches, ensuring our virtual events were inclusive and impactful.

More recently, Tommis represented Portland in Sapporo, Japan, where he led a language exchange workshop aimed at demonstrating the value of English as a living language beyond the classroom. His ability to engage with students and city representatives alike reflects a rare blend of cultural fluency, humility, and leadership.

In addition to his direct contributions to PSSCA, Tommis is currently interning at the East-West Center in Washington, DC, where he focuses on promoting grassroots international relations. He is authoring a series of articles highlighting sister city partnerships across the United States and Asia. His initiative and ability to translate personal experience into broader outreach efforts make him an ideal candidate to elevate SCI's mission and represent the voice of young professionals on the Board.

In conclusion, I believe that Tommis Meyer is a dynamic force in the U.S.-Japan relations and a pivotal next-generation supporter of this enduring relationship. He brings with not only a deep commitment to citizen diplomacy, but also intergenerational perspective and a personal connection to the power of local partnerships. I am confident that he will excel and make significant contributions for SCI. For any further inquiries about Tommis's qualifications, please contact me at [psscapresident@gmail.com](mailto:psscapresident@gmail.com) or 971-832-0237.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mami Kikuchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mami" and last name "Kikuchi" clearly distinguishable.

Mami Kikuchi  
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