



April 13, 2026

Dear Selection Committee,

I am honored to write in strong support of Genesis Gavino for a position on the Board of Directors of Sister Cities International.

As Chairperson of Austin Sister Cities International and the Austin-Oita Sister City Committee, I have had the privilege of working closely with Genesis in her role as Chief of Staff to the City Manager for the City of Austin. In this capacity, she has been an invaluable partner in strengthening and expanding Austin's global engagement efforts, particularly through her consistent and impactful support of our sister city programs.

Genesis demonstrates a rare combination of strategic leadership and genuine commitment to people-to-people diplomacy. She is not only supportive in principle, but consistently shows up in ways that advance our work. She has been actively engaged on the ground, attending and supporting key initiatives, including the installation of Austin's Sister Cities sign at City Hall, as well as a variety of sister city programs and events. In addition, she has extended her involvement beyond the local level by participating in Sister Cities International conferences, including traveling to Osaka, Japan in 2025 to represent Austin. She also visited our sister city of Taichung, Taiwan in 2025, further deepening her direct engagement with Austin's international partnerships. Her willingness to invest her time, energy, and presence both locally and internationally reflects a deep personal commitment to strengthening global relationships and elevating the impact of sister city programs.

Beyond her participation, Genesis brings a thoughtful and forward-looking perspective on how cities can collaborate globally. She understands the critical role that sister city programs play in advancing cultural exchange, education, and economic opportunity, and she has been actively engaged in exploring and supporting the development of new sister city relationships for Austin. She has also been a key partner in helping Austin Sister Cities International secure funding from the City of Austin, demonstrating both her leadership within municipal systems and her commitment to sustaining and growing

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these programs. She consistently works to align municipal priorities with community-driven international engagement.

Genesis would be an exceptional addition to the Sister Cities International Board. She brings credibility, vision, and a deep understanding of how to translate global partnerships into meaningful local impact. I am confident she will contribute significantly to the continued growth and evolution of the organization.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristie Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristie Bryant
Chairperson, Austin Sister Cities International
Chairperson, Austin-Oita Sister City Committee
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