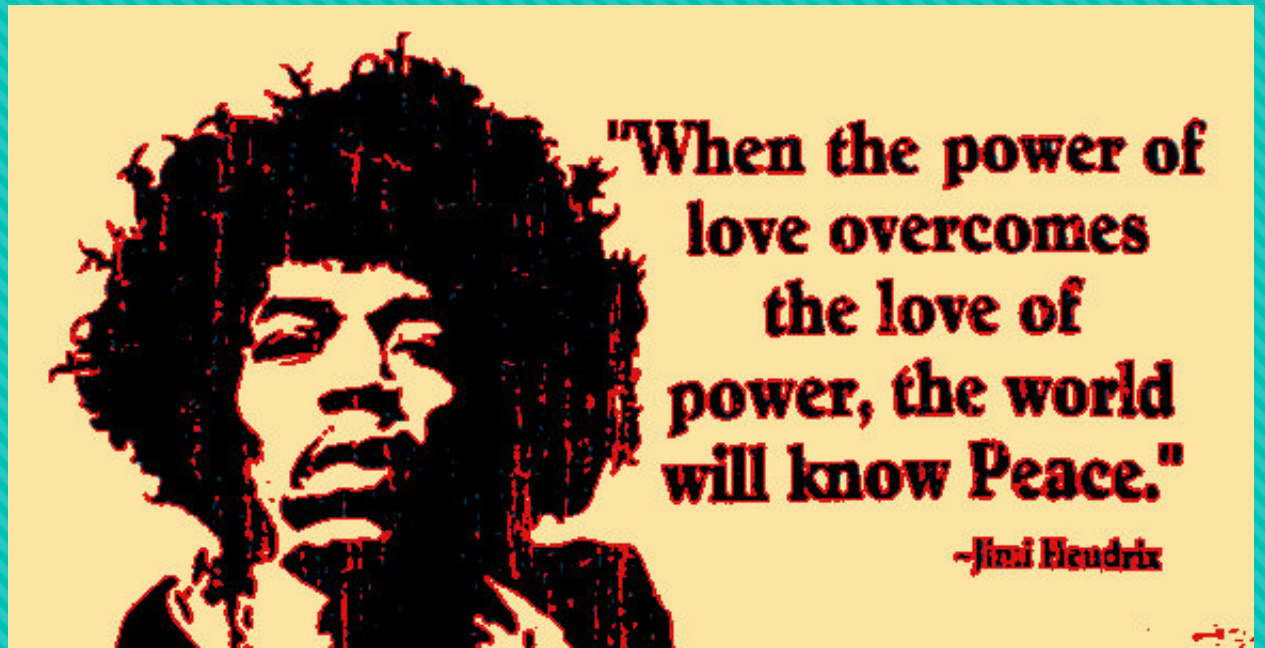


Sister Cities International



Promoting peace through people-to-people relationships, cultural exchange programs, and shared research and development programs.

What is Sister Cities International (SCI)?

- A volunteer group of ordinary citizens who, with the help of their local elected officials, form long-term relationships with people and organizations abroad
- Founded in 1956 by Dwight D. Eisenhower to encourage peaceful and cooperative relationships between people of different nations
- President Obama is considered the symbolic head of SCI (as are all current US presidents)
- Currently there are 545 U.S. sister cities, counties and states + 145 countries on six continents participating with 2,300 partnerships
- Each sister city is independent and pursues the activities and thematic areas that are important to them and their community
- Open to any city, county or state, including non-incorporated areas

Areas of exchange & programs available through SCI partnerships

- Arts & Culture – music performances, art exhibits, peace parks and gardens, sporting events and cultural festivals
- Business & Trade – trade delegations, tourism partnerships, introductions to local business entities and interest groups
- Municipal Exchange & Community Development – "peer-learning" between municipal employees, elected officials and SCI volunteers to help cities implement innovative policies and management techniques
- Youth, Education & Technology – opportunities for local students to travel abroad as youth ambassadors, hosting an exchange student, sports tournaments and virtual classrooms

Cultural events



- In October, 2014, Richmond, VA hosted a delegation of nine officials from Segou, Mali. They attended the Richmond Folk Festival, a reciprocated gesture after Richmond commissioners had enjoyed the Festival on the Niger in Ségou. The sharing of their respective musical culture continues to be a cornerstone of the partnership.

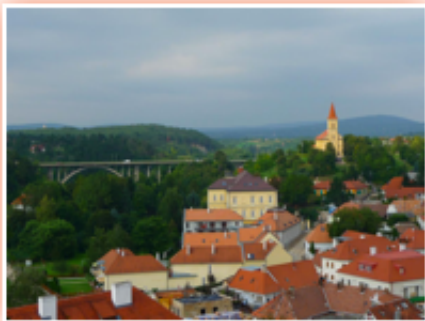
Sporting events



- In 2014, two amateur football teams from Tuscaloosa, Alabama and their sister city, Narashino, Japan, took the field for the inaugural Sister Cities International Bowl. Players were from the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide and Japan's seven-time national champions, the Obic Seagulls. Japanese football coaches have been visiting and attending practices in Tuscaloosa since 2008. The 2014 game brought 100+ people to Tuscaloosa from Japan, many of whom had never been to the U.S. before.

Business & trade

- SCI works closely with the U.S. Department of State and its diplomats, as well as foreign embassies in the U.S.
- Assists with establishing policies to lay the foundation for your own sister city program
- Program staff helps facilitate the necessary connections to municipal officials and the diplomatic community to help you find a partner city



Veszprém, Hungary

One of the oldest urban areas in Hungary, Veszprém is located in Western Hungary and is home to 60,000 residents. Rich in culture, the picturesque city is filled with beautiful architecture and art galleries. The community is looking to twin with a U.S. community to engage its sizable manufacturing base to build strategic economic partnerships.

Educational: Irish Students Come to SF in 2014



- In 2014, five middle school students and junior computer coding experts from Cork, Ireland visited San Francisco, California to exchange coding insights and other Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) activities. The Irish students had a chance to teach their peers at a school in San Francisco how to code and to also learn from senior engineers in the coding field.
- The idea started when Mayor Edwin Lee visited Cork for St. Patrick's Day in 2013 and met students at the Cork Institute of Technology's Blackrock Castle Observatory. The Irish students tutored U.S. middle school students at the California Academy of Sciences, and toured several tech startups in the city.

Joining SCI

- What's needed?
 - Membership application + membership fee (\$175-\$415 annual dues, based on population)
 - Organizations can be run by a combination of volunteers, representatives from local institutions, municipal governments, mayor's office, local officials, museums, cultural centers or chamber of commerce
 - Once two cities agree to become sister cities, the highest elected official from the two communities sign an agreement

Currently, the city of San Francisco has 14 Sister City relationships.

Alameda(3), Benicia, Cupertino(4), Dublin, Hayward(4), Livermore(3), Los Altos(4), Martinez(4), Menlo Park, Millbrae(2), Milpitas(4), Mountain View(2), Morgan Hill(5), Oakland(13), Palo Alto(6), Richmond, San Mateo(3), Sausalito(3), Sebastopol(2), Sonoma(7), South San Francisco(5), Union City(7), Vallejo(6) and Walnut Creek(2)are all Bay Area sister cities.

Why should the Midcoast community become a “Sister City”?

- 1. Something positive for the community
- 2. Provides an opportunity for our students and their families to interact on a more meaningful, culturally rich and long-lasting basis with people from another country
- 3. It can serve as an international bridge for local businesses to expand and help spur growth
- 4. Trade delegations, import/export initiatives, business-to-business events, tourism promotions and support of local businesses
- Arts & culture events can act as cooperative arts projects as well as drawing tourism dollars to the area
- A sharing of innovative policies and management techniques in water, transportation, tourism, education and conservation



What can we bring to a relationship and what are we hoping to find?

- 1) We are a coastal city
- 2) We have big wave surfing
- 3) We have a rural, small-town feel
- 4) We have challenges with infrastructure and encroaching development
- 5) We have a relatively small population
- 6) We are culturally, religiously and professionally diverse
- 7) We are near a big city but maintain our own identity
- 8) We are a community of multi-generational families and newcomers
- 9) We have and support a fishing industry, agricultural, ranching and farming interests, and an ever-increasing tourist industry