

RESOLUTION NO. 18-055

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING THE SISTER CITIES PROGRAM COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR THE COMMITTEE'S DUTIES, TERM, MEMBERSHIP, QUORUM, VOTING, MEETINGS, AND RULES OF PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the U.S. sister city program originated in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy initiative. The purpose of the Sister Cities program is to increase international understanding and foster world peace through city-to-city relationships; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Galveston is part of this world-wide People to People Program instituted for better understanding among the nations; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish the Sister Cities Program committee in furtherance of building successful relationships and international understanding among youth, adults, businesses and organizations of Galveston Island and its Sister Cities through educational, cultural and exchange programs; and,

WHEREAS, the concept behind a successful Sister Cities program relies on meaningful interchanges from a variety of people, ideas, and cultures. The linking of skills, crafts and interests of people and organizations in sister cities enrich sister city committees; and,

WHEREAS, Staff has provided a Sister Cities development program guideline identified in the attached **Exhibit A**; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee shall consist of five (5) City Council appointees. The Committee shall be authorized to form a subcommittee as described in Section 2 below; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the best interest of the public to establish the Sister Cities Program Committee for the purposes described herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Resolution are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the City Council and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Galveston hereby establishes the Sister Cities Program Committee as follows:

Established

The City of Galveston Sister Cities Program Committee (the "Committee") is an advisory board whose purpose shall be to provide its recommendations to City

Council in furtherance of building successful relationships and international understanding among youth, adults, businesses and organizations of Galveston Island and its Sister Cities through educational, cultural and exchange programs. The program shall be in accordance with the Sister Cities development program guidelines identified in the attached **Exhibit A**.

Membership, Qualifications, and Term

All City Council appointees to boards, commissions, and committees shall be domiciled in the City at the time of appointment and during the appointee's tenure.

The Committee shall be composed of five (5) voting members appointed by the City Council. The Committee shall appoint a Chairperson and may appoint a Vice Chairperson at its discretion.

The City Council may appoint an Ex-Officio at its discretion.

Subcommittee

The Committee may form a subcommittee open to any individual with an interest in the goals of the Sister Cities program. The residency and domicile requirements set forth in the Charter shall not be applicable to subcommittee members. The subcommittee shall make recommendations and suggestions directly to the Committee.

Quorum and Voting

A majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet no less than two (2) times during each calendar year to discuss matters within the concern of the Committee and to provide a report to the City Council. The Chairperson of the Committee or any two (2) members of the Committee may call a special meeting as necessary to conduct business. The meetings shall be held at City Hall, 823 Rosenberg, Galveston, Texas and in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The City Manager, City Secretary, and City Attorney, or their designee may attend meetings and provide information to the Committee.

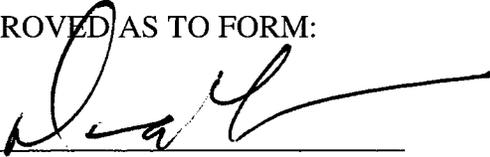
The City Secretary or designee shall record minutes of the Committee's meetings and post notice of meetings in accordance with City ordinances and state law. All meeting agendas shall state that members of the City Council may be attending and participating in the discussion.

Rules of Procedure

The Committee may adopt its own rules for the conduct of business before it. Should the Committee fail to adopt its own rules of procedure, the conduct and procedure of the Committee meetings shall conform to and be governed by the City Charter, the City Code, and Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be and become effective from and after its adoption.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

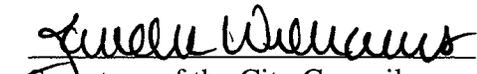


DONNA M. FAIRWEATHER
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

I, Janelle Williams, Secretary of the City Council of the City of Galveston, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Galveston at its Regular Meeting held on the 13th day of December, 2018, as the same appears in records of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I subscribe my name hereto officially under the corporate seal of the City of Galveston this 14th day of December, 2018.




Secretary of the City Council
of the City of Galveston



How to Build a Sister Cities Program In Your Community

What is a sister city?

When a community of any size or character joins with a community in another nation to learn more about each other and to develop friendly and meaningful exchanges, the two may propose a formal affiliation leading to official designation as "sister cities." The ideal affiliation involves a large number of citizens and organizations in both communities who are engaged in continuing projects of mutual interest.

This interchange helps to further international understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. Within the program, cities and their citizens exchange people, ideas, and culture in a variety of educational, municipal, professional, technical, and youth projects.

The sister city program was launched at a White House conference in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for massive exchanges between Americans and the peoples of other lands.

Hundreds of American cities responded to that call, and are continuing to carry out meaningful exchanges with their partners in 136 nations around the world.

Why have a sister city?

A sister city program enables the citizens of both communities become directly involved in international relations in unique and rewarding exchanges that benefit everyone. It enables all who participate to: exchange ideas and develop friendships with their counterparts in another culture on a direct personal basis; establish an identity as members of the global family involved in the constructive process of building world peace; develop a way for the many and diverse elements of each community to come together to enjoy and profit from a cooperative program; open new dialogues with the people of another culture to find unique solutions to improving the quality of life of all citizens; participate in a program with a real partner in another country so all members of the community can feel they are contributing to international understanding in a direct, personal way; and better understand their own community by interpreting their way of life to the people of another culture.

What to do first?

Hundreds of communities of all sizes around the world have discovered the rewards of participating in an international program in which each member can realize deep personal satisfaction and benefits. Your community can join this growing movement, but you should first develop support for the idea in your own community.

This can be easy and fun. You will have a lot of help from Sister Cities International, the national membership association for sister city programs in the United States, as well as from hundreds of volunteer leaders across the country who are available to share their experiences in the program.



The sister city concept, like all good programs, must have broad support if it is to succeed. If your community understands the program, it can succeed and the rewards will be well worth the effort. Once you've secured community-wide support for a sister cities program, begin your search for a partner. Nearly every member of your community, young or old, belongs to some kind of organization or another. Nearly everyone works in a business or industry, has a hobby, goes to school, belongs to a service or professional society, or volunteers his or her time in any number of local organizations that can be linked to counterparts in another country. Thus, the linking of skills, crafts, and interests of people and organizations in both cities can enrich your newly formed sister city committee, open new avenues for program adventure, and secure the initial contacts you'll need to find an appropriate partner community.

No catalog could possibly list all the ways in which sister cities operate because the varieties of exchanges are only limited by the imagination and resources of the two communities.

There are two principal objectives to keep in mind when planning your activities. You don't establish and maintain friendships by a single effort. It requires continuing activity. You do establish such continuity by a broad base of activity in which many people and organizations participate.

Everyone Can Participate

The concept is simple once two communities have taken the initial step of actually affiliating as sister cities. A catalog of organizations should be developed that will give you an idea of the potential areas of exchange possible. Don't forget to include your schools, hobby groups, business and professional organizations, scouting groups, service clubs, and so on. This list can then be sent to your partner to determine which organizations they have in their community to match yours. In some cases, a similar organization won't exist. Perhaps you can start one.

Sister city programs must always strive to ensure that each project undertaken by its members reflects the diversity of its network. Specifically, you should promote the inclusion of ethnic and racial minorities, people with disabilities, youth, women, and people of diverse socio-economic status in all sister city activities.

Each project should be planned with the knowledge that each person will be able to individually become a part of a person-to-person, organization-to-organization, city-to-city approach to citizen diplomacy.

Above all, remember that the uniqueness of the sister city program is that it is two-way. The give and take is shared by both communities through planned and continuous contact.

Projects You Can Do

Sister City programs and projects are developed out of mutual desires and interest. There is no cut-and-dry pattern. Through visits and exchange of correspondence, cities discuss the types of projects they would like to carry out. When one or more projects are agreed upon, the program is developed and can take place.

As you start out, send promotional materials (e.g., photographs, brochures, videos) to offer a comprehensive introduction to your community. Remember, language barriers can be overcome very easily through simple visual



presentations. Your new partner city may want to publish these in their local newspaper. You should ask for photos and news of the city as well so your local newspaper can acquaint your own citizens with your sister city.

Here are some of the types of projects that have been carried out successfully by other communities. The projects you choose may be more comprehensive, depending upon your resources and ingenuity.

- Exchanges of visitors, officials, prominent citizens, musicians, students, teachers, professionals, media, radio and TV, labor, etc.
 - Organized tours, including hospitality and ceremonies for visiting groups.
 - Club affiliations, such as the development of relationships between such groups as Rotary, Lions, Boy and Girl Scouts, women's clubs, hobby clubs, and more with their counterparts in the sister city.
 - School affiliations can be a stimulating activity if organized within your educational system. They can be a strong adjunct to your school's language, history, cultural, and other programs. There is no end to the fascinating projects young people can engage in to enlarge their horizons of learning.
 - Technical and professional exchanges can have benefits both communities far in excess of the limited costs involved. Many communities have exchanged experts in transportation, housing, health care, the environment, public safety, and more.
 - Radio contacts between sister cities can be made by amateur radio operators. Special broadcasts on records or tape can be made for use abroad.
 - Art exhibits. Both school children and members of local art clubs exchange art work with their overseas counterparts. The material is often exhibited in public buildings and merchants' windows in both communities.
 - Photo exhibits. Camera clubs exchange stills, slides, and documentary motion pictures.
 - Sending of mementos, not on a charitable basis, but of mutual interest and respect. Gifts are generally modest.
 - Exchange of music, recordings, and plays.
 - Publications and preparation of food recipes from the foreign country.
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