

City of Austin: Sister Cities Program

Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world.

Sister Cities International serves as a hub for institutional knowledge and best practices in the field of citizen diplomacy. With a mission "to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation — one individual, one community at a time," the mission of *Sister Cities International* is just as important today as it was when it was founded.

Sister Cities International's member programs focus on four main areas of exchange: arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development and technical exchange to connect citizens around the globe.

The *City of Austin's Sister Cities Program* fosters friendly relations and promotes understanding between the people of Austin and the citizens of our sister cities around the world. This program enhances Austin's presence in the community of nations.

Goals for the Austin Sister Cities Program:

- To increase citizen-based collaboration and global cooperation at the municipal level
- To create and strengthen partnerships between U.S. and international communities
- To serve as the umbrella organization which guides the development of sister city relationships
- To increase the visibility, effectiveness, efficiency, and viability of Austin's sister city committees, thereby supporting their individual missions

The City of Austin has thirteen international partnerships with the following cities:

Adelaide, Australia - May 12, 1983	Maseru, Lesotho - August 31, 1978
Angers, France - June 9, 2011	Oita, Japan - June 7, 1990
Antalya, Turkey - February 2008	Old Orlu, Nigeria - June 29, 2000
Gwangmyeong, South Korea - December 7, 2000	Saltillo, Mexico - November 7, 1968
Koblenz, Germany – November 20, 1989	Taichung, Taiwan - February 6, 1986
London Borough of Hackney, UK - February 27, 2014	Xishuangbanna, China - December 4, 1997
Lima, Peru - November 12, 1981	

Recent Accomplishments for the Austin Sister Cities Program:

- **Education, Best Practices and New Technologies:**
 - Exchange Programs at every level – elementary through high school
 - College Study Abroad Programs – St. Edward's University
 - English Language Programs for Student from our Sister Cities
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - Sister Cities Participation in SXSW Music, Film, Interactive Festival
 - Austin musicians perform abroad in sister cities communities – Oita Japan, Yumeiro Music Festival
 - Art Projects – Lima, Peru
- **Global Trade, Business development and Tourism:**
 - Mayor Business Delegations to and from our Sister Cities – Business delegation to Hackney, UK.
 - Austin Energy has conducted projects with our Sister Cities

- **Humanitarian and Charitable Projects:**

- AID for HIV/AIDS victims in Maseru, Lesotho
- Wheelchair for Peace Project for Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico
- Help for young mothers with children in Lima, Peru



Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Tovo visit to Xishuangbanna, China with Sister Cities delegation.



Oita Japan delegation visit to Austin, TX. October 1, 2014



Saltillo, Mexico - Mayoral delegation visit to St. Edward's University. April 4, 2014



Angers, France Les Skroks Band performance at Austin City Hall Plaza July 10, 2014

Establishment of an international partnership with Austin, Texas requires the following:

- Determine the purpose and mutually beneficial terms of the partnership,
- Long-term commitment to a partnerships that is citizen-driven,
- Creation of volunteer committee that actively participates in fundraising efforts,
- Execution value-driven programming for a community of stakeholders.

To discuss the development of a Sister City or other International relationships for exchange, please contact:

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