

# A World Connected to Partnerships



## A Letter from the Mayor

On behalf of the people of Fort Worth, I congratulate Sister Cities on another successful year of programs and exchanges with Fort Worth's eight sister cities.

For more than 25 years, Fort Worth Sister Cities has played a crucial role in connecting Fort Worth with its global partners. We had a lot to celebrate in 2011, not the least of which was the commemoration of our 25th Anniversary

with Reggio Emilia, Italy. Such long standing relationships reflect Fort Worth's commitment to building important

Another important point of success in 2011 was the penning of the agreement with our eighth sister city: Guiyang, China. With this agreement, Fort Worth created yet another strong relationship with a key economic and foreign trade region of the world. This relationship has already provided an incredible opportunity to share ideas through a summit we attended in Beijing regarding sustainable eco-cities sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and Sister Cities International. We look forward to working with our partners in China for many years to come.

As we move into 2012, we do so with optimism for the opportunities ahead. We will stay particularly focused on cultivating young, culturally aware leaders with an eye on the future made possible by experiences gained only through Sister Cities.

I look forward to strengthening our Sister Cities relationships as we work to maintain Fort Worth's position as a major player on the world stage.

Sincerely,



**Betsy Price** Mayor

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## Our mission is to advance peace through lasting relationships and international understanding.

## A Letter from the Chair

As Chairman of the Board, I am proud to say that 2011 was a great year of celebration, as well as preparation for the future of Fort Worth Sister Cities. Today, Fort Worth Sister Cities is one of the largest and most active programs in the U.S. - connecting businesses, educational institutions, government, and cultural organizations with their counterparts in our eight sister cities.

This year we had the pleasure of commemorating the 25th anniversary of our partnership with Reggio Emilia, Italy marking 25 years of student, sports and cultural exchanges. We also signed our newest sister city, Guiyang, China, and look forward to developing programs and exchanges to benefit both of our booming economies, as well as continuing our efforts to promote economic growth and cultural awareness with our other sister cities.

2011 also saw the 20th year of the Harashin Scholar Program. We honored the Hara family of Nagaoka, Japan for their contributions to the concept of citizen diplomacy by providing life-changing scholarships to over 300 students from Fort Worth and Nagaoka. We are continually expanding our youth programs as we did by inviting Iraqi students to participate in our International Leadership Academy.

By strengthening our local partnerships with various city departments, the Chamber of Commerce, universities, public and private schools, and our business community, we have continued to develop productive and educational collaborations. Through these partnerships and by capitalizing on the intellect and innovation of our young professionals, a series of protocol workshops were developed to broaden the community's global perspective and prepare businesses for international markets.

As we focus on the opportunities ahead, we salute our supportive city leaders, dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, talented staff, and international partners who make all of this possible. Thank you for your continued support of Sister Cities and for making it possible for us to engage Fort Worth and its citizens in international dialogue furthering our mission of citizen diplomacy and international peace.





Chairman of the Board



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# A World Connected to Education



"I don't think
I would be here
had I not been
involved with
Sister Cities,"

— International Trade Specialist U.S. Department of Agriculture, Lindsay Malecha rom her position as an International Trade Specialist with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington, D. C., Lindsay Malecha reflects on her time spent with Sister Cities. "I don't think I would be here had I not been involved with Sister Cities," Malecha says. "My experiences both locally and abroad developed me as a person by shaping my interests and values, and teaching me to care about other parts of the world – traits integral to my current position."

As a student, Malecha traveled to Germany and Japan with Sister Cities, interacting with and learning from a variety of global citizens, from city officials to her host family. She credits these experiences with broadening her perspective on international affairs, opening her eyes to not only the differences, but the similarities we share with the rest of the world. She has translated that understanding into a career using her international awareness and communication skills with a global perspective.

Malecha credits her involvement with Sister Cities for fueling her career and for "opening my eyes to possibilities, giving me direction and inspiration to get there."

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011

Statement of Financial Position	2011
Total Assets	\$ 711,332
Total Liabilities	234,986
Total Net Assets	476,346
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 711,332
Statement of Financial Activities	
Revenue and other support:	
Fort Worth Contract	\$ 50,000
Membership Dues	46,875
Programs & Exchanges	636,201
Contributions	58,189
Fundraising	326,798
Investment Income	5,852
Total Revenue and other support	1,123,915
Expenses:	
Programs & Exchanges	\$ 971,946
Fundraising	157,278
General & Administrative	60,632
Total Expenses	1,189,856
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 65,941
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	9,128
Change in Net Assets	56,813
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	533,159
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 476,346

The financial information presented represents a portion of the financial statements of the Association Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## **PROGRAMS**

34	Inbound Exchanges
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20 Outbound Exchanges422 Inbound and Outbound Delegates

194 Local Programs

## **YOUTH EXCHANGES**

136 Inbound Students196 Outbound Students

47% White 25% Hispanic 19% African American

9% Asian

## **TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS - \$81,630**

Of scholarships awarded to FWISD students

46% Hispanic

23% African American

17% White



## **2011 FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES SUPPORTERS**

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\*We apologize for any errors and omissions.



Fort Worth Sister Cities International 610 Grove Street Fort Worth, TX 76102

phone: 817.632.7100 fax: 817.632.7110

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# **A World Connected to Service**

## **Annual Awards 2011**

### **Local Awards**

Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership Doug Harman

Volunteer of the Year Eva Bonilla

Youth Volunteer of the Year Morgan Killian

Eisenhower Award for Organizational Involvement UNT Health Science Center

Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholar Gladys Guevera

### National Awards

Sister Cities Award for Best Overall Program (2009, 2007, 2003, 2001, 1998, 1992, 1990)

Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Arts & Culture (2010)

Sister Cities Award for Most Innovative Youth Program (2010, 2003, 2002)

United Nations Positive Peace Award for Most Positive City Top 5 Finalist (2010)

Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance (2009, 2008, 2004)

Sister Cities International Chairman's Award: Mae Ferguson (2008)

Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Shinichi Hara, Nagaoka, Japan (2007)

Sister Cities International President's Award: Mary Palko (2006)

Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Elaine Yamagata (2005)

Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Award (2005)

Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Public Safety (2003)

Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Mary Palko (1999)

Sister Cities Special Achievement Awards in Education (1996)

Reader's Digest Award for Best Overall Youth Program (1991)

Sales and Marketing Executive Award (1990)

Neighborhood USA Award (1989)

Reader's Digest Award for Best New Program and Most Community Involvement (1988 and 1986)