FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

2023

ANNUAL REPORT





MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Our global education programs are designed to support lifelong learning and cultural competence. We're not just making people smarter. We're making the world *better*.

26
EXCHANGES

900+
YOUTH



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

GREG JACKSON

On behalf of Fort Worth Sister Cities International, thank you for your support!

Your commitment to the organization has played a pivotal role in advancing our mission. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to strengthen bonds between Fort Worth and our nine sister cities across the globe, creating opportunities for meaningful exchanges and collaborations.

Your dedication to promoting global harmony is commendable, and we are honored to have you as a valued supporter. Together, we are building bridges that transcend borders, fostering friendships, and creating a more interconnected world.

As we reflect on the past year's achievements and look ahead to new possibilities, your continued support remains instrumental in shaping the future of Fort Worth Sister Cities International. We are excited about the journey ahead and the positive impact we can make together.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1



AWARD-WINNING

Recognized as Best Sister City program in the nation for the 11th time and received Innovation in Professional Exchange Award

2



PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE

Sent 246 students and adults to six countries for diplomacy exchanges focused on promoting world peace and cultural acceptance

3



SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Represented the USA at the Tricolore Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy with nearly 100 student athletes and coaches winning 19 medals in six sports

Our Reach



26
Global Exchanges



27
Local Cultural Events



9
Cultural Protocol Trainings

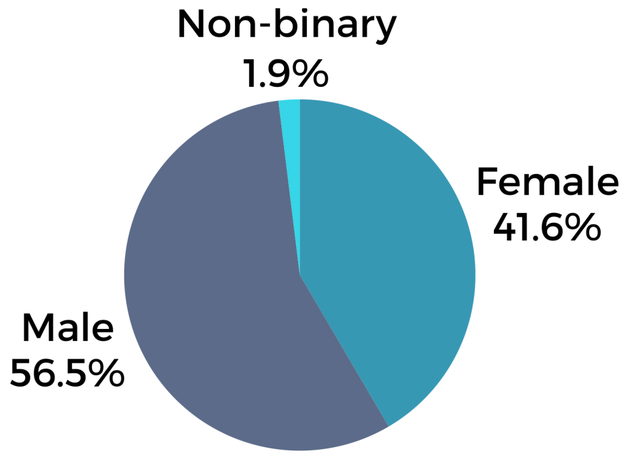


2,772
Local Participants

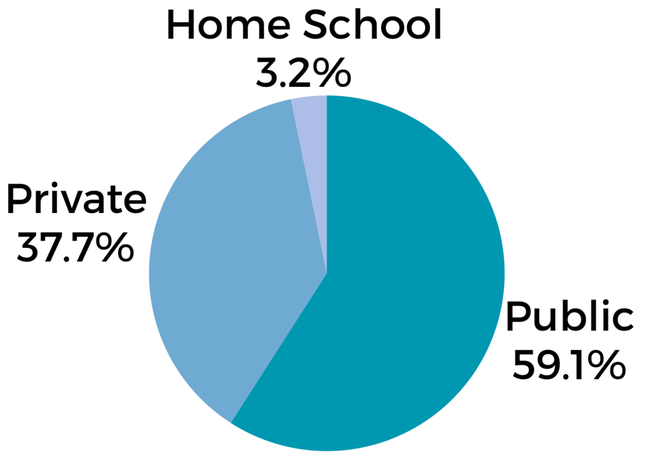




OUR STUDENTS



41%	White
30%	Latino/Hispanic
14%	Black
6%	Asian/Pacific Islander
8%	Multi-racial
1%	Native American



OUR STUDENT IMPACT

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

100% Increased awareness of global issues

100% Expanded knowledge of different cultures

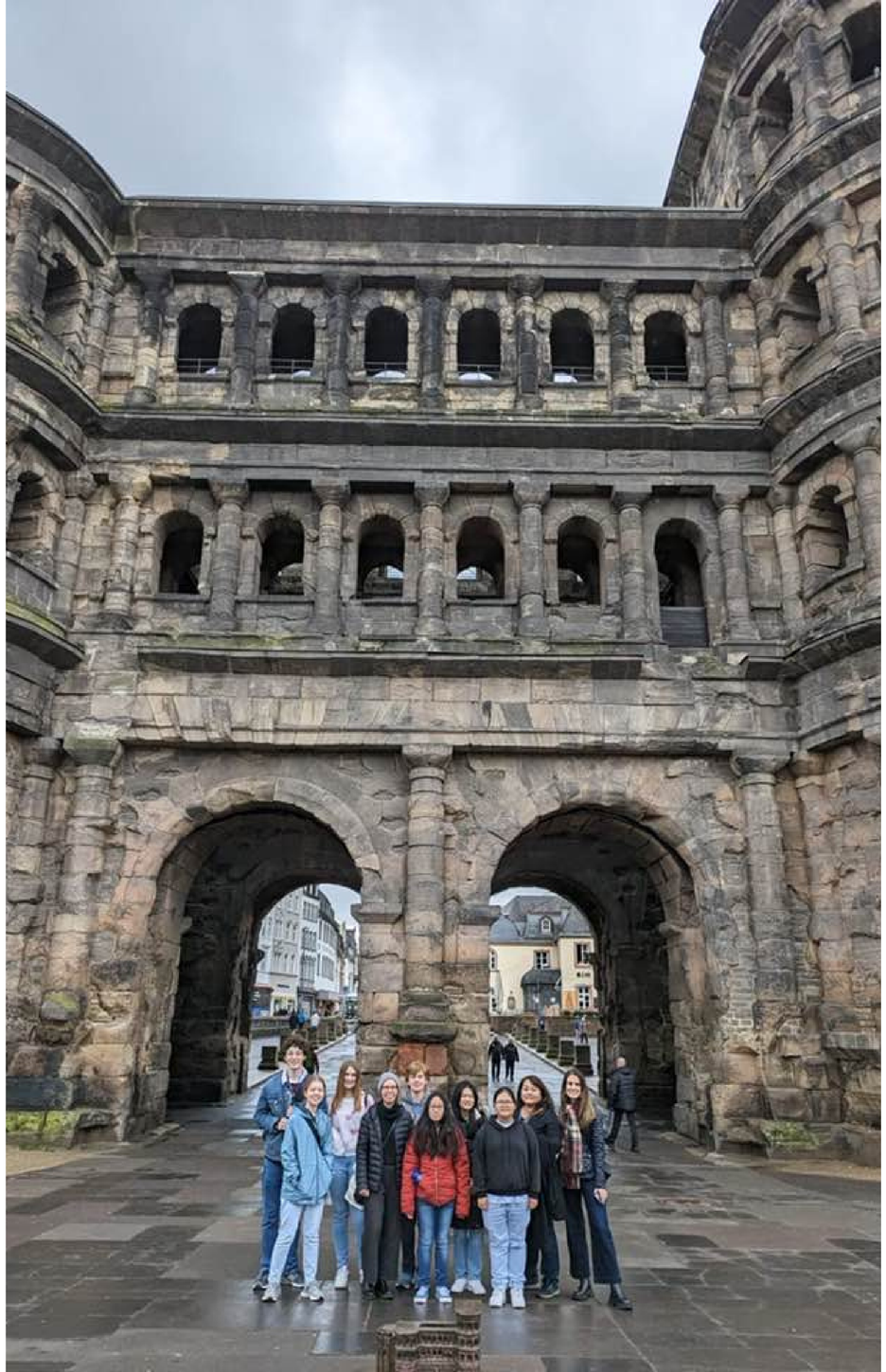
100% Made international friendships

SKILLS

93% Felt more self-sufficient

90% Improved leadership

93% Improved problem-solving





TESTIMONIALS



CONNOR SMITH,
YOUTH AMBASSADOR

“Over the course of my time with Fort Worth Sister Cities International, I was selected to travel to Reggio Emilia, Italy and chosen for the Harashin Scholarship to travel to Nagaoka, Japan. The way I view my life has changed as well as my view of the world. By forming relationships with new people and experiencing new cultures, I learned that our similarities far outweigh our differences. I have made lifelong friends on these exchanges and personally grew by journeying outside of my comfort zone. I am forever grateful for the experiences that I have gained through Sister Cities.”



MICHAEL D. CRAIN,
FORT WORTH CITY COUNCILMEMBER

"Fort Worth Sister Cities International is an integral part of our community's thriving spirit. The connections forged through this organization offer a shared space for individuals from diverse corners of the globe to engage in meaningful conversations that encompass both cultural and economic perspectives. As Fort Worth embraces its growing global influence, nurturing these relationships will prove invaluable."

2023 MEMBERS CIRCLE OF GIVING

PLATINUM - $25,000
Visit Fort Worth*

PREMIER - $15,000+
Rae & Michael S. Hyatt*

GLOBAL - $10,000+
American Airlines
Frank Tilley & Connie Beck
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport*
Melinda & Jerry Johnston
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson*
Mary Palko*
Quantum Mechanical
Texas Health Resources

PRESIDENTIAL - $5,000+
Alcon
Bank of Texas*
BNSF Railway Company*
Ciera Bank*
Cook Children's Healthcare System*
Frost Bank
Greg Jackson Law*
Nancy & Alan Hamm Foundation
Hillwood*
Investors Royalty Inc.
K&L Gates, LLP
Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP
Ronda & Walter Stucker
UNT Health Science Center

PATRON - $3,500+
Karen & Larry Anfin*
Becky Renfro Borbolla & Henry Borbolla*
Sherri & Johnny Campbell
Crestline Investors, Inc.
Becky & Greg Haskin
Higginbotham Community Fund
Hilde & Helmut Horchler
Mforce Capital: Lori & Brad Bruce
Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP
Southside Bank

PARTNER - $1,000
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Rachel Jenkins & Baer Bradford
City Center Fort Worth
Mattie Compton
Jeff Davis
Du4 Strategies, LLC
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Mae Ferguson*
Paul Geisel, PhD*
Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford Architects Planners
Haltom's
Huitt–Zollars
Cindy & Roland Johnson*
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Vanessa & Rich Lowe
Lori & Brad Mahon
Rachel Malone
McKesson Corporation
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Texas Success Title
Gale Caveness & Michael Parker
Pinnacle Bank
Pope, Hardwicke, Christie, Schell, Kelly & Taplett
Nyja & Richard Roby
Katie & Hayne Shumate*
Jan & Jim Titsworth
Trish & Mark Topel
Libby Watson*
Shay & John Wells*
Terri & Gary West
Mary & Harvey Yamagata

DIPLOMAT - $500+
Julie & Dick Abrams
Selena Ala
Andrea & Ty Ballard
Zarina Blankenbaker, PhD
Eva & Bob Bonilla*
Sian Borne*
Amy & Jason Brown*
Kathryn & Lowell Bryan*
Julie & Greg Butner*
Rachael Capua, EdD & Carlo Capua*
Carpenter's Café & Catering
Karla Cate*
Dana & Cayce Cochran
Kathryn & Don Cosby
Joanna & Michael D. Crain*
Amy & Emily Crockett*
Michaela J. Cromar*
JD Dargai—Charles Schwab
Mary Margaret Davis*
Barb & Tom Dolny*
Sara & Robert Fitzgerald
Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Taylor Ferguson
Rebekah & Robert Gallagher
Shreta & Vishal Gandhi*
Rachael Leventhal-Garnett & Matthew Garnett
Veronica & John Giordano
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Billy Glunz
Shanna & JD Granger*
Janet & Glen Hahn
Judy & Doug Harman
Claire & Tim Hicks*
Mary Helen Hill*
Peggy & Robert Holt, Jr.
Jay Horn
Eva & Neil Isbell*
Anne & Bob Jameson*
Richard Knight
Nicki & Ronny Korb*
Irene Koscal
Sterling & Larry Lauer*
Veronica Chavez Law & Tom Law, Jr.
Law Office of Rosa Marie Berdeja
Courtney & Damian Lewis*
Dustin Logan
Rachel Marker*
Cynthia Ann Miller
Carol & Richard Minker
Rebecca & Steve Montgomery
Anne Moroneso*
Wanda Murphy
Elizabeth & Will Northern*
Skylar & Stephen O'Neal*
Victoria Puente-Peters & Brock Peters
Olivia Power*
Mike Rankin*
Kathy & Michael Roemer
Martin Rubinstein
Shanna Saldaña
Jay Sandelin*
Karen & Mike Scott*
Christopher Shipman*
Sushila & Rima Shrestha
Sally Sims*
Ty & Jordan Stimpson
Andy Taft
Kristin & Andy Thul*
Susan Turner
Cecelia & "Van" Van Donselaar
Sherri & Mark Whiting
Kati Wilska

AMBASSADOR - $250+
Krista A. Forsgren & Robert B. Ahdieh
Teresa Ayala, in memory of Michael O. Ayala
David Bakutis
Stephani Biggs
Flo Bruner
Jane Card
Liz Carrillo, DrPH*
Patricia Cheong
Tracey Cravens
Jeanelle & Quinton Davis*
Lorraine Deitchman
Teresa & Allen Dunaway*
Christy & Jeff Dyer
Robert Edwards
Staussa Ervin, EdD*
Gary Foran
Ashley Freer
Sherri Glaser
Bill Jacobs
Paige Jezek
Andrew K. Johnsen*
Colleen Kleuser
Roswitha Knoop
Kimberly Kowalski
Alana Long*
Karla Lopez*
Los Vaqueros Restaurants*
Ed Miller
Paul Pass
Bertrand L. Pelletier*
LaraJane Pugh*
Simin Radcliffe
Tony Roberts, PhD
Chris Shahan
Andrea Smith PhD, RN*
Kathy Spicer
Beth Weibel*
Dennis Weibel, DDS*
Kristin Sullivan & Mitch Whitten
Laura Wood, PhD
Kristin Vinson Wright*

*Three-year sustaining member

2023 SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS

The Alcon Foundation
Amon G. Carter Foundation
Community Foundation of North Texas
Sid Richardson Foundation

SCHOLARSHIPS

Danny Anfin
Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
International Newcomer Academy
Claudine & Greg Jackson
Julia King
Irene Koscal
Martin House Brewing Company
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Mary Palko
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
Katie & Hayne Shumate
Young Women's Leadership Academy

DONORS

Eva & Bob Bonilla
Rachel Bradford
Ruth & LO Brighbill
Michaela Cromar
Nayelly Dominguez
Rachael & Matthew Garnett
Claire & Tim Hicks
Rae & Michael Hyatt
Bob Jameson
Cindy & Roland Johnson
Bronwyn Logan
Ann Rice & Pat Miller
Kyle Mims
Mary Palko
Gale & Michael Parker
Paul Pass
Nancy Prahl
Amanda Robbins
Yvonne Rubenstein & Lee Rogers
Judith Sear
Christopher Shipman & Family
Connie Beck & Frank Tilley

IN-KIND

18:20 Balloons
61 Osteria
The 1886 Crescent Hotel
Rama Abdel-Jaber
Julie & Dick Abrams
AC Hotel Fort Worth
Fernando & Melissa Acosta
Acre Distilling Co.
DeLeon Addison
Ari Ahdieh
Selena Ala
Alliance for Children
Alejandra Briseno & Helge Alsleben
American Airlines
Amon Carter Museum of American Art
Anime Frontier
Andreanne & Alan Annis
Arche Winery
Arts Fort Worth
AT&T Stadium
Autobahn Fort Worth
Karen & Joe Ayala
Teresa Ayala
Andrea Ballard
Ballet Folklorico de Fort Worth
Lisa Gail Barnes
Baylor University
Chelsy Beninate
Stephani Biggs
Billy Bob's Texas
Erica Boghani
Wanda Bonder
Eva & Bob Bonilla
Michael Bonner
Becky Renfro Borbolla
Sian Borne
Brad Oldham Sculpture
Rachel Bradford
Brewed
Lori & Brad Bruce
Florence Bruner
Lisa Buck
ByWasonga Catering
Joanne & David Campbell
The Capital Grille
Reynier Carballoso
Nelcy Cardenas
Katrina & Travis Carpenter
Catherine & Matthew Carter
Mark Carter
Melissa & Russell Cawyer
Central Market
Charles Schwab Challenge
Cheryl's Voice
Tricia & Chet Ciancarelli
Cidercade
City of Fort Worth
City of Fort Worth Young Professionals
Tracy Cliburn
Nobue Collins
Akilah & Mayphous Collins
Sabrina Conner
Cowtown Brewing Co.
Kiri Cox
Joanna Crain
Tracey Cravens
Emily & Amy Crockett
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
JD Dargai
Jeff Davis
DeLucca
DFW Host Club
Dickies Arena
District Attorney's Office
Melondy Doddy-Muñoz
Don Artemio
Dondoko Taiko
Cindy Dong
Downtown Fort Worth, Inc
Imelda Dunlap
Tammy & Jim Ekrut
EmmaCate Boutique
Staussa Ervin, EdD
Everything as a Service
Taylor Ferguson
Firestone & Robertson
Flourish in Frills Boutique
Scioscia Flowers
Coralee Flug
Karen & Stuart Flynn
Maja Foerster
Krista Forsgren
Fort Worth Botanic Garden
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Fort Worth Club
Fort Worth Concierge Plus
Fort Worth Country Day School
Fort Worth ISD
Fort Worth Japanese Society
Fort Worth Judo Club
Fort Worth Police Department
Fort Worth Sports Authority
Fort Worth Youth International
Four Day Weekend
Maria de los Reyes & Steven Fredrickson
Barbara & Robert Freeborn
Frost Bank
Carmelita Gage
Rebekah & Robert Gallagher
Katherine Gallardo
Rachael & Matthew Garnett
Paul Geisel, PhD
Genjikai Karate & Tai Chi
Aubrey Gideon
Gittings Photography
James Gleaton
Bertha & Omar Gomez
Goodwill
Maggie Green-Wallace
Alexis Gross
Alejandro Guillen
Baibhavi Gurung
Tom Hammond
Hand & Stone Spa
Hao's Grocery & Café
Becky & Greg Haskin
Haute Dog Pet Photography
Niina Havia
Nora Helling
Lee Henderson
Ray Hernandez
Mary Helen Hill
Gayla Garner & Troy Hoefer
Izzy Holton
Hotel Viata
Qin Hu
Huitt-Zollars
Patti Hulings
iFratelli Pizza
Trish & Mike Jackman
Greg Jackson
Japan-America Society of DFW
Paige Jezek
Joe T. Garcia's Musical Trio
Cindy Johnson
Kathryn Jordan
David Currier & Kevin Kalley
Tara & Gary Kersh
Kimbell Art Museum
Julia King
KLP Med Spa
Kenzie Knox
Diana & Mark Koch
Irene Koscal
Kimbely Kowalski
Heather & Jay Kurima
Tatiana Kurochkina
Alan & Kendal Lake
Traci Larrison
Pam Lea
Courtney & Damian Lewis
Bronwyn Logan
Dustin Logan
Valerie Logan
Lone Star Park
Wilma & Ram Lopez
Dora Lopez
Ginny Lowans
Varun Mallipaddi
Nancy Marchant
Dr. Monica Marchi
Claudine Marion
Jaime & Melinda Martinez
Rea & Dr. Rey Marquino
Miguel Martin
Mary & Tony Martinez
April & Manuel Martinez
Heather Mason
Amber & Paul Massingill
Leann & Spencer Maxwell
Melt
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
Valerie & Jeff Montgomery
Ma Luz Juarez & Jose Mora
Ernesto & Rebecca Moran
Glenda Moreno
Lauren Bailey Motheral
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Mrs. Renfro's
Multatech
Wanda Murphy
Steve Murrin
Muslim Community Center for Human Services
Stephanie & Marc Muzi
The Net
Megan Newton
Nolan Catholic High School
Northside High School Mariachi
Omni Barton Creek Resort
One Safe Place
Tricia Jenkins & Nathanael O'Reilly
Park Hill Portraits
Paul Pass
The Pat Green Foundation
Pedego Fort Worth
Victoria Puente-Peters & Brock Peters
Peterson Golf LLC
Dr. Quinton Phillips
Pink Petunia Bakery
Pinstripes
Elizabeth & Brett Porter
The Post at River East
Shana & Chad Proell
Prost Production
Pure Barre Fort Worth
Dr. Arnie Radman
Ann Rice
Angela Rodriguez
Rubi Roy
Yvonne Rubenstein
Saddleback Leather
SafeHaven of Tarrant County
Simren Sangha
Dr. Marie Schein
Mariagrazia Sheffield
Katie & Hayne Shumate
Si Na Ca Studios
Andi Smith
Annabel Luna-Smith & Cornelius Smith
Destiny Snell
Renee Snoke
South Hills High School
Southwest High School
Gloria Starling
Jordan & Ty Stimpson
Ronda Stucker
Karen & Kevin Sweet
Andy Taft
Tarrant Area Food Bank
Tarrant County College
Tarrant Regional Water District
Jessica Thomas
Kelly Tierce
Total Wine & More
Transform 1012
Trinity River Distillery
Susan Turner
Unbound
The University of Texas at Arlington
UNT Health Science Center
Courtney Upp
Dr. Mary Vaccaro
Sally & Lazaro Venegas
Visit Fort Worth
Marcela & Carlos Walls
The Welman Project
Terri & Gary West
Wheel of Fortune
Chris & Jannis White
Sherri & Mark Whiting
Kati Wilska-Havia
Jennifer Williams
Amy Wines
Brian Wooddell
World Languages Institute
Mary & Harvey Yamagata
Yogi's Deli
Messhia Young
Young Women's Leadership Academy
Darlyn Zerpa
Fan Zhou
Leslie Zvitt

LOCAL AWARDS



SUSAN TURNER
Volunteer of the Year



DELIA SANCHEZ-JUAREZ
Youth Volunteer of the Year



BRIDGES-TO-FRIENDSHIP
from the Japan-America Society of DFW



HAO'S GROCERY & CAFE
Eisenhower Award for Organizational Involvement



SHANNA GRANGER
Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership



YARETZI NAVARRO
Yamagata Emerging Leader Scholar

OUR TEAM



MAE FERGUSON
President/CEO
mae@fwsistercities.org



BETH WEIBEL
Director of
Exchanges & Outreach
beth@fwsistercities.org



COURTNEY GARVEY
Director of
Community Engagement
courtney@fwsistercities.org



DANIELLE MCCOWN
Exchanges & Outreach
Manager
danielle@fwsistercities.org



AMY FLORES
Operations Manager
amy@fwsistercities.org



AYN LLOPIS
Accounting Manager
ayn@fwsistercities.org

Welcome
2023-24 Board of Directors

Executive Committee:
Chairman, Greg Jackson
Chair Elect, Cindy Johnson
Secretary, Staussa Ervin, EdD
Treasurer, Michaela Cromar
Nominating, Becky Renfro Borbolla
Development, Shanna Granger
Long Range Planning, Jan Titsworth
Marketing, Robert Edwards
Exchanges & Outreach, Rachel Malone
Youth & Education, Rachel Bradford
At Large, Jason Brown
At Large, Nyja Roby
At Large, Richard Roby
At Large, Mitch Whitten
Bandung, Scioscia Flowers Williams
Budapest, JD Dargai
Guiyang, Andrea Ballard
Mbabane, SaJade Miller
Nagaoka, Kimberly Kowalski
Nîmes, Dr. Marie Schein
Reggio Emilia, Sian Borne
Toluca, Wilma Lopez
Trier, Katie & Hayne Shumate

Board of Directors
Dr. David Allen
John Avila
Florence Bruner
David Campbell
Melissa Chrisman
Michael Cuda
Jeff Dyer
Krista Forsgren
William Girón
Billy Glunz
Ronny Korb
Rebecca Montgomery
Wanda Murphy
Martin Rubinstein
Dr. Kimberly Russell
Haley Taylor Schlitz
Chris Shipman
Kirby Smith
Kathy Spicer
Susan Turner

Chairs Cabinet
Brian Barnard
Kenneth Barr
Michael Bennett
Barclay Berdan
Becky Renfro Borbolla
Johnny Campbell
Michael S. Hyatt
Bob Jameson
Jeff King
Veronica Chavez Law
Brad Mahon
Bob Mitchell
Mary Palko
Ann Rice
Jane Schlansker

Directors Emeriti
Hilde Horchler
Michael S. Hyatt
Mary Palko
Frank Tilley





City Council Liasions:
Bandung, Dr. Jared Williams
Budapest, Jeanette Martinez
Guiyang, Macy Hill
Mbabane, Chris Nettles
Nagaoka, Alan Blaylock
Nîmes, Michael Crain
Reggio Emilia, Gyna Bivens
Toluca, Carlos Flores
Trier, Charlie Lauersdorf
Canada Search, Elizabeth Beck

Ex-Officio
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Michelle Green-Ford
David Gu
Jay Horn
Julia King
Anette Soto Landeros
Dr. Marie Mendoza
Steve Montgomery
Casey Oliver
Delia Sanchez-Juarez
Robert Sturns
Valerie Washington

Advisory Board
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Vishal Gandhi
Dr. Paul Geisel
Rae Hyatt
Andrew Johnsen
Larry Lauer
Richard D. Minker
Mark Nurdin
Dr. Michael Roemer
Walter Stucker
Andy Taft



THANK YOU

FORT WORTH
SISTER CITIES
INTERNATIONAL