

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING GLOBALLY. THRIVING LOCALLY





"Fort Worth is growing, and the work Sister Cities is doing for the community has strengthened our international reach. The educational opportunities, cultural growth and economic development that have developed from the relationships created are vital for Fort Worth's global impact. The city is lucky to have a strong organization, like Fort Worth Sister Cities International, to foster citizen diplomacy."

**Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price,
Honorary Board Chair, Fort Worth Sister Cities International**



"Through citizen diplomacy, new connections are made that are vital to the success of Fort Worth as an international city. Fort Worth Sister Cities does that and much more."

**- Veronica Chavez Law, Chairman of the Board,
Fort Worth Sister Cities International**

IMPACTING THE WORLD FOR OVER 33 YEARS

FORT WORTH'S SISTER CITIES:

- Bandung, Indonesia
- Budapest, Hungary
- Guiyang, China
- Mbabane, eSwatini
- Nagaoka, Japan
- Nîmes, France
- Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Toluca, Mexico
- Trier, Germany

MISSION:

Fort Worth Sister Cities International, a 501c3 nonprofit, is the only organization dedicated solely to promoting Fort Worth globally and enriching our community through international education, exchange and commerce. We provide a world of opportunities for our city leaders, citizens, educators, students and businesses alike.

GOALS:

- Involve more students from diverse backgrounds.
- Increase scholarships for disadvantaged youth.
- Expand international connections.
- Aid businesses to share best practices/methods to increase productivity with like-minded industries.
- Assist businesses to expand reach into international markets.
- Provide personal business introductions through municipal connections.
- Provide corporate relocation services for easy acclimation of international employees creating a more productive workforce.

NEW PROJECTS

- Recognized as Best Sister City program in the nation
- Agreed to partner with Nîmes, France as Fort Worth's ninth sister city
- Began developing system to measure effectiveness of city relationships
- Trained organizations and businesses on protocol
- Engaged board members on mission to Washington, D.C. with assistance from Congresswoman Kay Granger
- Created Chairs Cabinet of former board chairs to advise leadership
- Sent 16 citizen diplomats on educational mission to Russia

GOVERNMENT

- Welcomed delegation of seven from Nîmes, France led by Mayor Fournier and council members
- Sent delegation led by Councilman Moon to Nagaoka, Japan for 30th anniversary
- Hosted Consul General of Indonesia and delegation of eight from Bandung at the Mayor's International Dinner
- Sent official delegation led by Councilwoman Zadeh to Budapest, Hungary
- Facilitated internship for German student with the City Manager's office

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

- Took Fort Worth entrepreneurs on business exchange to Nagaoka, Japan and hosted Japanese business owners in Fort Worth
- Developed relationship with the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas to partner on economic initiatives
- Partnered with TCU Neeley School of Business to strategize with Chamber of Commerce and City of Fort Worth on future needs
- Facilitated the exchange of recipe from breweries in Trier, Germany and Fort Worth to create specialized lager to showcase in Fort Worth
- Hosted local sake tasting led by business owner from Nagaoka, Japan to encourage sales to local restaurants and stores

YOUTH

- Hosted 100+ students locally and sent 160 on exchanges to seven countries
- Sent nearly 80 athletes and coaches to the sixth edition of the Tricolore Youth Sports Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Held 29th International Leadership Academy & 12th Jr. Academy with over 150 participants
- Partnered with local schools for exchanges with students from Germany, Japan and Mexico
- Engaged 40 middle and high school educators and their campuses in international initiatives

EDUCATION

- Hosted 12 bioengineering students from Toluca, Mexico
- Sent university officials to Nagaoka, Japan to discuss research collaboration
- Partnered with FWISD and Toluca, Mexico for Dual Language Immersion Camp for 78 elementary students
- Conducted educational events focused on China, France, Russia, Japan, Italy, Hungary, South America and protocol training
- Hosted student interns from France, Germany, Mexico, China and Japan
- Sent two students to the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit in Aurora, CO

ARTS & CULTURE

- Awarded the fourth Global Impact Awards at the Mayor's International Dinner
- Held the annual Japanese Oshogatsu celebration
- Partnered with the Women's Policy Forum to host four Russian women
- Sent 20 delegates to Nagaoka, Japan to celebrate 30th anniversary
- Sent 12 delegates to Budapest, Hungary and Prague, Czech Republic
- Partnered with Trinity River Vision Authority for Oktoberfest

REVENUE

- Conducted third successful Members Circle mission-based funding campaign raising nearly \$300,000
- Raised over \$70,000 for youth programs through Sundance Santa photos
- Provided \$264,000+ for youth and educator scholarships
- Created a \$14 million economic impact on the City of Fort





BEST PROGRAM IN THE NATION

Best. In. The. Nation. That's what Fort Worth Sister Cities is and was declared so in 2018 by Sister Cities International. The ninth win for Fort Worth, the prestigious award for Best Overall Program shows the importance of our citizen diplomats here and abroad.



In total, FWSCI conducted 19 outbound exchanges and 22 inbound exchanges with approximately 400 people participating.

In 2018, Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI) intensely embodied its mission through international education, exchanges, commerce and local programs, proving that the tagline "connecting globally, thriving locally" is much more expansive than four words can convey. Not only did the organization conduct an impressive array of activities with its sister cities, but also brought the world to Fort Worth through numerous local activities.

One of the most popular outbound exchanges happens every four years when Fort Worth represents the United States in the Tricolore Youth Sports Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy. FWSCI partnered with local schools and sports teams to recruit athletes for the games, which create an opportunity for young people to convey a positive impression of American youth to thousands of athletes from around the world. Last July, Fort Worth fielded four baseball teams, as well as teams in girls volleyball and boys swimming.

Living with and competing against nearly 4,000 young athletes from around the world, our Sports Ambassadors undoubtedly learned that they have much more in common with the other participants than what separates them. These are the types of experiences that help kids shape their understanding and acceptance of people from other cultures. Fort Worth students arrived home with fresh experiences to share, along with one bronze and three gold medals in baseball and volleyball.

In total, FWSCI conducted 14 outbound exchanges and 25 inbound exchanges with approximately 500 people participating. Outbound exchanges included visits to Fort Worth's sister cities, as well as

an exploratory and educational mission to Russia to broaden the scope of the world for the citizens of Fort Worth and to put a good face on America. The delegation even had the opportunity to meet with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, an experience any normal tourist group would never have. Sister Cities opens doors and provides opportunities no other organization can.

Perhaps the most important inbound exchange made last year was a delegation from Nîmes, France led by their mayor, who showed great interest in partnering with Fort Worth as our ninth sister city. Local volunteers showed them the best of Fort Worth, including the museums, Stockyards, Sundance Square, educational institutions, and the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo – after all, this thing is legendary. *(continued page. 6)*



BRINGING
THE WORLD
TOGETHER,
ONE
FRIENDSHIP
AT A TIME.

Locally, FWSCI focused heavily on international education, conducting seminars and workshops related to U.S. relations with other countries and protocol trainings. The fifth Dual Language Immersion Camp was held in partnership with the Fort Worth Independent School District and Fort Worth’s sister city in Toluca, Mexico. The 29th International Leadership Academy was also held in Fort Worth, an annual event that brings international students from Fort Worth’s nine sister cities together with local youth for two weeks of team-building and discussions about international relations.

More importantly, in the organization’s 34th year, Sister Cities continues to shine globally, reaching further, visiting more areas of the world, and connecting Fort Worth globally. This was the ninth time for Fort Worth Sister Cities International to win the award for Best Overall Program, and it won’t be the last.



Fort Worth
Sister Cities
International
9th WIN
for Best Overall
Program Award

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018

Statement of Financial Position

Total Assets	\$ 605,121
Total Liabilities	113,574
Total Net Assets	419,547
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 605,121

Statement of Financial Activities

Total Revenue and other support	\$1,616,727
Expenses	
Programs & Exchanges	\$1,408,479
Fundraising	138,117
General and Administrative	82,310
Total Expenses	1,628,906
Change in Net Assets (Unrestricted)	(12,179)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	503,726
Net Assets at End of Year	\$491,547

The financial information presented here represents a portion of the financial statements of the Association. Audited financial statements are available upon request and online at www.fwsistercities.org.

Youth and Adult Programs

25	Inbound Exchanges
14	Outbound Exchanges
501	Inbound and Outbound Delegates
25	Local Programs

Youth Exchanges

96	students participated - inbound
125	students participated - outbound

47%	White
35%	Hispanic
17%	African American
03%	Asian

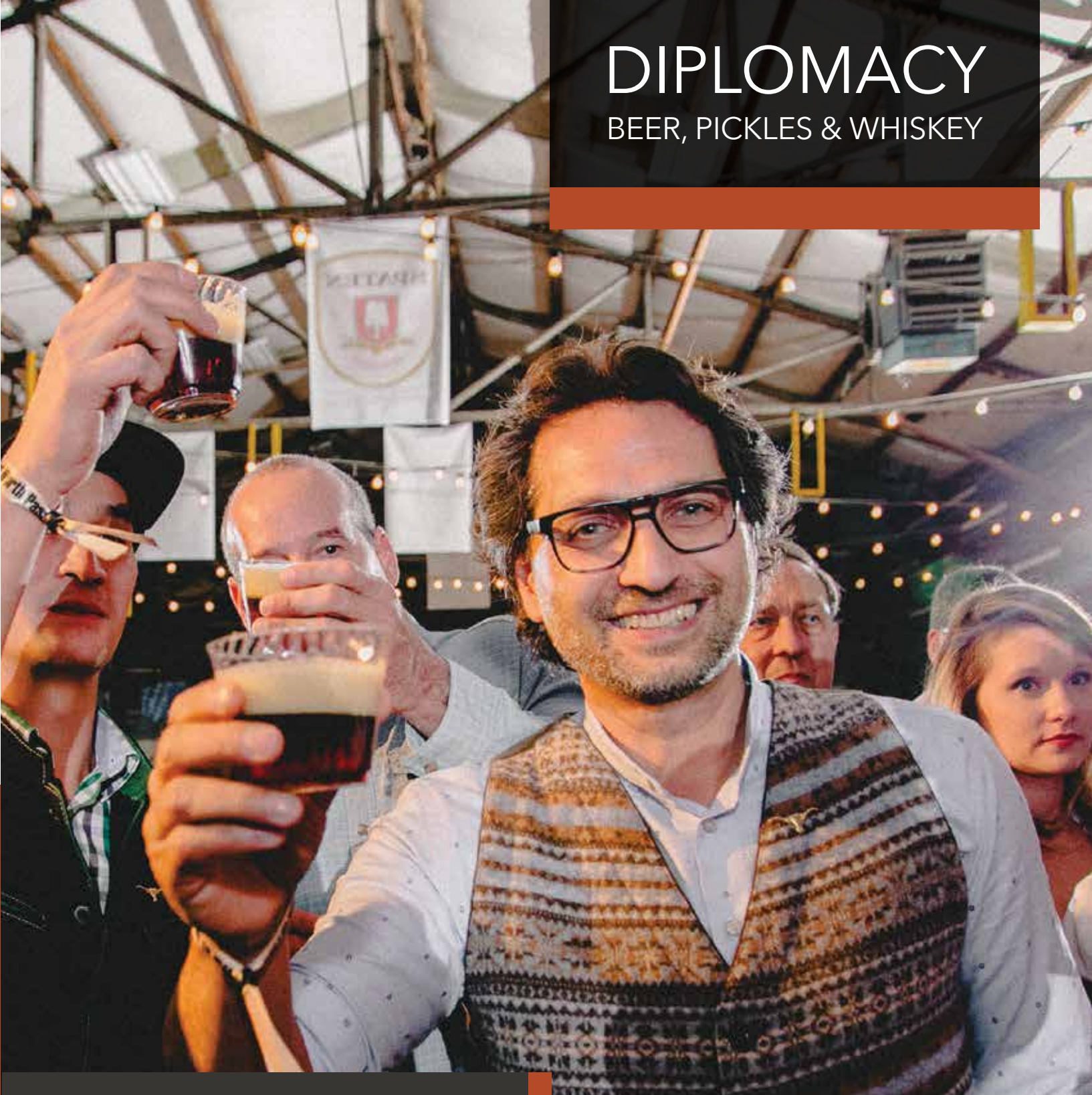
Scholarships for Youth Programs

\$264,066

Economic Impact

\$14 million

DIPLOMACY
BEER, PICKLES & WHISKEY



Beer, pickles and whiskey. It sounds like the first three items you might see on a grocery list for your afternoon cookout, but it turns out that these three iconic items are part of Fort Worth’s recipe for diplomacy.



#BEERDIPLOMACY

Fort Worth is no stranger to the international culinary delights of its nine sister cities. Fort Worth Sister Cities has taken delegations to enjoy the wines, cheeses, pastas and meats of Italy; the bright and bold spices of Indonesia; and delicate, artistic dishes of Japan. There is so much history, culture and meaning in the foods of a country. You cannot truly experience or understand another culture until you have tasted it. So, what better way to incorporate diplomacy than to focus on the fundamental aspects of food and drink.



When one thinks of Germany, it is impossible not to imagine a perfectly poured glass of gleaming Riesling, a dark full-bodied Bock or a nice medium Märzen. Expertly brewed beer is to Germany what wine is to France and sake is to Japan, and Oktoberfest is the ultimate celebration of the ultimate German beverage.

In the fall of 2018, Fort Worth Sister Cities, Wild Acre Brewing and the city of Trier, Germany partnered to introduce the first-ever collaborative beer at the 5th annual Oktoberfest Fort Worth kick off. The brewmaster from Trier-based Kraft Bräu brewery attended and tapped the keg of the collaborative beer called Wild Acre Kraft Haus Lager.

The goal of this project was to encourage and grow business opportunities between Trier and Fort Worth. With the craft beer industry growing in both cities, Christian Luxem, director of Trier's Business Development Council, envisioned this "Bier project" - the opportunity for a craft beer collaboration that could provide an international idea and product exchanges. Reciprocally, one of Wild Acre's own crafts will be showcased in Germany at The Trier Bier Festival in October. And, Fort Worth will be sending a group there to taste some of Fort Worth's finest beer in Trier. Now, that's beer diplomacy!

#CHEERS

Similarly, Best Maid Pickles and TX Whiskey both found a natural partner in Nagaoka, Japan. Discussions arose about the introduction of locally made Fort Worth products into the Japanese market and Fort Worth has long held a close relationship with the Harashin chain of grocery stores in Japan. Fort Worth City Councilman Cary Moon had



connections at Best Maid Pickles, as well as TX Whiskey and both parties were intrigued by the opportunity. Both companies brought samples of their products to Japan and a tasting was arranged with members of Nagaoka's Chamber of Commerce's small business group.

It is not yet known what the impact of these conversations might be. Relationships and international business are like delicate seedlings that must be protected and nurtured before they can come to full fruition, but it is nice to imagine that one day, at a BBQ in Fort Worth, Texas, while enjoying our Best Maid Pickles and toasting with a glass of TX Whiskey, we will be saluting our friends in Japan who are doing the same.

From our connections with Trier and the collaborative Wild Acre Kraft Haus Lager to our pickle and whiskey exchange with Japan, one thing is certain, Fort Worth Sister Cities sustains the relationships that help businesses connect globally and thrive locally.



Funding and in-kind support from the City of Fort Worth play a key role in our mission, but most of our work is made possible through the support of our Members Circle of Giving. This group is a thriving network of individuals, organizations, corporations and community leaders committed to expanding global relationships for peace and prosperity at home and abroad.

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Sundance Square

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Global
Alcon Foundation
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Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
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Andrew Doc Session Community Center
Andreanne Annis
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Autobahn Porsche
Bank of Texas
Lisa Gail Barnes
Bass Performance Hall/Performing Arts Fort
Worth
BBVA Compass Bank
Bell
Best Maid Pickles
Billy Bob's Texas
Black Ecumenical Leadership Alliance
Black Eyed Distillery
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Brackett & Ellis
Sue & Tom Brents
Kimberly Brown
Burton Hill Elementary School
Nelcy Cardenas
Cassco
Central Market
Chadra Mezza & Grill
The City Club
City of Fort Worth
The Cliburn
Comanche Drummers
Como Community Center
Cook Children's
Martha Cooper
Asako Cosby
Cowtown Opry
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Marsha Cutler
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Firestone & Robertson Distillery, Co.
Flowers on the Square
Tara Forrest
Fort Worth Bagpipes
Fort Worth Business
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
The Fort Worth Club
Fort Worth Community Arts Center
Fort Worth Country Day School
Fort Worth Independent School District
Fort Worth Japanese Society
Fort Worth Library
Fort Worth Museum of Science & History
Fort Worth Police Department
Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
Fort Worth Stockyards
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
Fort Worth Transportation Authority
Frank Kent
Frost Bank
Cindy & Winston Fuller
Galderma
Gwen Genius
Genjikai Karate & Tai Chi
James Gleaton
Matt Graves
Greenbriar Community Center

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Scholarships
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Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
Texas Graduation Supply

In-Kind Support
Acre Distillery
Alcon
Andrew Doc Session Community Center
Andreanne Annis
Arts 5th Avenue
Autobahn Porsche
Bank of Texas
Lisa Gail Barnes
Bass Performance Hall/Performing Arts Fort
Worth
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Bell
Best Maid Pickles
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Fort Worth Stockyards
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
Fort Worth Transportation Authority
Frank Kent
Frost Bank
Cindy & Winston Fuller
Galderma
Gwen Genius
Genjikai Karate & Tai Chi
James Gleaton
Matt Graves
Greenbriar Community Center

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The Harashin Corporation
Highland Hills Community Center
Hispanic Women's Network
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Rae & Michael S. Hyatt
Brent Hyder
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JPS
Junior League of Fort Worth
Kids Who Care
The Kimbell Art Museum
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Jay Kurima
Heather Kurima
La Pompe
Linbeck
Lockheed Martin
Kem LoMonaco
Nancy Marchant
Martin Luther King Community Center
Meadowbrook Menagerie
MedStar Mobile Healthcare
Ann Rice & Patrick Miller
The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
MONDO Drummers
Mount Olive Baptist Church
MPI Traveler
Multatech
Karen Myers
Neeley School of Business
North Tri Ethnic Community Center
Mark Nurdin
Jamil Okada
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CONNECTING GLOBALLY. THRIVING LOCALLY.

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Thank you for all of our members, donors, supporters and volunteers.

Thank you to PULSE Design and Branding and Tarrant County College for their support in the production of this report.

* Three year sustaining member

We apologize for any errors and omissions

33 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Local Awards

- Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership – Dr. Michael Roemer
- Volunteer of the Year – Matt Graves
- Eisenhower Award for Organizational Involvement – Rotary Club of Fort Worth
- Global Citizens Award – Rotary International
- Global Nexus Award – Bell
- Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholar – Melany Rodriguez



National & International Awards

- Sister Cities Award for Best Overall Program (2017, 2011, 2009, 2007, 2003, 2001, 1998, 1992, 1990)
- Sister Cities International Chairman's Award: Mae Ferguson (2017, 2008)
- Sister Cities International President's Award: Mary Palko (2017, 2006)
- Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance (2016, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2004)
- Sister Cities Ruth Hashimoto Award: Michael Hyatt (2016)
- Sister Cities Youth Leadership Award: Kalkidan Alemu (2016)
- Sister Cities Youth Leadership Award: Bogdana Oliynyk (2014)
- US/China Sister Cities Award for Youth Programs (2014)
- Sister Cities International Chairman's Award: Michael Hyatt (2013)
- China International Friendship Cities Association Award for International Friendly City (2012)
- Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Arts & Culture (2010)
- Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Youth & Education (2010, 2003, 2002)
- United Nations Positive Peace Award for Most Positive City Top 5 Finalist (2010)
- Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Shinichi Hara (2007)
- 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 Award 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)

