“As an increasingly global community, Fort Worth has welcomed the responsibility to connect and develop relationships with our international partners. The exchange of information, ideas and economic opportunity that has come from these relationships is vital to growing Fort Worth’s global impact. Sister Cities has been an important part of our community, bringing attention to our image as a global economic powerhouse for over 30 years.”

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

“As the 16th-largest city in the United States and one of the fastest-growing, Fort Worth has to expand its global perspective in order to sustain success. Forming international relationships, fostering new business connections and promoting tourism are vital to seizing opportunities and overcoming challenges in this global era and that’s what Sister Cities does.”

- Johnny Campbell, Chairman of the Board, Fort Worth Sister Cities International

FORT WORTH’S SISTER CITIES:
- Bandung, Indonesia
- Budapest, Hungary
- Guiyang, China
- Mbabane, Swaziland
- Nagaoka, Japan
- 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:
- Develop a community engagement campaign that will:
  - Involve more students from diverse backgrounds providing them with a global education
  - Increase scholarships for disadvantaged youth
  - Involve more citizens through educational initiatives and hosting opportunities
- Expand international relationships to support economic development and peaceful civic engagement
- Establish a Center for Global Relations to include:
  - Protocol services and diplomacy education
  - Corporate relocation services
  - Database of international resources for travel and business

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

MUNICIPAL
- Welcomed Deputy Mayor of Budapest, Hungary to Fort Worth for the Mayor’s International Dinner
- City Communications Dept. hosted Public Information Officer from Mbabane, Swaziland
- Councilman Cary Moon led delegation on educational mission to Cuba
- Welcomed 33 visitors from Trier, Germany led by Mayor and councilors
- Fort Worth Police Dept. officers trained officers in Toluca, Mexico and hosted law students in Fort Worth
- Welcomed delegation of 26 from Nagaoka, Japan led by Mayor and councilors

EDUCATION
- Partnered with FWISD for 4th Spanish Immersion & Enrichment Camp for 65 elementary students
- Conducted educational events focused on France, Japan, Russia, and protocol
- Sent 20 TCU nursing students to Reggio Emilia, Italy for a study abroad program
- Hosted law students from Toluca and interns from Toluca, China, and Japan
- Partnered with Women’s Policy Forum and the Hispanic Women’s Network for a women’s forum in Fort Worth focusing on gender equality and hosted 15 guests from Toluca, Mexico

YOUTH
- Hosted 100 students locally and sent 50 on exchanges to 6 countries
- Conducted 28th International Leadership Academy with 70 participants and 11th Jr. Academy
- Partnered with middle schools on a Nagaoka, Japan student exchange of 36 Japanese students to Fort Worth
- Involved 40 middle and high school educators and their campuses in international initiatives
- Recognized Kalkidan Alemu as the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Award winner at the Sister Cities Annual conference in Virginia Beach, VA
- Accepted the Humanitarian Assistance award at the Sister Cities Annual Conference

ARTS & CULTURE
- Held the annual Japanese Oshogatsu celebration
- Partnered with Trinity River Vision Authority for Oktoberfest
- Hosted winemakers from Trier, Germany in Fort Worth as they further explored how to market their product in Texas

NEW PROJECTS:
- Partnered with the Rotary Club of Fort Worth to deliver 292 wheelchairs to Mbabane, Swaziland
- 26 delegates visited Cuba on educational mission
- Conducted educational mission to Jordan
- Sent research delegation to Nîmes, France to discuss possible sister city relationship
- Worked with Fort Worth Chamber and City Economic Development Dept. to welcome Italian company PreGel to Fort Worth
- Developed and launched new interactive website

REVENUE:
- Conducted second year of mission-based funding through the 2017 Members Circle Campaign raising $307,500
- Raised nearly $80,000 for youth programs through Sundance Santa photos
- Provided nearly $100,000 for youth and educator scholarships
- Presented the 3rd Global Impact Awards at the Mayor’s International Dinner
- Created a $14 million economic impact on the City of Fort Worth
As a high school student, Kam joined Fort Worth Sister Cities on exchanges to Reggio Emilia, Italy, and Trier, Germany as a youth ambassador. Her time abroad was filled with unforgettable food, architecture, and cross-cultural friendships.

Reflecting on her Italian exchange, Kam said, “My host mom didn’t speak a word of English, but by the end of the week, we had our own inside jokes.” By the end of the trip, she could give a speech entirely in Italian. Kam is still close with her Italian host sister, over 10 years later.

Because of these exchanges, Kam feels she was able to dream bigger and she continues to explore the world today. She believes Fort Worth Sister Cities set the bar high for exceptional international experiences, which cultivated her sense of wanderlust and ignited her passion and appreciation for other cultures. Since her time with Sister Cities, Kam has traveled to France, England, and Italy. “Every country you visit is another set of eyes that you get to see the world through,” says Kam. As for her future travels, Kam says “I haven’t been everywhere, but it’s on my list!”

When you were a child, did you dream of being a football player? Princess? Astronaut? What about a forensic scientist, a cartographer, or interior designer? We teach our kids to believe they can be anything, but do they know how vast “anything” truly is? Fort Worth native and Sister Cities alum Kam Phillips is working to help children around the globe dream bigger and brighter.

Because of this, she felt called to help children expand the scope of their ambitions. She founded Dream Outside the Box (DOTB), a free after-school program for kids K-12th grade, designed to show children the endless career possibilities the world has to offer, thus putting kids on a pathway to success.

Since its origins, DOTB has expanded, impacting our local community and communities across the world. She has gone international through her “Dream Delivered” boxes which are jam-packed with informational magazines, hands-on educational activities, and toys, all themed around a different career. DOTB has delivered boxes to South Africa and, through Sister Cities, to Swaziland.
Youth and Adult Programs

- Inbound Exchanges: 22
- Outbound Exchanges: 19
- Inbound and Outbound Delegates: 385
- Local Programs: 90
- Youth Exchanges: 95 students participated - inbound, 51 students participated - outbound

- 39% White
- 21% African American
- 26% Hispanic
- 14% Asian

Scholarships for Youth Programs: $93,090

Economic Impact: $14 million

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017

Statement of Financial Position
Total Assets: $614,736
Total Liabilities: 111,010
Total Net Assets: 503,726
Total Liabilities & Net Assets: $614,736

Statement of Financial Activities
Total Revenue and other support: $1,198,168

Expenses
- Programs & Exchanges: $975,748
- Fundraising: 171,042
- General and Administrative: 102,556
Total Expenses: $1,249,346
Change in Net Assets (Unrestricted): (51,178)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year: 554,904
Net Assets at End of Year: $503,726

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.

Imagine that you have a crucial building project that will vastly change things for the better and your boss has assigned a partner to assist you. This partner has strengths that will compliment your areas of expertise and vice versa, but there is a problem; you only understand how to create triangles and your partner only understands how to create circles. How would you proceed? How would you find a common language so that you could achieve your goal?
As unlikely as this scenario might seem, it is not so different from attempting to conduct business or work on projects with those in other countries. Often businesses, civic groups, religious institutions and even charities face challenges when working with people from different cultures. The most obvious barrier is language, but in many ways that barrier is the easiest to overcome. There are often more important nuances to consider, such as: how do they like to be greeted, what conversational topics are taboo, what is customary in terms of giving gifts, what are their dining preferences, what is their viewpoint on doing business with women, what might be their religious customs, what are their expectations surrounding attire, what are their business customs, do they shake hands? Does conducting international business or traveling for leisure now seem more daunting when you are facing those questions? Technology has made it easier for organizations to conduct business worldwide. Companies sell to clients all over the world and dealing with different cultures can be tricky. But, it need not be.

Last year, Sister Cities was contacted by Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Naturally, the airport hosts international visitors on a regular basis and they wanted to provide the best possible experience for their guests. The airport’s Community Engagement team chose to focus on Eastern Asian cultures, so a comprehensive training that covered proper pronunciations, conversational topics, dining etiquette, potential pitfalls, how to make introductions properly, how to greet properly, the importance of punctuality and even the importance of receiving and reading business cards was designed to meet their needs.

Mae Ferguson, President and CEO of Fort Worth Sister Cities is a certified protocol officer, and as such, she regularly performs intake consultations with various groups to discover needs, goals and intent. The protocol trainings are fully customizable and tailored to the needs of any company, group, individual or organization all with a desired outcome of mutual understanding of other cultures and good international relations for all.

For example, Common Ground, a community group for working women of faith in Fort Worth, requested a protocol training to benefit their members. The group hosts 45-minute “lunch and learn” sessions about a variety of topics pertaining to faith and business. They felt that protocol training could vastly aid the members in their professional lives and could also be a fun, interactive lunch time training.

A quote that is regularly used in these protocol trainings comes to us from Dorothea Johnson, who is the founder of the Protocol School of Washington. She states, “The soul of politeness is not a question of rules but tranquility, humility and simplicity.” In essence, the heart of protocol is caring enough to be open to receive the beauty that other cultures are waiting to share with you. When viewed through that lens, protocol training becomes so much more than a set of rules or code of conduct. It truly is the Rosetta Stone that unlocks the power of international relations.
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. 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.

**Advocacy Board:**
- Brian Bambenek
- Kenneth Kirby
- Barclay Berdan
- Rajit Chopra
- Bob O'Connell
- Richard Casarez
- Matthew Bush
- PJ Budler
- Rebecca Whitman Cristol
- Katie Wharry
- Sally Sims
- Katie & Brian Wharry
- Ann Rice & Patrick Miller
- Joanna & Michael Crain
- Shelly Harris, Ex-Officio

**Directors Emeriti:**
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- Mike Huyet
- Mary Fallo
- Tim Ear

**Ex Officio:**
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- Chuck Carrick, PhD
- Tara Forrest
- Brandon Greggbach
- David Gu
- John Hernandez
- Rachel Jenkins
- Danny Perkins, MD
- Rick Patton
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- Mary Helen Ibarra Hill
- Anne M. Goss
- Paul Geisel
- Ashley Freer
- Nommo Donald, Mbabane
- Hannah Behrens, Trier

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Local Awards
- Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership – Greg Irwin
- Volunteer of the Year – Sherri Whiting
- Youth Volunteer of the Year – Alexandra Galloway
- Eisenhower Award for Organizational Involvement – Women’s Policy Forum and Fort Worth Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas
- Global Impact Award – Bob Jameson
- Global Citizens Award – Catholic Charities
- Global Nexus Award – Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company
- Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholar – Mario Terrell, II

National & International Awards
- Youth Leadership Award: Kalkidan Alemu (2017)
- Ruth Hashimoto Award: Michael S. Hyatt (2017)
- Youth Leadership Award: Bogdana Oliynyk (2015)
- US/China Sister Cities Award for Youth Programs (2014)
- Sister Cities International Chairman’s Award: Michael S. Hyatt (2013)
- China International Friendship Cities Award for 2012 International Friendly City
- 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 International Chairman’s Award: Mae Ferguson (2008)
- Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Shinichi Hara (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 & 1986)