



Sister Cities Discussion

Eugene City Council Work Session
October 12, 2022

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Overview

- Program history
- Current program
 - Organization
 - Funding
 - Activities
- Looking forward



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Program History – United States

- Modern program began after WWII
- President Eisenhower formalized in 1956
- “united by...our faith in the great promise of people-to-people and sister city affiliations in helping build the solid structure of world peace.”



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Sister Cities International

- Established in 1956
- Original part of National League of Cities
- Mission - promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation one individual, one community at a time
- City dues - \$1,030 annually
- Benefits
 - Publications
 - Networking
 - Technical assistance



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Program Models – United States

- No city funding for associations and limited staff support
 - Portland, Salem, all cities in Washington
- Limited city funding and limited staff support
 - Eugene, Madison
- Increased city funding and dedicated staffing
 - Tempe, Santa Cruz

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Program History - Eugene

- Grew one city at a time
- Cities
 - Jinju, South Korea (1961)
 - Kathmandu, Nepal (1975)
 - Kakegawa, Japan (1979)
 - Irkutsk, Russia (1988)
 - Ogaki, Japan (Friendly City) (2015)



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Eugene Program Overview

- Each sister city is represented by a local non-profit association
- Governed by a board, with officers
- Associations are in the lead for sister city relationships



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Funding and Activities

- Funding allocated annually to support expenditures (\$10,000 per association)
- Funding has varied over time
- Typical expenditures
 - Delegation visits
 - Youth exchange
 - Cultural & outreach events
 - Program support (website, etc.)
- Covid impacts



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Contract Scope of Work

- General requirements of associations
 - Provide overall direction
 - Coordinate volunteer efforts
 - Coordinate delegation visits
- Reporting
- Work planning



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Jinju, South Korea (1961)

- Initiated by Jinju
- Only US sister city
- Key activities
 - Youth ambassadors
 - Delegations (inbound and outbound)



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Kathmandu, Nepal (1975)

- Initiated by Kathmandu
- One of four US sister cities
- Key activities
 - Fire EMS training (2017)
 - Co-hosted muralist for 20x21
 - Resource for local Nepalese community
 - Strong UO student connection in early years



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Kakegawa, Japan (1979)

- Initiated by Kakegawa
- One of two US sister cities
- Key activities
 - Homestays for Eugene youth in Kakegawa
 - Delegations (inbound and outbound)

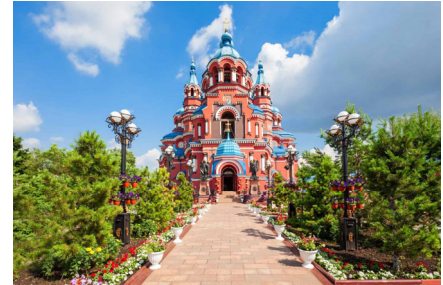


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Irkutsk, Russia (suspended) (1988)

- Initiated by Eugene
- Only US sister city
- Key activities
 - Youth exchanges
 - Hosted and sponsored artists
 - Interpretation services



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Sister City Connections in Host Countries

- Non-profit association coordination
 - Kakegawa
 - Kathmandu (volunteers/staff)
- City-affiliated coordination
 - Jinju
 - Irkutsk

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Moving Forward

- What success looks like
- Outcomes and metrics
- Response to requests for additional sister cities
- Council engagement



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Questions & Discussion



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