

RICHMOND SISTER CITY PROGRAM

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

January 2013

Purpose

The City of Richmond is a member of the global community and wishes to promote international respect, understanding and cooperation at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. The primary purpose of the City of Richmond's Sister City Program is to foster mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of our citizens for their common benefit.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the Sister City Program are:

- 1) To establish and maintain relationships with designated Sister/Friendship Cities that are meaningful and sustained through on-going activity;
 - 2) To develop a broad base of activity for Sister/Friendship City relationships in which many people and organizations in the community participate through planned and on-going contact; and
 - 3) To engage the Richmond community and its Sister/Friendship Cities in projects and exchanges that promote cultural awareness and joint learning opportunities as outlined below.
- a) Promoting Cultural Awareness

Sister/Friendship City relationships can promote understanding and appreciation through projects that build cross-cultural awareness. Opportunities for city officials and citizens to experience and explore other cultures may include:

<i>Example Activities and Projects</i>	<i>Potential Organizations Involved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing and maintaining friendships gardens• Encouraging art and theatre exchanges and hosting international artists• Promoting sport exchanges for groups of all ages through club affiliations• Encouraging youth group affiliations and exchanges• Encouraging service club affiliations and exchanges• Participation in annual festivals in Sister/Friendship City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Botanical gardens and garden clubs• Richmond Art Gallery• Theatre groups• Public school or college art program• Sports groups• Service Clubs• Multicultural groups• School Board• Tourism Richmond

b) Promoting Joint Learning Opportunities

Sister/Friendship City relationships can create partnerships through which communities can creatively learn, work and solve problems together through reciprocal educational, municipal, professional and technical exchanges and projects (trade and economic development related functions rest with the City). These projects may include:

<i>Example Activities and Projects</i>	<i>Potential Organizations Involved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging technical and professional exchanges in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health care ○ Education ○ Urban planning ○ Accessibility ○ Transportation ○ Housing ○ Environment ○ Sustainability ○ Agriculture ○ Public safety, etc. • Sharing municipal government best practices in the above areas • Participating in municipal internships for city officials in key fields • Promoting student exchanges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Board • Health Authority • Hospital • Community college • Service clubs • Chamber of Commerce • Municipality