
TACOMA SISTER CITIES COUNCIL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR YOUTH AND EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC – The Tacoma Sister Cities Council has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Innovation Award for Youth and Education for a city with a population between 100,001 and 500,000. The 2017 Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Youth and Education recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

One of the main goals of Tacoma's sister city program is to increase global understanding and knowledge among community youth by giving them the opportunity to take trips abroad. In 2016, the program was able to successfully send nearly 100 students abroad. A student from Tacoma travelled to Biot, France for three weeks in the summer to study glassblowing with world-renowned glass artists and to experience the culture of France thanks to the relationship between the Hilltop Artist program and a French glass artist. Tacoma's Fuzhou, China committee was able to send 97 students, many of whom do not have regular access to travel experiences, to China for 12 days to visit other schools and experience Chinese culture. These successful outbound exchanges created lifelong friendships and taught Tacoma students how to be citizens of the world.

"The city of Tacoma strives to be a global leader in education and the arts, and our Sister Cities program helps local youth gain access to unique international travel and cultural engagement opportunities that can be life-changing," said Mayor Marilyn Strickland. "I couldn't be more proud of Tacoma's Sister Cities volunteers whose important work is being recognized with this award."

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 15 during SCI's 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCI's 61st [Annual Conference](#) events, which include a [Youth Leadership Summit](#) and a [U.S.-Russia Mayors' Summit](#), will take place in Virginia Beach, VA from July 12-16, 2017. The events will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Global Communities for World Peace," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships through communities.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 500 member communities with over 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development; youth and education; arts and culture; and humanitarian assistance.



SisterCities

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

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