
**ULAANBAATAR-DENVER SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
INNOVATION AWARD (ARTS AND CULTURE)**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Ulaanbaatar-Denver Sister Cities Committee has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Innovation Award (Arts and Culture) for a city with a population greater than 500,001. The 2014 Sister Cities International Innovation Award (Arts and Culture) recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

The Ulaanbaatar-Denver Sister Cities Committee (UDSCC) organizes, arranges, and sponsors a host of arts and cultural events each year. Their programming has demonstrated the many cultural similarities between Mongolia and the Rocky Mountain West, helped Mongolia in its recent political transition, and created a greater appreciation and understanding of each city on the local and global levels.

UDSCC's emphasis on culture and the arts is highlighted throughout various programs held in Denver in 2013. Projects implemented include an arts initiative with Denver and Ulaanbaatar public arts high schools participating in the Luby-Jenkins School Pairing Exchange Program, organizing performances by Tumen Ekh (the National Song and Dance Ensemble of Mongolia), sponsoring a concert by the traveling Mongolian ethno-jazz group Arga Blleg, participating in the regional Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, helping the Denver Botanic Gardens host the "Greening of the City" conference in Ulaanbaatar, conducting a gala opening for the international Chinggis Khan Exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and fundraising for the design and construction of the first major outdoor Mongolia sculpture in the U.S.

To successfully implement these programs, UDSCC's working group members collaborated with Denver Sister Cities International Inc., the City and County of Denver, Derek Okubo, the Executive Director of Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, the City of Ulaanbaatar, and several NGOs and government institutions.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, August 2, during Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California.

The Sister Cities International 58th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in the exciting capital of Silicon Valley to discuss, "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2014 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: www.SisterCitiesConference.org.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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