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**LANSING REGIONAL SISTER CITIES COMMISSION WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S  
INNOVATION AWARD (ARTS AND CULTURE)**

WASHINGTON, DC – Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission (LRSCC) won Sister Cities International's 2015 Innovation Award (Arts and Culture) for a city with a population between 100,001 and 500,000. The 2015 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.

Since its establishment in 1994, LRSCC has helped foster international goodwill through people-to-people exchange activities. One of their most recent education and dialogue projects, "Celebrating Global Diversity," was held in September 2014 to celebrate 20 years of building peace and friendship across nations, languages, and cultures.

President of Sister Cities International, Mary D. Kane, was the keynote speaker of the Global Business Forum Luncheon, sponsored by the Global Business Club of Lansing and hosted by Dr. Thomas Hult from Michigan State University. In addition to honoring international connections, the celebration honored the Native American community and begun with a prayer by George Roy of the Odawa Nation. It showcased and strengthened the community's diverse local and international heritages and connections. Special awards were presented to Former Mayor Dave Hollister, the founder of LRSCC. Over 300 guests were in attendance.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, July 18 during Sister Cities International's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Sister Cities International 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in Minneapolis, Minnesota to discuss, "Building Generations for Peace." 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 2015 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: [www.SisterCitiesConference.org](http://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 545 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in over 2,100 communities in 145 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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