
**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
INNOVATION AWARD (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

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

In October 2012, the City of San Antonio devised a new City Council led advisory group on international economic development initiatives comprised of public and private members called the Global Advisory Committee (GAC). The GAC evolved from a similar sub-committee, known as the China Advisory Committee, as the city endeavored to restructure its international economic development initiatives. This public/private stakeholder group was called together every two months to provide a conduit for "community steering."

As part of GAC, the City of San Antonio's main projects in 2013 included the Brookings Export Initiative, Re-focus Global Initiatives, Realigned Community Business and Trade Organizations, Free Trade Alliance San Antonio (FTA), and the Casa San Antonio Program. The results of these projects were overwhelmingly positive, as they increased the city's community alignment, international trade, foreign direct investment, relationship building, and sister city awareness.

To successfully implement these projects, the City of San Antonio's sister city working group members collaborated with the San Antonio City Council, City of San Antonio staff and county government officials, members of the private sector, non-profit organizations, and higher education 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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