
**TACHIKAWA-SAN BERNARDINO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE, INC. WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
INNOVATION AWARD (ARTS AND CULTURE)**

WASHINGTON, DC – Tachikawa-San Bernardino Sister City, Inc. has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Innovation Award (Arts and Culture) for a city with a population between 100,000 and 500,000. 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.

Since 1959, the Tachikawa-San Bernardino Sister City Committee (TSBSCC) members have hosted students through mutual exchange in each sister city. During Japanese student delegation visits each year, the groups visit the Los Angeles Sister Cities Sign while touring the city. After several years of passing by this sign, it was decided that San Bernardino needed a sister cities sign of their own.

Spearheaded by Project Manager Michael R. Avila, a TSBSCC signage pole was built on top of a mosaic of the world with red tiles to indicate each of San Bernardino's sister cities along a brick walkway leading up to San Bernardino City Hall. Each day as hundreds of people go to work, they walk by the Sister Cities Sign and find the cities on the mosaic world beneath their feet. This interactive art piece allows students and passersby to learn more about geography and their sister cities.

To successfully implement the project, TSBSCC's working group members and Mr. Avila collaborated with Brennan Electric, CTS Contracting, Monumental Bronze and Granite, the Art Department of California State University at San Bernardino, San Bernardino Downtown Business Association, Inc., the Jim and Judy Watson Foundation, former and current members of San Bernardino City Council, Express Printing & Graphics, Building and Safety Department staff, the San Bernardino Clergy Association, and the City of San Bernardino.

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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