
TEMPE SISTER CITIES WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Tempe Sister Cities has won Sister Cities International's 2015 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 100,001 and 300,000. The 2015 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2014 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

The year 2014 may have been Tempe Sister Cities' best year yet. Activities included participation in the Balkan Sister Cities Conference, hosted a highly successful Oktoberfest with nearly 200,000 people in attendance and 2,000 volunteers, 32 students participated in the youth ambassador program, five teachers participated in the educator exchange program, 56 singers from the Regensburg Domspatzen Boys Choir performed to a sold out audience, three travel delegations were organized, Tempe Youth Group members began speaking during Tempe Sister Cities board meetings, money was raised for schools in Timbuktu, Mali and 38 animals were presented to 19 families, the "Read Indeed" book drive collected 4,000 books for children in need, and many more.

Tempe Sister Cities activities were made possible by having supportive relations with the City of Tempe and several other partners within the community. Tempe Sister Cities' community partners include: Tempe Elementary Schools, Tempe High Schools, several private schools, Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Arizona State University, Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau, Gila River Indian Community, Wells Fargo, Mesa Community College, Arizona Girl Scouts, Feed My Starving Children, and many private businesses.

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 59th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Sister Cities International 59th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders to 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.

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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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