



**ALBUQUERQUE**  
Sister Cities Foundation



January 2022

### ***Happy New Year to all our members!***

*ASCF is very appreciative of all our members and looks forward to a year of either virtual events or a combination of live and virtual events. We will adjust the ASCF events according to the current state requirements for gatherings. Throughout the year of 2021, there were official letters between Mayor Keller and his respective mayors of ASCF Sister Cities. ASCF would like to share four of the letters for the members to enjoy reading.*

*Ashgabat's congratulatory letters from Mayor Keller to President Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan and Mayor Gylyjov of Ashgabat were to highlight their 26 years of Neutrality achievement promoting international peace.*

*The Lanzhou letter from Mayor Keller to Mayor Zhang and the people of Lanzhou was for best wishes for a happy, prosperous, and healthy Chinese New Year.*

*Lusaka's congratulatory letter from Mayor Keller was to commend the first female mayor to be elected in Lusaka, Mayor Cilando Chitangala.*

*You will find the individual letters here and on pages 7, 8 and 9.*

***Kind Regards,***

***Pam Feather, ASCF President***

***505-980-5886***

***president@abqsistercities.org***

## CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



December 6, 2021

The Honorable Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov  
President of Turkmenistan  
U.S. Embassy Ashgabat  
9 1984 Street (formerly Pushkin Street)  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 744000

Dear President Berdimuhamedov,

On behalf of all citizens of Albuquerque, we are honored to extend our congratulations to you and the people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of Neutrality Day.

For twenty-six years, Turkmenistan's positive neutrality has contributed to regional and international stability. The City of Albuquerque has respected and supported Turkmenistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. We are delighted that the people of the United States and Turkmenistan continue to strengthen their growing partnership based on mutual trust and our shared interests. We believe we can build on the successes in our relationship across the whole range of issues, including economic development, security, governance, education, and culture, among many others.

PO Box 1293

Albuquerque

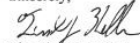
NM 87103

www.cabq.gov

Our confidence in what our communities can achieve stems from the values we share. We may have different histories and speak different languages, but we share a common desire to promote stability and security, economic prosperity, and peaceful relations with all nations. We are eager to continuing our close cooperation with the government of Turkmenistan on a broad range of issues. In fact, it is my intention to visit Turkmenistan in 2022. I look forward to next steps towards the planning of this visit.

Once again, we would like to extend our sincerest warm wishes to the people of Turkmenistan on 26 years of Neutrality Day. Congratulations and happy Neutrality Day!

Sincerely,

  
Timothy M. Keller  
Mayor

cc: Damian Lara, Interim Economic Development Director  
Randy Trask, New Mexico Trade Alliance President  
Pam Feather, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation President  
Alana McGrattan and Oguljan Young, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Chairs



# ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION WINTER FEST

MUST RSVP to  
bit.ly/ASCFWinterFest  
OR  
Dave Bagley  
- dave3114@gmail.com

REFRESHMENTS FROM PUEBLO  
HARVEST KITCHEN & PERFORMANCES BY:



DECEMBER 5TH • 2 - 5 PM

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

SILVER & TURQUOISE BALLROOM

2401 12TH ST NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87104

Masks Required, except  
when eating or drinking.  
Tables will be placed  
to accommodate social  
distancing. Hand sanitizer  
will be available.



## ASCF Winter Fest Brings Together International Entertainment

By Alana McGrattan

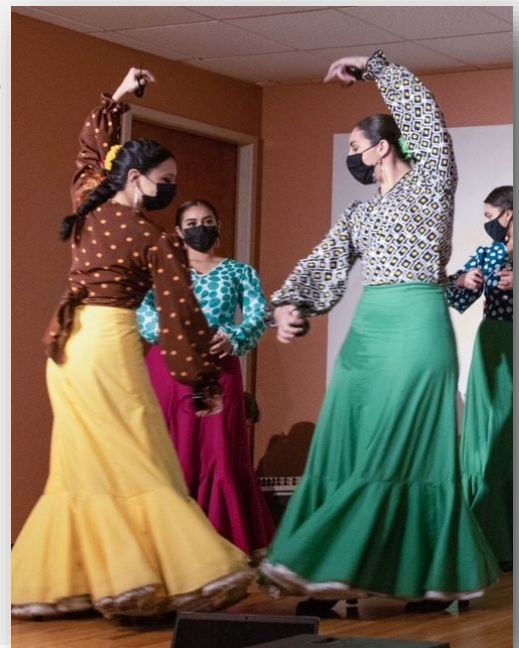
Winter Fest 2021 Albuquerque Sister Cities meeting for membership both in person and virtual was held on the afternoon of December 5 at Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in the Silver/Turquoise room.

There were performances by:

- **Hannah Stephens** and her young daughter performing the song written by Ministry of Culture Turkmenistan specifically to celebrate the relationship between Ashgabat and Albuquerque during the 140 Anniversary of the founding of the City of Ashgabat. They also led some winter carols selections.
- A breathtaking performance by **Tierra Adentro Flamenco Dance** group showcased their high school students from the local charter school grades 6 through 12 which focuses on the study of academics, art and artesanía.
- **Ron Manginelli** performed selections on the classic guitar. Ron's daughter was a participant in the Helmstadt youth exchange.
- A local Japanese Shamisen player, **Masahiro**, enchanted with traditional melodies. All these are available to view on Sister Cities Facebook page.

A variety of refreshments from Pueblo Harvest Kitchen included both sweet and savory local treats.

There was also a video presentation of Sister Cities events and visits selection through the years.



ALBUQUERQUE  
Sister Cities Foundation





## *Scenes From the ASCF Winter Fest*



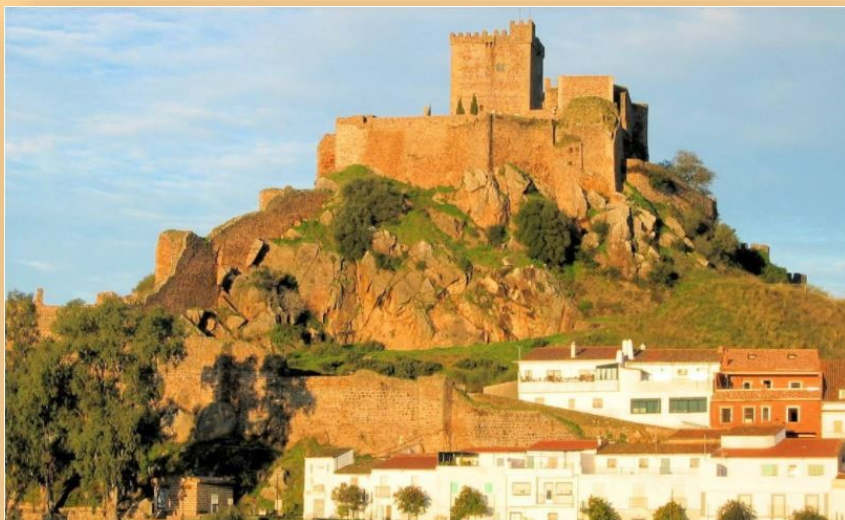
***From the top clockwise:***  
**Tierra Adentro Flamenco  
Dance Group,  
Masashiro, Hannah  
Stephens and her  
daughter, and  
Ron Manginelli.**



## Alburquerque's Well Preserved Castle Dates from the 13th Century

Did you know that Alburquerque Castle is considered one of the best preserved in the Extremadura region of Spain?

The fortress is also known as Castillo de Luna after one of its main builders, Don Álvaro de Luna. The castle rises on top of a cliff in the Sierra de San Pedro, dominating the town of Alburquerque and the region of Los Baldíos. Its construction began in the 13th Century and important improvements were made throughout the 15th Century, including the Towers of Homage and Cinco Picos.



In the town of Alburquerque, the walls of the old city with an average height of ten meters have been preserved. Inside the walled compound is the medieval Gothic neighborhood of Villa Adentro. Each year in mid-August the population of Alburquerque celebrates its heritage with a medieval festival during which townspeople dress as jugglers, knights, ladies, monks, witches, troubadours, storytellers, beggars, and monks.



View of the town of Alburquerque and the Castillo de Luna in a 17th century engraving.

The castle is located very close to the border with Portugal, halfway between Valencia de Alcántara to the north and the city of Badajoz to the south and is considered one of the outstanding medieval fortresses in the region.

It was declared a National Monument in 1924 and of Cultural Interest in 1933.





# Hualien Committee Launches Virtual Cultural Exchange

By Yu-Lin Shen, Hualien Chair

The Hualien ASCF Committee has launched a virtual cultural exchange project, led by Co-chair Rubing Hsu. The objective is to provide a safe video-based social media platform for high-school students in both cities.

Students share their own cultures, learn how to make short video presentation, and apply their language skills. The participating school in Albuquerque is Career Enrichment Center (the Chinese language program), and in Hualien it is the National Hualien Senior High School. The online platform is Microsoft's Flipgrid.com.

The beginning videos from Albuquerque students include topics such as Thanksgiving and Balloon Fiesta; Hualien students will introduce their Lunar New Year celebration, etc. The postings and video exchanges will expand in the coming months. In February there will be a real-time online meeting between the student groups from Albuquerque and Hualien.



**Photo:**  
*Some of the participating students in Hualien showing off the souvenirs (dream catchers) provided by ASCF Hualien Committee.*

**The Mayor of Hualien City in Taiwan, Mr. Chia-Hsien Wei, sent a greeting card wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous Year of the Tiger!**







## YAAS DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2022!

In line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Sister Cities International will adopt **climate change** as the overarching theme for its Young Artists and Authors Showcase in both 2022 and 2023. For the 2022 competition, SCI is proud to invite all its youth members to create submissions that highlight the importance of climate change and its impact on water resources. The official 2022 Young Artists and Authors Showcase theme is **Generation Rescue: Sustainable Water for All**.



**SisterCities**  
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

## 2022 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE

Email [youth@sistercities.org](mailto:youth@sistercities.org)

This year's theme: **Generation Rescue: Sustainable Water for All**

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2022

### What is YAAS?

The Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) is an annual contest that encourages youth worldwide to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, photography, and music.

### How is it judged?

Submissions are centered around an annual theme and judged based on creativity, composition, and theme interpretation.

### Are there prizes?

Selected Grand Prize Winners in each category will win a \$1,000 prize, while second place winners will win \$250 and third place winners will be awarded \$100. Winners' artwork will be displayed on the Sister Cities Website after the winners are announced during the Youth Leadership Summit.

### How to Enter

Students are to check in with their member cities to ensure eligibility for this YAAS competition. Sister City organizations must ensure that they are dues paying members. After this coordination, the application can be filled out for submission.

### Eligibility & Guidelines

#### FEES

- There is **NO fee** to submit an entry to YAAS at the national office.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be 13 - 18 years old to participate in the YAAS competition.

### EXTRA INFO

Find our [FAQ](#) and additional information on our website at [www.sistercities.org](http://www.sistercities.org).

### SHOWCASE CATEGORIES

#### Classic Art

- Students may submit one (1) piece of art.
- Media accepted include but are not limited to oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, colored pencil. Digital art will be taken in a separate category.
- Only two-dimensional (2-D), unframed artwork will be accepted.
- Students must upload the photograph of their artwork in the application in a .jpeg/.jpg or .png format.

#### Digital Art

- Students may submit one (1) piece of art.
- Digital mediums will be accepted in this category. See website for more details.
- Moving art pieces will not be accepted.
- Submissions must have a minimum of 1350x1080 px.
- Students must upload the file of their artwork in the application in a .jpeg/.jpg or .png format.

#### Photographers

- Students may submit one (1) photograph.
- Limited digital manipulation is allowed for the photographers showcase. Edits include but are not limited to filters and lighting. See website for more details.
- Only two-dimensional (2-D), unframed artwork will be accepted.
- Students must upload their photograph in the application in a .jpeg/.jpg or .png format.

#### Authors

- Students may submit one (1) piece of writing.
- Articles can be creative writing, essays, anecdotes, and other written works following the content guidelines below.
- Students must upload their document in either a .pdf or .doc format and not exceed 500 words.
- Submissions must be written in English.

#### Poets

- Students may submit one (1) piece of writing.
- Students must upload a file of their work in the application in either a .pdf or .doc format.
- Submissions must be written in English.
- Poetry must not exceed 200 words.

#### Musicians

- Students may submit one (1) piece of music.
- Students should submit their music piece in their application through MP3 format only.
- Only audio submissions will be accepted; no videos.
- Submissions cannot exceed 4 minutes.
- The piece **must be original**. Reinterpreted music will not be accepted.



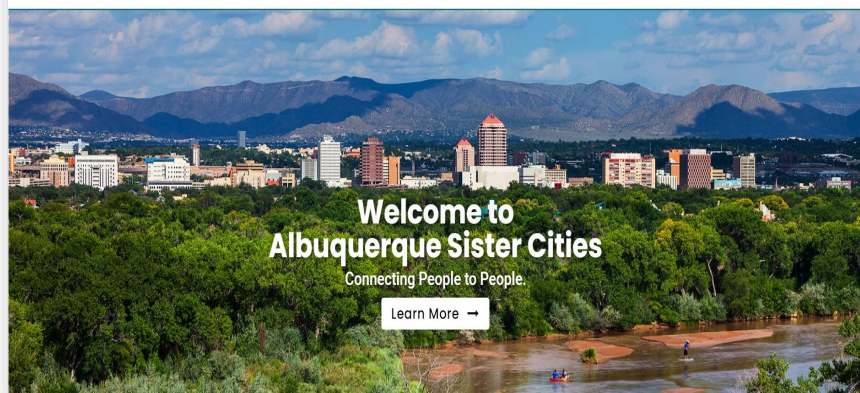
WHO WE ARE

ABQ SISTER CITIES

JOIN NOW

DONATE

Keep up to date! Check out our website at [www.abqsistercities.org](http://www.abqsistercities.org)



**ALBUQUERQUE**  
Sister Cities Foundation

# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



December 6, 2021

**The Honorable Yaztagan Gylyjov**  
Mayor of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
U.S. Embassy Ashgabat  
9 1984 Street (formerly Pushkin Street)  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 744000

Dear Mayor Gylyjov,

On behalf of all citizens of Albuquerque, we are honored to extend our congratulations to you and the people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of Neutrality Day.

We are proud to honor twenty-six years of Turkmenistan's positive neutrality that has contributed to regional and international peace and stability. We continue to support Turkmenistan's sovereignty and independence and look forward to growing our partnership. Not too long ago did the City of Albuquerque collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture to celebrate Ashgabat's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our Sister Cities members were delighted to participate virtually in the program to commemorate our long-standing friendship of over 30 years.

PO Box 1293

Our confidence in what our communities can achieve stems from the values we share. We may have different histories and speak different languages, but we share a common desire to promote stability and security, economic prosperity, and peaceful relations with all nations. We are eager to continuing our close cooperation with the government of Turkmenistan on a broad range of issues. In fact, it is my intention to visit Turkmenistan in 2022. I look forward to next steps towards the planning of this visit.

Albuquerque

NM 87103

Once again, we would like to extend our sincerest warm wishes to the people of Turkmenistan on 26 years of Neutrality Day. Congratulations and happy Neutrality Day!

[www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov)

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Keller  
Mayor

cc: Damian Lara, Interim Economic Development Director

Randy Trask, New Mexico Trade Alliance President

Pam Feather, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation President

Alana McGrattan and Oguljan Young, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Chairs

*Albuquerque - Making History 1706-2006*



**ALBUQUERQUE**  
Sister Cities Foundation



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



December 17, 2021

**The Honorable Zhang Weiwen**  
Mayor  
Lanzhou Municipal People's Government  
637 Nanbinhedinglu  
Lanzhou, Gansu,  
P.R. China 730030

Dear Mayor Zhang,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter, dated December 14, 2021. On behalf of the people of Albuquerque, I sincerely thank you and the people of Lanzhou for the continued friendship and kindness. I'd also like to take the opportunity to extend my best wishes to you and the people of Lanzhou for a happy, prosperous, and healthy Chinese New Year!

PO Box 1293

There is no doubt about the pandemic's global impact and the difficult times we find ourselves in, but I am inspired by the strength of our Sister Cities relationship that spans 25 years. We became Sister Cities to promote bilateral cooperation and development and will continue to build upon our friendship for the prosperity and peace of our people.

Albuquerque

NM 87103

In the coming year, we look forward to growing our commitment through stronger communication, anti-pandemic cooperation, exchanges, and practical cooperation. May we be optimistic of the future and hope for the opportunity for the citizens of our Sister Cities to meet in person once again. Once again, I wish you and the people of Lanzhou a most Happy Chinese New Year!

[www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov)

Warmest regards,

Timothy M. Keller  
Mayor

cc: Damian Lara, Interim Economic Development Director  
Randy Trask, New Mexico Trade Alliance President  
Pam Feather, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation President  
Lin Ye, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Chair

*Albuquerque - Making History 1706-2006*



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



September 17, 2021

**Her Worship Chilando Chitangala**  
Mayor  
Lusaka City Council  
P.O Box 30077  
Independence Ave, Lusaka, Zambia

Dear Mayor Chitangala:

Allow me the utmost honor of congratulating you for becoming Lusaka's first ever elected female Mayor. Serving as Lusaka's Deputy Mayor and now Mayor is a major feat and I commend your continued dedication and leadership. As Mayor of the City of Albuquerque, and your Sister City counterpart, I look forward to any opportunity we may have to work together towards the mutual benefit of our sister communities.

As you may be aware, the City of Albuquerque City of Lusaka's Sister City relationship began in 2014. Mayor Richard Berry welcomed His Excellency, Palan Mulonda, Zambian Ambassador to the United States and the Deputy Mayor of Lusaka to Albuquerque to formally sign the Sister City agreement. Since then, we have seen the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation promote connections and engagement between our two cities.

I am thankful to see the City of Lusaka step forward as leaders in gender equality. Equal opportunity has also been a priority for my administration. I'm proud to say that about half of my administration's top positions are led by women and 10 have served as City Department Directors.

I wish you a most successful first year as Mayor of Lusaka. In the meantime, anything that you need, please don't hesitate to reach out to Randy Trask, who heads up my international affairs/trade team. [randy@nmtradealliance.org](mailto:randy@nmtradealliance.org) +1 (505) 231-0677. He has my instructions to facilitate any joint future initiatives we might be able to work on together.

Warmest regards,

Timothy M. Keller  
Mayor

cc: Damian Lara, Interim Economic Development Director

Randy Trask, New Mexico Trade Alliance

Pam Feather, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

*Albuquerque - Making History 1706-2006*

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