



ALBUQUERQUE
Sister Cities Foundation



July 2022

2022 ASCF Calendar of Events

July 21 ASCF Board Meeting

August 13 Sasebo celebrates Obon Festival at the Albuquerque BioPark/Botanic Garden 7-9 pm. Please get advance tickets:
<https://www.cabq.gov/artsculture/biopark/events/obon-festival>

September 15 ASCF Board Meeting

October 11-14 **U.S. - Mexico Mayors Community Summit** San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico.
ASCF will be sending an official delegation but our members can also attend if you wish. More conference information to come; please pre-register on the Sister Cities International site here:
<http://usmexicosummit.org/pre-registration/>

November 5 **ASCF Member Dinner with Sasebo Mayor Norio Tomonaga and his delegation.** Event will be open to ASCF members. More details and sign up opportunity to come.

November 17 ASCF Board Meeting

December (date to be determined) **ASCF Winterfest!**



Scenes from the June 12 ASCF Annual Meeting Featuring our new Friendship City Antigua/Barbuda, at the African American Performing Arts Center

2022 Annual Meeting

Photos by Alison Freese

The 2022 ASCF Annual Meeting was held at the African American Performing Arts Center on June 12 and was followed by a presentation from Ralph Mims introducing Albuquerque's new Friendship City, Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. Mims is CEO of R.MIMS World Group, whose goal is to attract foreign investment capital to promote business development and growth in the Caribbean.

Sister Cities members and friends enjoyed dinner catered by Mr. Powdrell's Barbeque and entertainment by Frank Leto and his performers.

ASCF officers elected at the annual meeting for two years:

President: Pam Feather

1st VP – Alberto Solis

Elected for one year term:

2nd VP & Social chair -

Alana McGrattan

3rd VP & Membership chair -

Dave Bagley

Treasurer - Richard Buckler

Secretary - Sybil Keyser



Celebration Time in Santa Fe as ASCF Hosts SCI at Governor's Residence

By Richard Buckler with photos by Alison Freeze

Sister Cities International, along with out-going Chairperson Carol Robertson Lopez, selected Santa Fe, New Mexico this year to host its 2022 Annual Meeting and Summer Leadership Conference. Held at the beautiful Santa Fe Community Convention Center from July 6 – 8, participants came from all over the United States, as well as several countries, including Ghana, Africa and as close as Juarez, Mexico.

The first day was focused on SCI State Representatives—those nominated by the SCI Board each year to promote the mission of SCI across each state, connecting U.S. cities with international cities in friendship partnerships that promote our diversity and similarities. Along that theme, the State Reps had special



Chairperson of SCI Peter Svarzbein and Mayor Tim Keller



In blue shirt, NM Sister Cities International representative Richard Buckler accepts Zambia Country rep. nomination.

presentations on how to better increase equity and inclusion. In the evening all were invited by Carol Lopez to attend the VIP opening night of the annual International Folk Arts Festival, where artisans and craft persons from around the world displayed their wares, while musicians and dancers entertained all those in attendance.



Greg Polk, Mayor Keller and Pam Feather

the sharing of best practices, while enjoying great Mexican food from Tomasitas. In addition to continuing as New Mexico's SCI be the SCI Country Representative for California, already have four sister city partnerships.

Thursday evening, however, was the opportunity for your sister city organization—Albuquerque Sister Cities (ASCF)—to shine as one of the sponsors and hosts for a gathering of the SCI Leadership Team, 7 Mayors including our own Mayor Tim Keller, Mayor Alan Webber of Santa Fe, and Mayor Cruz Perez Cuellar of Juarez, Mexico, along with his wife and daughter.

Mexico's Consul Norma Ang Sanchez attended, as did our own Honorary Consuls--Davis Begay, Bob Perls, Martha Vera (out of El Paso), and Carol Robertson Lopez representing Japan, Germany, Spain, and Uzbekistan, respectively.



State Rep, Richard Buckler accepted the nomination to Zambia, where New Mexico along with Los Angeles,



Reception at the New Mexico Governor's Residence in Santa Fe

In addition to elected and honorary officials a large contingent of Educators, including the President of New Mexico Tech Stephen Wells, Economic Development Directors and Trade Specialists, Non-Profit Executives and various City Officials enjoyed the evening,

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers perform for mayors and guests



Ungelbah Davila video-taped our entertainment. Speaking of which, our special entertainment was arranged for this special evening of celebration by Alana McGrattan (ASCF's Social Chair), which featured Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers, along with hoop dancers Shandien and Steve LaRance of the Lightning Boy Foundation of Pojoaque. Both groups have traveled

along with several of ASCF's board members.

As an invited speaker, Mayor Keller powerfully shared his passion for Sister Cities, encouraging all to continue building lasting international relationships. (Expect him to be an invited speaker at the Mexico-U.S. Mayor's Summit October 11 -15 in San Diego-Tijuana.)

Lovely centerpieces were provided by Mellie Myer (our Newsletter editor). A special thank you to Alison Freese for volunteering to take fantastic photos we can share, while



Shandien LaRance exhibits her world championship hoop dancing style



Richard Buckler, Alana McGrattan and ASCF Board host

multiple times to our sister city of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and it was an honor to share the beauty and creativity of their performances with our visitors from around the world. In keeping with our Native American theme for the evening, ASCF also gave out to all who attended one of the special Native American hand-painted/signed ornaments commissioned a few years ago by the Red Horse Bed and Breakfast—owned by long-time members of ASCF—the Londene's and Capshaw's.

The evening shined the spotlight on one individual, though—Carol Robertson Lopez, who received awards from both Sister Cities International, the New Mexico Governor's Office, and New Mexico Tech, for all she has done over the years to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. **Congratulations Carol and thank you for leading Sister Cities International at the highest level the past two years.** And, welcome incoming SCI Chair Peter Svarzbein, Mayor Pro-Tempore of El Paso, Texas.

Given the proximity to El Paso, expect your organization (ASCF) to continue to have the opportunity to showcase our cross-cultural passion together!



NM Tech President Stephen Wells presents SCI Chair Carol Lopez with service award

Guadalajara and Albuquerque Deepen Sister Cities Ties through Foreign Relations Mission

By Celeste Nunez, Guadalajara Chair

The Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation ASCF is proud to announce a significant step forward for the Albuquerque - Guadalajara Sister City relationship following a momentary pause in engagement during the pandemic. A government delegation led by the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation visited Guadalajara in June of 2022 to meet with the City of Guadalajara and discuss potential projects of mutual interest. The Albuquerque delegation consisted of the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Sr. Economic Developer Monica Mitchell, New Mexico Trade Alliance President Randy Trask, ASCF President Pam Feather, and ASCF Guadalajara Chair Celeste Nuñez. The foreign relations mission, supported by the City of Guadalajara International Relations Department, was a tremendous success that gave both city governments the opportunity to meet one another in person and identify specific synergetic projects both cities could commit to and develop.



The Albuquerque delegation met with the City of Guadalajara's International Relations Department, Economic Development Department, Tourism Department, and Fire Department in which both cities were able to learn about their counterpart's current projects and focuses. The delegation also had a meeting with the Guadalajara Chamber of Commerce to discuss international trade opportunities, specifically focused on Albuquerque's thriving film industry that complements Guadalajara's historical positioning as Mexico's Culture Capital. The delegation also met with

Visit Guadalajara, an organization that oversees Guadalajara's tourism and convention efforts. This meeting highlighted Guadalajara and Albuquerque's shared sports tourism emphasis. The delegation was also able to tour the Akron Stadium, home of the professional soccer club Las Chivas, to learn about the club's impact on Guadalajara's community, culture, and economy.

But not all was business! The delegation was able to experience firsthand Guadalajara's impressive metropolitan culture and cuisine. The City of Guadalajara Tourism Department graciously led a downtown tour for the delegation where they were able to visit the newly discovered Puente de las Damas (Ladies' Bridge). This bridge was built in the late 1700s and it connected the separated aristocratic and working class communities. From there, the delegates toured the historic downtown district of Guadalajara where they tried the pitaya fruits and visited La Plaza de las 9 Esquinas, a plaza distinctive for its 9 intersections. The delegates were able to walk through Guadalajara's impressive pedestrian boulevard to visit the center of the downtown district and see the majestic cathedrals, libraries. The tour concluded with a visit to the Guadalajara Presidential Palace. In addition, the delegation also visited Tlaquepaque, Guadalajara's internationally known arts and shopping district famous for its abundance of artisanal shops.

The Albuquerque - Guadalajara Sister City Foreign Relations Mission gave both governments the opportunity to share ideas and identify areas of mutually benefitting collaboration. With so much to see and do, the mission truly united the sister cities closer.



Photos thanks to NM Trade Alliance

Rehovot Sponsors Educational Activities in May

Malcolm Siegel PhD, MPH, Rehovot Chair

The Rehovot Sister City project sponsored a series of activities during the first week of May. On May 4, an Israeli engineer and educator, Amir Yechieli, gave a presentation about rainwater harvesting in Israel and Africa to members of the ASCF. Amir also gave presentations and ran activities with 3rd and 4th grade students at the Algodones Elementary School during the week.

A main focus of the Rehovot project is connecting students at schools in Rehovot to students in the Albuquerque area through shared science education activities.

During the Spring semester, students at the Sarid School in Rehovot and students in Algodones were invited to participate in the EarthEcho World Water Challenge, a water quality testing program organized by an international environmental education foundation.

On May 6, the Rehovot project sponsored a table at the Botanical Gardens for National Public Parks Day. The display included posters and materials for participation in the EarthEcho Water Challenge. The Algodones students who had participated in the activities earlier in week came to the Biopark to take measurements of water sources at the Botanical Gardens.



SISTER CITY SINCE 2008

REHOVOT, ISRAEL

Beginnings:

Established as Moshav in 1890 by pioneers of First Aliyah

Name "Wide Spaces," Genesis 26:22

Today:

Population 132,700 (2015)

Greater Rehovot - 337,800 (1995)

98% Jewish: Russian, Yemenite, Ethiopian,

Anglo-Orthodox

Economy:

3 major universities and several smaller colleges

Tamar Science Park hi-tech, biotech)

Tnuva Dairy

Feldman Ice Cream



REHOVOT MALL & MUNICIPALITY



WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

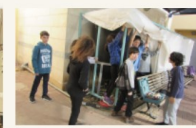


CLORE GARDEN OF SCIENCE

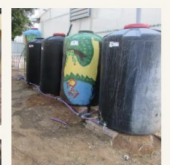
MULTI-CULTURAL SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES



RAINWATER HARVESTING AT SCHOOLS IN REHOVOT & LOD



REHOVOT-LOD FARM SCHOOL TRIP



ALGODONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEW MEXICO



Hualien Committee Participates in World Ocean Day at Biopark Aquarium

By Yu-Lin Shen, Hualien Chair

ASCF Hualien Committee participated in the World Ocean Day event at the Albuquerque BioPark Aquarium on June 8, 2022. This is the first time that ASCF joined the annual celebration.

Created in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, World Ocean Day is an opportunity to celebrate oceans and our personal connection to the sea.

The event is for the public to discover the wealth of diverse and beautiful ocean creatures and habitats, and find out how our daily actions affect ocean life and how we are all interconnected. Several discovery stations were set up to educate visitors about oceans and what



Hualien Committee Co-Chair Ru-Bing Hsu at the ASCF station during the World Ocean Day celebration at the Albuquerque BioPark Aquarium



ASCF station at the Albuquerque BioPark Aquarium on the World Ocean Day

Hualien Committee Chair Yu-Lin Shen, Co-chair Ru-Bing Hsu, and ASCF Social Chair Alana McGrattan were on site to answer questions from the visitors.

we can do to help preserve them.

The BioPark arranged a table right at the entrance of the Aquarium as the Sister Cities station, which attracted a large number of visitors during the four hours of exhibit.

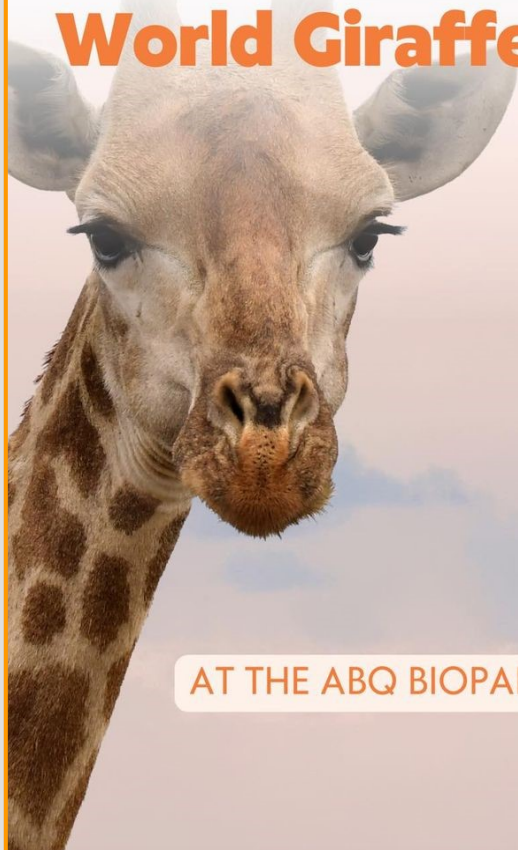
A video about coastal preservation, prepared by National Hualien Senior High School specifically for this event, was played throughout the event.

The Turumoan Whale-Watching Company in Hualien, Taiwan, through the arrangement of the Hualien City Office, also provided free souvenirs which turned out to be very popular. ASCF promotional items were also given out.

JUNE 21, 2022 • 10AM TO 2PM

JOIN ALBUQ & LUSAKA SISTER CITIES FOR

World Giraffe Day



AT THE ABQ BIOPARK

World Giraffe Day at BioPark Celebrates Albuquerque/Lusaka Sister City Relationship

By Harold Baily, Lusaka Chair

An African Performing Group called: Male' Fainke from Mali, West Africa. Joined the Albuquerque Sister Cities Lusaka Committee to celebrate World Giraffe Day at the BioPark June 21.

Lusaka committee members and Sister Cities Social Chair Alana McGrattan passed out Sister Cities information and gifts to visitors. The crowd enjoyed the music and dancing!



***Social Chair Alana McGrattan and Lusaka Chair
Dr. Harold Baily hand out gifts to BioPark visitors***



Photos

by

Alison Freese



Chinese Consulate Delegation Meets with ABQ Economic Development Department

The Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation was proud to facilitate the City of Albuquerque receive a delegation from the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles. The delegation was led by Vice Consul General Chunlin Li and included Consul Manjiang Fan, Consul Xuejing Sun, and Consul Junxie Lu.

The delegation met with the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department to build up working relationships and explore the exchange and cooperation between New Mexico and China.

The delegation from the Chinese Consulate was delighted to hear about Albuquerque's long standing and successful Sister City relationship with the City of Lanzhou in the Gansu Province.



Meet Ethan Chen

Director of the New Mexico Trade Office in Taiwan

Ethan Chen oversees the State of New Mexico's trade relations with Taiwan and works to promote New Mexico as a destination for Taiwanese investment.

Ethan has worked with several New Mexican companies to showcase their product for free in Taiwanese trade shows that companies would otherwise be unable to participate in given travel restrictions.



The New Sister Cities Website and Your Member Records

By Dave Bagley, Membership Chair

The new Sister Cities Website (<https://www.abqsistercities.org/>) now has all member records and is processing your renewal payments, with my help. I sent out reminders in June along with notes for each member to log in to their record on the website, and how to pay for your annual renewal fee. Every member has a unique member identification and password for security. Please remember to Log In with <https://www.abqsistercities.org/login/>, enter your Username and Password to get to your membership record.



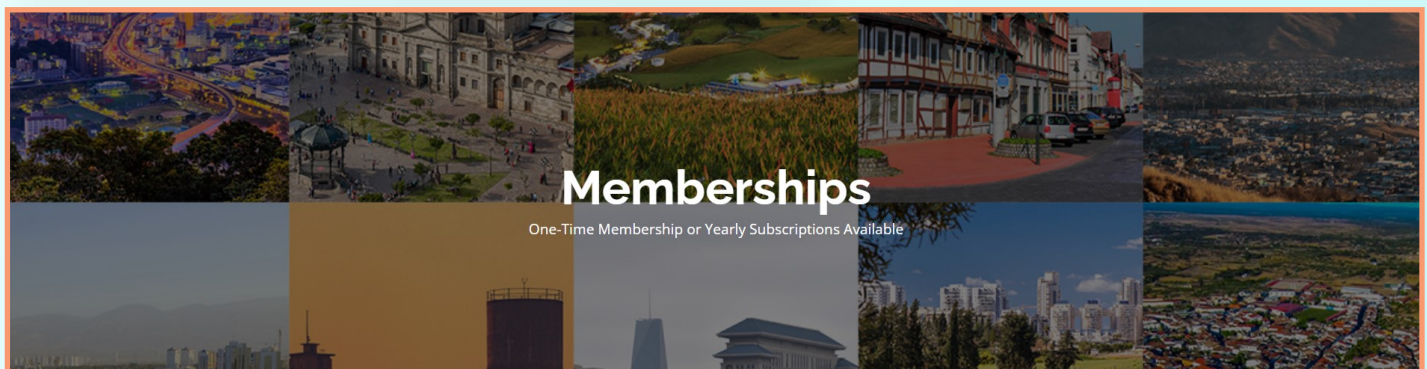
One change for members is that your yearly renewal process will not be tied to our June Calendar year, or the annual Membership Meeting in June. Your member year will be based on when you last paid for yearly membership and is good for 12 months.

Purchase Membership Online			
Level	Price	Expiration	
Adult - Single Adult Membership - Single	\$30.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Adult - Family Adult Membership - Family	\$40.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Senior (age 65+) - Single Senior (age 65+) Membership - Single	\$15.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Senior (age 65+) - Family Senior (age 65+) Membership - Family	\$20.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Youth (ages 13-20) Youth (ages 13-20) Membership	\$10.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Young Professional (ages 21-35) Young Professional (ages 21-35) Membership	\$20.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Small Business (15 or fewer employees) Small Business (15 or fewer employees) Membership	\$100.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Large Business (more than 15 employees) Large Business (more than 15 employees) Membership	\$300.00 now.	Membership Never Expires.	Select
Non-Profit Organization Non-Profit Organization Membership - Please Contact Us	Free.	Membership Never Expires.	Select

Of course, we realize that some members might prefer just to write a check and mail it to us, or maybe even hand me cash at an event or meeting for their year. No problem! I'll take care of you and update your member record from my PC.

Meanwhile, we're doing our best to keep event information on the Home Page as current as possible. You can also follow us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ABQSisterCities>, and check our YouTube videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI45OJcFzuRB9I7ucy9AsDg/videos>.

Thank you for your patience during our conversion process. If there is anything I can help you with, please drop me an email at Membership@abqsistercities.org.



Welcome Fabiola Melendez New ASCF Guadalajara Co-Chair

Fabiola Melendez was born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua Mexico. She grew up in Moriarty, New Mexico.

She was able to win a Latino American Award in 2016. She was also a College Facilitator for two years at Global Santa Fe. She had the pleasure of Studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain for a semester. This sparked her interest in International Relations.

Fabiola Melendez is the Program Operations Specialist for Q Station. She helps facilitate the space making sure all events and meetings run smoothly. She also facilitates foreign relations with the New Mexico Trade Alliance, a nonprofit economic development organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Fabiola graduated from the University of New Mexico. She received a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Spanish. She also received a minor in German.



Sasebo Japanese Garden "Obon" Festival Scheduled for August 13

By Kazumi Kawakubo, Sasebo Chair

Join us in a commemoration of ancestors during the annual Obon Festival on August 13 at the ABQ BioPark's Japanese Garden.

The celebration includes dancing, drumming and demonstrations of traditional Japanese arts. Food and drink are available for purchase.

Each ticket includes a toro nagashi, or floating lantern to celebrate loved ones. Lanterns will be released on the Japanese Garden pond at timed intervals.

Advance tickets are highly recommended!

Event tickets include access to the Japanese Garden and High Desert Rose Garden. All other areas will be closed. The Obon Festival occurs rain or shine.

<https://www.cabq.gov/artsculture/biopark/events/obon-festival>

Recent Sasebo Cultural Event!

JULY 16 @ 6PM MST

Cultural Exchange Event

**FOR ALBUQ & SASEBO SISTER CITIES
CELEBRATING 55TH ANNIVERSARY**

Sasebo Presents:

- Making of Sasebo spinning tops
- Large team performing calligraphy by local high school

Albuquerque Presents:

- Tea Ceremony
- Flamenco Dance at ABQ BioPark Sasebo Garden