



ALBUQUERQUE

Sister Cities Foundation

Spring 2025

Jan-July: Artist, Viktoriia Salova from Kharkiv, Ukraine is in Albuquerque through the "Artists at Risks" program. Albuquerque Arts and Culture Department has partnered with Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation on the program.

April 11 Chihuahua Delegation in Albuquerque

May- Four Zambian students will be graduating from GCU, WNMU, and UNM. 2 of the students are achieving their Masters degree and the other two Bachelor's degrees.

June 1-20 Lanzhou Gansu International Fellowship Program

June 1st ASCF Annual Meeting 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Albuquerque Art Museum in the Ventana Salon room.

June 5th-22nd: Helmstedt, Germany Trip contact Nathan Young if you are interested (505)-977-6033

July 9-18 Chinese Youth Choir Festival at Fuzhou Cibola High School Choir has qualified. **CONGRATULATIONS CIBOLA HIGH SCHOOL!**

August 15th Obon Festival at ABQ BioPark. The Sasebo Committee will be participating in the festival. See <https://www.cabq.gov/artsculture/biopark/zoo> for more information

September 16th– 19th– US-Japan Summit in Osaka, Japan See Page 11 for more information

September 19th-22nd Trip to Sasebo, Japan If you would like more information contact Kazumi KawaKubo-Todman by text at (505)-948-0205

October 15– ABQ Engaged 2025 Conference at the University of New Mexico

MochiTsuki event *by Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman*

On February 22, we hosted the annual Mochitsuki (Japanese rice cake making) ceremony, sponsored by the ABQ/Sasebo Sister Cities Committee, at the ABQ Botanic Garden. The event was a success, with over 500 attendees, and the weather was perfect for the occasion. We were grateful to have the support of the APS Career Enrichment Center and the Japanese American Citizens League of New Mexico in making this event possible.



Attendees enjoying making Mochitsuki



ASCF team

Albuquerque Sister Cities International Tea *by Fabiola Melendez*

The Albuquerque Sister Cities International Tea brought the community together in a celebration of culture and diplomacy. Hosted at the Manzano Multigenerational Center and open to the public, this event provided an opportunity to learn more about Albuquerque's 11 sister cities and the incredible work being done to strengthen international ties.

During the event, each city's chair and co-chair shared their goals for the year, outlining initiatives aimed at fostering city-to-city interactions. From educational exchanges and business collaborations to cultural partnerships, these leaders highlighted the many ways Albuquerque continues to build lasting global relationships.

Attendees enjoyed a culinary journey, with each sister city presenting a signature drink and snack that reflected its unique cultural heritage. This aspect of the event allowed guests to savor the flavors of different parts of the world while engaging in meaningful conversations.

Pictures on next slide



Yu-Lin Shen and Ru-Bing Hsu representing Hualien, Taiwan



Oguljan Young (in center) representing Ashgabat, Turkmenistan



ASCF Member representing Lanzhou, China



Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman with Ondine Montoya (a previous exchange student) representing Sasebo, Japan



Nathan Young, Ray Heidfeld and Hedi Heidfeld representing Helmstedt, Germany



Yuriria Morales-Mangone, Aimeé González Estrada, and Robert Lucero Representing Chihuahua, Mexico



Malcolm Siegel representing Rehovot, Israel



Deidre Gordon, John Feather and Nkumbula Kanyanta representing Lusaka, Zambia



Celeste Nuñez Salcido representing Guadalajara, Mexico



Nataliya P. Edelman and Hanna Levchuk representing Kharkiv, Ukraine



Fabiola Melendez representing Alburquerque, Spain

Albuquerque-Chihuahua's Partnership Meeting *by Yuriria Morales-Mangone*

The ABQ-CUU Partnership is pleased to report that on February 27, 2025, the ABQ-CUU Partnership successfully held its first official meeting with the ABQ-CUU Sister Cities Advisory Committee. The meeting brought together key stakeholders who are committed to strengthening the relationship between our cities and identifying areas of collaboration.

Meeting Highlights:

The meeting was attended by representatives from both Albuquerque and Chihuahua, including:

- Patricia Pinzón, Mexican Consul in Albuquerque
- David Gutierrez, Representative from Chihuahua City
- Gerardo Fierro, Executive Director, NM Border Authority
- Richard Buckler, Representative, Albuquerque Sister Cities and Sister Cities International
- Monica Mitchell, Deputy Director, City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department
- Rob Dzur, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce International Trade Chair
- Dr. Paul Edmunds, Director, UNM CELAC
- Celeste Núñez Salcido, Director, NM Trade Alliance – International Business Resources

During the discussion, we outlined our strategic goals, received valuable feedback, and identified actionable next steps to ensure continued engagement and progress.

This meeting marked an important milestone in the ABQ-CUU Partnership's efforts to revitalize and enhance the Albuquerque-Chihuahua Sister Cities relationship. The Chair and Co-Chair are excited about the progress made so far and look forward to building upon this strong foundation. The Chair and Co-Chair also appreciate the continued support of the Board and all other stakeholders as the ABQ-CUU Partnership moves forward in making meaningful, long-lasting connections between our cities.



Meeting representatives from Albuquerque



*Yuriria Morales-Mangone and
Aimeé González Estrada*

Congressional Office of International Leadership (COIL) grants two programs to Albuquerque Sister Cities. By Alana McGrattan

The mission of the Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL) is to inspire Congressional and citizen diplomacy with global civic and political leaders. COIL achieves this through the Open World program, which connects delegates with their peers in U.S. communities to exchange best practices and strengthen mutual understanding.

April 26 to May 4, 2024, 6 delegates from Turkmenistan with the theme University Partnerships representing institutes of Higher Learning were hosted by the Ashgabat Committee. Begli Jumayev, Arslan Charyyev, Merdan Berdinyazov and Batyr Babayev accompanied by Ms. Yazjemall Orazmammedova from the US Embassy in Ashgabat stayed with Ray and Theresa Gachupin, Richard and Mary Hope Buckler, Bertha Wagsap, Alana McGrattan, Faye Zamir and Chuck Larabee.

The delegates visited University of New Mexico partnering with professors in similar fields of study. Central New Mexico Community College academics gave an in-depth tour of their facilities and academic programs. The delegates also visited Biopark and museums in Santa Fe.

A highlight was attending the San Felipe annual feast day where they were welcomed into the home of the Chavez family for a feast day meal.



Delegation meets City of Albuquerque Staff

More pictures on next slide



Delegation at Museum of Indian Arts & Culture



Delegation touring the University of New Mexico



Delegation at Zoo



Delegation at UNM's Duck Pound

Albuquerque Sister Cities and Ukraine COIL Program for Resilient Communities and Culture Preservation by Alana McGrattan

This year, from March 7 – 15, the Ukraine committee under the theme Resilient Communities and Cultural Preservation welcomed three Museum Directors and two Architects from our sister city Kharkiv as well as Kyiv and Lviv. The Delegation included:

- Diakova, Dariia Oleksandrivna, Deputy Director for Accounting and Preservation of Museum Assets, Odesa National Fine Arts Museum. Odesa, Ukraine
- Matsevko, Iryna, Rector, Kharkiv School of Architecture. Kharkiv, Ukraine
- Bilo, Liubomyr Mykhallovych, Deputy Director for Development, Lviv National Literary and Memorial Museum of Ivan Franko. Lviv, Ukraine.
- Melnyk, Olha Mykolaivna, Head of Museum Development Department, Mystetskyi Arsenal National Art and Culture Museum Complex . Kyiv, Ukraine
- Kleitman, Olha Pavlivna, General Manager, SBM Studio (Design/Architecture firm). Kharkiv, Ukraine
- Ukrainian Interpreter, Peter Voitsekhovsky
- US Embassy Oleksandra Gaidai, Facilitator Public Engagement Assistant US Embassy. Kyiv, Ukraine

In addition, COIL director of the Ukraine program Lewis Madanick joined the group for some of the activities. After a welcome reception at the home of Alana McGrattan the delegates had a full schedule including Casa San Ysidro, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Old Town Plaza, Albuquerque Museum, New Mexico Museum of Natural History, University of New Mexico School of Architecture: Indigenous Design and Planning Institute, Baker Architecture and Titan Development, Museum of International Folk Art, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe Plaza, Pueblo of Santa Clara: Puye Cliff dwellings, The Pueblo of Acoma: Sky City, Meow Wolf and a Blues concert at the Fusion Theatre.

The delegates were met at City Hall by represented by Max Grune, Director of Economic Development and Monica Mitchell, Deputy Director of Economic Development, Alan Armijo, International Liason followed by a visit to Senator Ben Lujan's office. Representatives Little, Cates, Anyanonu and Serrato welcomed them at the New Mexico State Legislature and a Representative from Rep Leger-Fernandez of US House of Representatives. Ma Host families included Sayre and John Gerhart, Laura and Ken Erickson, Shireen Jacobs, Natalya Edelman and Alana McGrattan. Susanna Pence was the driver and Diana Horak our tireless facilitator.

Pictures on next slide



March 9, 2025 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, ABQ.



Monday, March 10, 2025 UNM School of Architecture. Picture 1 with Ted Jojoba, PhD.



Tuesday, March 11, 2025 At the Albuquerque Museum. Tour of behind the scenes view with Andrew Connor, Director.



Monday, March 10, 2025 Titan Development



Tuesday , March 11, 2025 Albuquerque City Hall



Tuesday , March 11, 2025 Albuquerque City Hall



Wednesday, March 12, 2025 New Mexico Legislature (Roundhouse)



Tuesday, March 11, 2025 Senator Ben Lujan's Office



Wednesday, March 12, 2025 Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe



Thursday, March 13, 2025 Meow Wolf, Santa Fe



Thursday, March 13, 2025 Santa Clara Pueblo



Friday, March 14, 2025 Acoma Pueblo, Sky City and Cultural Center



2025
U.S.-Japan
Sister Cities
Summit

2025年
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The 2025 U.S.-Japan Sister Cities Summit (September 16-19, 2025) is a milestone event celebrating the 170th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan. The summit will bring together 600+ bilateral stakeholders to inspire collaboration, explore new partnerships, and empower the next generation of global leaders. All 460 U.S.-Japan Sister City partners, elected officials, citizen diplomats, and volunteers are invited to the City of Izumisano, Osaka Prefecture under the theme “Celebrating our Legacies, Empowering our Future.”

2025 U.S.-JAPAN SISTER CITIES SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

- Izumisano Mayor’s Welcome Reception hosted by the Honorable Hiroyasu Chiyomatsu
- Opening Keynote by U.S. Congressman Joaquin Castro
- Opening Welcome by the sitting U.S. Ambassador to Japan (invited)
- Closing Keynote by former Secretary of HUD and former Mayor of San Antonio Henry Cisneros
- Full Day at the Osaka World Expo

New and Milestone Anniversary Sister Cities Signings

To register please visit: <https://sistercities.org/sci-japan/registration>