

September 2025

October 3rd ABQ Engaged in a Divided World Conference at UNM 8:30am to 2:00pm. This is open to the Public.
<https://www.engagedworldabq.org/>

October 4th Guests from Lusaka and Kharkiv will visit the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

October 8th-12th SCI Leadership Meeting Temple Arizona. A delegation from Albuquerque will be going

October 25th-27th China-US Sister Cities Conference in Hangzhou, China

October/November Chihuahua, Mexico Delegation A member reception will be held. Look for an ASCF email with information.

January 24, 2026 ASCF International Tea- Albuquerque Museum in Ventana Salon 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Obon Festival at Sasebo Garden by Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman

On the evening of August 15th, we held a summer festival at Sasebo Japanese Garden. Tickets were all sold out a week in advance. Everyone who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy the festival. We also distributed Sasebo Sister City fans, and volunteers wrote the names of participants on them to give them original fans. Photos were provided by Susanne Pence.



ASCF Board Members attending the Summer Festival



Music entertainment at the Summer Festival



Art installation at the Summer Festival



Guests creating their fans

ASCF Chihuahua Delegation to attend the State of the City address by the Mayor of Chihuahua by Aimeé González

ABQ/CUU Sister Cities delegation visited Chihuahua on September 4-6, 2005. The visit was anchored by Chihuahua Mayor Marco Bonilla's fourth annual State of the City address, an event that drew state leaders, including Governor Maru Campos. Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation President, Pam Feather, Chair Yuriria Morales-Mangone and Co-Chair Aimeé González Estrada organized the trip in conjunction with their Chihuahua counterpart. The delegation included representatives from state government, higher education, finance, and business development, such as Jaime Campos-Castuera, Mexican Affairs & Foreign Trade Specialist with the NM Economic Development Department, Gerardo Fierro, Executive Director of the NM Border Authority, Rob Dzur, Albuquerque Hispanic Chamber of Commerce-International Trade Chair, Rob Mangone, President of Business Strategies, and Dr. Paul Edmunds of UNM's Center for Latin American and Border Studies.



Rob Dzur, Pam Feather, Aimeé González attending Chihuahua, State of the City address



Meeting with Albuquerque Delegation and Chihuahua City Government Officials

ASCF Chihuahua Delegation attended the State of the City address by the Mayor of Chihuahua by Aimeé González

We toured American Industries' Las Américas Industrial Park before attending the mayor's address. The following day featured economic and educational exchanges wherein the group met with the City of Chihuahua's Economic Development team, officials from the State of Chihuahua's Secretary of Innovation & Economic Development (SIDE), and business leaders from COPARMEX, a national organization that is a cross between a chamber of commerce and business advocacy group that plays an active role in strengthening the local business ecosystem. During these meetings, key issues for the development of both cities were addressed such as STEM programs, investment attraction, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as collaboration on entrepreneurship and innovation projects, with the purpose of identifying cooperative initiatives that strengthen the growth of the cities. Parallel discussions were had between UNM's Dr. Edmunds and several educational institutions in Chihuahua such as the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (UACH), focusing on strengthening academic and cultural exchange programs with the State's flagship university.



Meeting with the Albuquerque Delegation and the City of Chihuahua's Department of Economic Development



Chair Yuriria Morales-Mangone and Co-chair Aimeé González

September 16th-22nd Trip to Sasebo, Japan by Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman

Albuquerque Sister Cities delegates Pam Feather, Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Judy Love, Alana McGrattan, Ikuko and Davis Begay visited Japan. They were joined by Stephen West from Albuquerque who currently resides in Japan.

The group attended the US- Japan Sister Cities international Summit in that included a day at the World expo with special entry into the Japan and USA pavilions with a side trip to the Turkmenistan exhibit which was one of the highlights of the expo.

After attending the summit, the delegates traveled to Sasebo where they were hosted by Mayor Miyajima and Dr Ishibashi, President of Sasebo Sister Cities Citizen organization. One of the highlights of the banquet hosted by the mayor of Sasebo was an extraordinary performance by the Sasebo Albuquerque Sister Cities's friendship group, which was a ukulele ensemble of American tunes.

The Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation had two special delegates; Judy Love who was a member of the first delegation in 1967 and Stephen West, recent PhD graduate of an archeology program in Japan who was originally an exchange student from ABq sister cities in 2015. Stephen was recently hired by the Tokyo National Museum. We are very excited that Sister Cities has been involved in supporting Stephen on his life path.

During their visit, discussions took place for the 60th anniversary, which is coming up in 2026. Please see more pictures on next page.



Ikuko Begay, former
Sasebo Chair



Taos NM exchange student,
Sena and family



Sasebo Mayor Miyajima with Albuquerque delegation



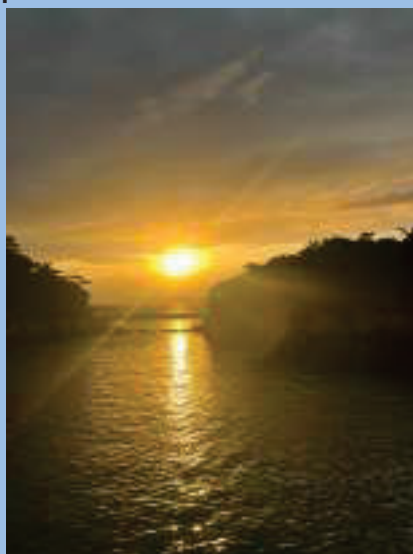
Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman Chair presenting gifts to Sasebo Citizens



Sasebo Citizens farewell gathering with Albuquerque delegation



Sasebo Citizens President Dr. Ishibashi and his daughter Yun



Sasebo's 99 Islands boat cruise sunset

September 16th– 19th– US-Japan Summit by Carlo Capua

Good morning, summit attendees,
お世話になっております。

On behalf of our planning committee, I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for registering for our U.S.-Japan Sister Cities Summit last week. We hope you felt it was a valuable and empowering experience. We have received very positive feedback and will follow up soon with a survey as well as the professional photos we took. In the meantime, I've attached the group photos from the USA Pavilion at the Osaka World Expo.

Here are some key takeaways from the four days:

2025 U.S.-Japan Sister Cities Summit

Theme: Celebrating our Legacies, Empowering our Futures

Day 1: Honor

Day 2: Bridge

Day 3: Reimagine

Day 4: Empower



US- Japan Summit Special fireworks display



Shusuke Atoji, Sasebo Administrative Officer with Albuquerque delegation at the US-Japan Summit



Albuquerque Delegation table at US-Japan Summit

September 16th– 19th– US-Japan Summit by Carlo Capua

Attendance:

- 96 U.S. Cities
- 48 Japanese Cities
- 562 participants total
- 200 participants from Japan
- 344 participants from the U.S.
- 17 participants from other countries
- 15 countries represented
- 318 people visited the USA Pavilion at the Osaka World Expo to kick off the America250 celebration.

Partnered with the U.S.-Japan Foundation to launch \$50,000 Global Impact Grant Program (more information coming soon.)

Special Recognitions:

St. Paul-Nagasaki for being the oldest U.S.-Japan Sister Cities partnership in the world.

Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi from Wakayama for being the Tim Quigley Volunteer of the Year.

Secretary Henry Cisneros for a lifetime of service to U.S.-Japan relations
U.S.-Japan Council for their great work building the U.S.-Japan bridge among young people

Notable Quotes

“Let there be peace on earth. And let it begin with me.”

“A small conversation can lead to a big change.” (from our TOMODACHI alumni panel)

“When the traditional path doesn't exist, it's not a barrier. It's an invitation to build your own.”

“We are in the construction business. We build bridges between people.”

“Don't just think about just today. Or tomorrow. Think 7 generations ahead.”

We will send out a transcript of Secretary Henry Cisneros' inspiring closing keynote soon. Again, Sister Cities International truly thanks you for your support. Arigato gozaimasu!

From Zambia to New Mexico, Welcoming Chitembeya Kanyanta to Western New Mexico University by Pam Feather

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation welcomes Chitembeya Kanyanta from Zambia to New Mexico. He is attending Western New Mexico University in Silver City, New Mexico. His brother, Nkumbula Kanyanta was excited to see him at the ABQ Sunport.



**Chitembeya Kanyanta and Nkumbula Kanyanta
reuniting**

Building Connections: Sister Cities Foundation Supports Global Shapers Annual Strategy Session by Celeste Nuñez-Salcido and Fabiola Melendez

A big thank-you to the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation for sponsoring lunch during the Global Shapers Albuquerque Annual Strategy Session. Your support fueled meaningful conversations, allowing us to share ideas and collaborate as we strategized for the in coming year.



**Celeste Nuñez-Salcido, Guadalajara Chair and
Fabiola Melendez, Alburquerque Chair with
their lunch**

Albuquerque and Cincinnati Sister Cities partner to provide laptops for Kharkiv schools by George Klapischak

Our ABQ- Kharkiv Sister City partnership enlisted the support and funding of the Cincinnati- Kharkiv Sister City partnership to buy and deliver 22 new laptops to two schools in the Kharkiv area. Both schools are operating underground because of the incessant daily missile attacks launched against the civilian population by the enemy. Our ABQ group contributed \$2,368 from our budget and Cincinnati gave \$6,287. We found that the best deal all around was to purchase them in Ukraine. Software and warranties were included in the total transaction and we've received full financial reports and a bit over \$350, at current exchange rates, still remains on account and available over there. The purchase and delivery transaction was handled through the good offices of Direct Help Inc., a US registered charity with offices in Kharkiv. We'd grown to know them over the past two years for their work in delivering direct assistance to families who are suffering the effects of the bombings as well as for their refurbishing and distribution of used electrical generators suitable for restoring power to those most in need of it. Please watch these videos to see more of the students and teachers of Kharkiv:

<https://youtu.be/RF1TNJdX5J8>

<https://youtu.be/P4JfyZXoFuk>



Students and teachers with the donated laptops



Students and teachers with the donated laptops



Kharkiv students holding the American flag

Albuquerque Mayor Keller and Jericho Mayor Sider exchanged letters of interest to become Friendship Sister Cities! More to come in the next newsletter!

State Of Palestine
بلدية أريحا
Jericho Municipality
Date: 06-09-2025
Ref.: 1892/25

Honorable Mr. Timothy Keller
Mayor of Albuquerque
State of New Mexico – United States

Greetings,

On behalf of the Municipality of Jericho and its residents, we extend our sincere gratitude for your kind letter and your invitation to establish a sister city relationship and friendship between our two cities. We affirm our deep interest in this initiative and our desire to develop a relationship based on cooperation and mutual understanding.

We have followed with appreciation and pride the solidarity events and demonstrations held in your city in support of Palestine, calling for an end to the war and the achievement of justice for our people. We consider these noble positions a fundamental basis for building any partnership between peoples, as they are rooted in the values of justice, equality, and human dignity.

We also express our great admiration for the capacities of your city and the global recognition it has achieved through hosting major tourism events, foremost among them the Balloon Fiesta, which has become a distinctive hallmark that placed Albuquerque at the forefront worldwide in this field. We see in your experience an inspiring model from which we hope to benefit, and we look forward to working together to promote Jericho internationally and to establish cultural and tourism events of a high caliber that contribute to enhancing its global presence.

We fully agree with your remarks regarding the similarities of our environments and climates, in addition to our shared architectural heritage — especially the tradition of adobe architecture that reflects our cultural legacy. These commonalities provide a solid foundation for cooperation on issues of natural resources and water. Likewise, your acknowledgment of the historical and cultural significance of our two cities resonates strongly with our firm conviction

Towards Jericho a World Property
Tel.: ++970 2 2322417/8 Fax: ++970 2 2322604 P.O. Box: 15 Jericho, Palestine
Web: www.jericho-city.ps Email: info@jericho-city.ps
Post code: P5810105

Jericho Municipality
10000

Albuquerque Mayor Keller and Jericho Mayor Sider exchanged letters of interest to become Friendship Sister Cities! More to come in the next newsletter!

that this heritage serves as a gateway to deeper understanding, exchange, and cooperation in the fields of tourism, culture, education, and heritage preservation.

We look forward to commencing the practical steps toward establishing a strong and official partnership between our two cities and peoples. We are confident that the bridge of friendship we shall build together will be long, enduring, and spanning across continents, connecting Jericho and Albuquerque despite the distances.

With highest respect and regards,

Mayor Abdel-Kareem Sider



**Albuquerque Mayor Keller and Jericho Mayor Sider
exchanged letters of interest to become Friendship Sister
Cities! More to come in the next newsletter!**

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



August 21, 2025

Mayor Abdul Karim Sedir
Jericho Municipality
Jericho, Palestine
A.Sedir@jericho-city.ps

Dear Mayor Abdul Karim Sedir,

It is with great respect that I, Mayor Timothy Keller, invite Jericho, Palestine, to enter a Friendship Sister City affiliation with Albuquerque, New Mexico. I extend this invitation on behalf of myself and all residents of Albuquerque.

Our two cities enjoy distinct cultures and sacred historical significance, making them both popular destinations and revered by locals. These similarities offer opportunities to share best practices around our economies, tourism, and preservation as well as education and business-related exchanges. Further, our similar climates and geographies — and thus ongoing concerns about water and other resources — pose endless possibilities for a mutually beneficial alliance.

PO Box 1293

Albuquerque

NM 87103

www.abq.gov

Understanding this partnership would be founded on an official basis between the governments of our two communities, I foresee the true strength and vitality of the friendship resting in the hands of our citizens and each other.

We hope Jericho will consider this opportunity to partner with Albuquerque and look forward to future collaboration and connection.

Sincerely,

Mayor Timothy Keller

CC: Alan Armijo, City of Albuquerque Mayor's Liaison
Pamela Feather, President of Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Albuquerque - Making History 1706-2006