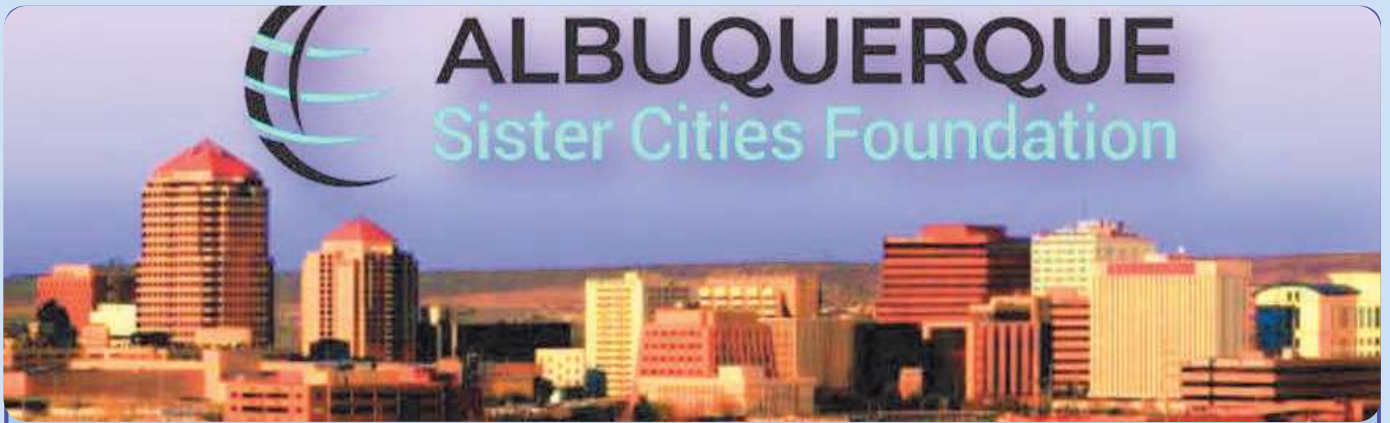




ALBUQUERQUE

Sister Cities Foundation



May

May 2 Kodomo no Hi (Japanese Children's Day) at ABQ BioPark
10:00am to 2:00pm Sasebo Committee is providing a Kimono
Demonstration

May 3 Turkmenistan Delegation reception at Alana McGrattan's home
2:00pm to 5:00pm

May 4 Turkmenistan Delegation meeting with Mayor Keller 1:00pm to
2:00pm

May 28 Learn about Jericho. Albuquerque's new Friendship Sister City
Manzano Multi-Generational Center 5:00pm to 7:00pm

June 1-3 Lanzhou Delegation visit to Albuquerque

June 2 Albuquerque-Lanzhou 30th Anniversary reception 5:00pm to
7:00pm at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center for ASCF members

June 7 ASCF Annual Meeting at ABQ Art Museum 2:00pm to 4:00pm

July 24-31 Albuquerque-Helmstedt International Youth Soccer Camp
Held in Helmstedt with youths from Albuquerque, Helmstedt, Kharkiv,
and Vitre

September 13 -27 Lanzhou 30th Anniversary Celebration and Dunhuang
Cultural Expo Membership trip. Please contact Lin Ye at
lye2015@yahoo.com

November Dates TBD Spain trip including visit to Alburquerque and
Gijon



ASCF Annual Meeting: Save the date

ASCF Annual Meeting will be held on June 7 at the Albuquerque Museum from 2pm to 4pm. This will be an important meeting to elect officers and review past and upcoming programs. We have one new Sister City, Jericho, Palestine and one revived Gijon, Spain. We would like to show the PPT presentation and add whatever you would like from your city. We would like to improve the presentation and share it on our YouTube channel. We need to have the rights to use whatever photos we include. We can't take images from the internet without permission. Please review the photos you have sent and verify permissions.

June 7th Annual voting for ASCF Officers positions, term and candidates

- President, two years, Pam Feather
- 1st Vice President two years, vacant Note: person must have Sister Cities experience
- 2nd Vice President, 1 year, Alana McGrattan
- 3rd Vice President, 1 year, Dave Bagley
- Treasurer, 1 year, Richard Buckler
- Secretary, 1 year, vacant

ASCF members can submit candidates to president@abqsistercities.org prior to the annual meeting on June 7, 2026.

Mexico/New Mexico Advocacy Day

by Aimeé González Estrada and Yuriria Morales-Mangone

On January 21, 2026, the New Mexico State Legislature, for the first time in its history, formally proclaimed Mexico–New Mexico Advocacy Day, recognizing the deep historical, cultural, economic, and community ties between Mexico and New Mexico, as well as the significant contributions of the Mexican and Mexican-origin community across the state. The commemorative day, organized by the Consulate of Mexico in Albuquerque in collaboration with the Legislature, CSG, and regional partners, took place in Santa Fe and included a morning press conference at the State Capitol, followed by official legislative recognition. Afternoon programming featured a community event and a private reception. In parallel, a cultural tribute honoring Juan Gabriel, “El Divo de Juárez,” celebrates his enduring impact on New Mexico’s cultural and social fabric. The event welcomed a distinguished delegation from Chihuahua and other Mexican states—including mayors, business leaders, academic representatives, and governmental and non-governmental organizations—along with multiple parallel meetings between Mexico and New Mexico delegations, underscoring the strategic and forward-looking nature of this historic binational engagement.



Press conference over Mexico- New Mexico Advocacy Day



ASCF team



Mexico/New Mexico team



The Legislature of the State of New Mexico

FIFTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2026

*The New Mexico State Senate
Does Hereby Extend its Recognition and Acknowledge*

**JANUARY 21, 2026, AS "MEXICO-NEW MEXICO
ADVOCACY" DAY IN THE SENATE**

WHEREAS, New Mexico shares with Mexico not only a border but also profound values and strong economic, cultural and social ties; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, New Mexico was the state with the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino population at approximately forty-eight percent; in 2022, New Mexico had the highest share of eligible Latino voters at forty-five percent; and in 2020, the New Mexico Legislature had the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino representation of all legislatures in the nation at thirty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, the influence of Mexican heritage in New Mexico is one of the richest and most profound in the United States and has played an important role in the culture, the arts, the gastronomy and the quotidian life of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Mexico was New Mexico's number one trading partner, as New Mexico exported seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) in goods to Mexico, representing approximately fifty-eight percent of New Mexico's total goods exports; and

WHEREAS, trade with Mexico supports more than five million jobs in the United States and nearly thirty thousand jobs in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa Port of Entry is one of the top commercial ports between Mexico and New Mexico, reaching more than thirty-one billion dollars (\$31,000,000,000) in trade annually; and

WHEREAS, Mexican and Mexican-origin nationals living in New Mexico contribute to the economy, the culture and the society by innovating, starting businesses, creating cultural expressions and promoting economic competition while continuously improving the societies in New Mexico and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Consulate of Mexico based in Albuquerque offers a hotline that operates twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week for assistance to Mexican nationals in New Mexico and coordinates various efforts directed to the statewide immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, the Consulate of Mexico based in Albuquerque constitutes a major partner for local entities wanting to connect to Mexico, such as chambers of commerce, businesses, government and other key stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Consulate of Mexico based in Albuquerque maintains daily communication with law enforcement agencies in New Mexico, collaborates significantly in several programs intended to combat sex and labor trafficking of persons and supports other programs aimed at combating domestic violence and other crimes to create safer communities; and





The House of Representatives

of the

State of New Mexico

FIFTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2026

HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

Introduced by Representatives Javier Martinez, Raymond Lora, Yvonne Garza, Angelica Rialto and Speaker Cindy Nunez

Declares

January 21, 2026

"Mexico-New Mexico Advocacy Day"

WHEREAS, New Mexico shares with Mexico not only a border but profound values and strong economic, cultural and social ties; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, New Mexico was the state with the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino population at approximately forty-eight percent; in 2022, New Mexico had the highest share of eligible Latino voters at forty-five percent; and in 2020, the New Mexico legislature had the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino representation of all legislatures in the nation at thirty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, the influence of Mexican heritage in New Mexico is one of the richest and most profound in the United States and has played an important role in the culture, the arts, the gastronomy and the quotidian life of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Mexico was New Mexico's number one trading partner, as New Mexico exported seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) in goods to Mexico, representing approximately fifty-eight percent of New Mexico's total goods exports; and

WHEREAS, trade with Mexico supports more than five million jobs in the United States and nearly thirty thousand jobs in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa border is one of the top commercial ports between Mexico and New Mexico, reaching more than thirty-one billion dollars (\$31,000,000,000) in trade annually; and

WHEREAS, Mexican and Mexican-origin nationals living in New Mexico contribute to the economy, the culture and the society by innovating, starting businesses, creating cultural expressions and promoting economic competition while continuously improving the societies in New Mexico and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican consulate based in Albuquerque offers a hotline that operates twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week for assistance to Mexican nationals in New Mexico and coordinates various efforts directed to the statewide immigrant community; and



WHEREAS, the Mexican consulate based in Albuquerque constitutes a major partner for local entities wanting to connect to Mexico, such as chambers of commerce, businesses, government and other key stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican consulate based in Albuquerque maintains daily communication with law enforcement agencies in New Mexico, collaborates significantly in several programs intended to combat sex and labor trafficking of persons and supports other programs aimed at combating domestic violence and other crimes to create safer communities; and

WHEREAS, as an acknowledgment of the importance of the Mexico-New Mexico relationship, the House of Representatives and the Mexican consulate based in Albuquerque recognize the importance of establishing a forum where political, business and academic actors from both governments may highlight topics of interest in the bilateral relationship and present recommendations for public policy development; and

WHEREAS, topics of discussion for such a forum may include issues impacting the Mexico-New Mexico region, from education and public health to cross-border development; and

WHEREAS, the flow of goods and people across the border is critical to the state's success, and discussions that improve bilateral cooperation will bolster economic growth and prosperity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the House of Representatives express support for the establishment of Mexico-New Mexico Advocacy Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 21, 2026 be declared "Mexico-New Mexico Advocacy Day" in the House of Representatives in celebration of the critical partnership and shared interests in culture, the arts and economic prosperity between Mexico and New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives recognize that January 21, 2026 is the inaugural celebration of Mexico-New Mexico Advocacy Day and hope this commemorative day will become an annual event.

*Signed and attested in the Capitol
in the City of Santa Fe*

JAVIER MARTINEZ, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

LUIS M. ORTIZ MONTAÑON, CHIEF CLERK

REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND LORA

REPRESENTATIVE YVONNE GARZA

REPRESENTATIVE ANGELICA RIALTO



ALBUQUERQUE
Sister Cities Foundation

January 24 ASCF International Tea by Alana McGrattan

International Tea was held at the Albuquerque Museum in the Ventana Salon on January 24. The purpose was community outreach about the Sister Cities relationships. A wonderful Chinese dance group was organized by Lin-Ye Chair of Lanzhou that brought many visitors who were at the Museum to our event. Each city had their own table and reported many visitors to enjoy their hospitality. They were also able to hear about each of the Sister Cities programs and opportunities. A PowerPoint presentation representing all our cities and their programs was playing continuously in the background. There was a raffle with fun items donated from each of our Sister Cities.

Photos courtesy of Susanne Pence



ASCF Greeters



Pam Feather ASCF President with Alan Armijo
International Liaison for Mayor Keller



Albuquerque, Spain
Chihuahua, Mexico



Ashgabat, Turkmenistan



Helmstedt, Germany



Hualien, Taiwan



Kharkiv, Ukraine



Lanzhou, China



Lusaka, Zambia



Rehovot, Israel



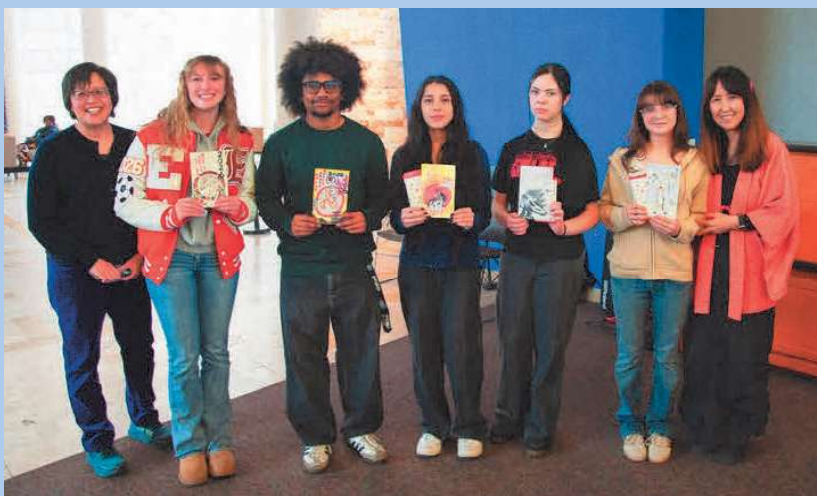
Sasebo, Japan



Guadalajara, Mexico



Jericho, Palestine



CEC Academy students received art award
from Sasebo

Building Bridges: Albuquerque and Jericho New Friendship City

Late in the evening on January 23, 2026 Albuquerque time, Mayor Keller signed a Friendship City agreement with the mayor of Jericho in the West Bank of Palestine. This agreement was signed via zoom with City of Albuquerque representatives, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation board members, and members of Mayor Sider's office in Jericho. Samia Assed and Lynne Newton, chair and co-chair for this new agreement, are working to build this relationship. Mayoral elections took place on April 25, 2026 in the West Bank. When results are in, we will begin in earnest to build this important bridge and work together to find ways to support Jericho's needs, while strengthening cultural ties.



Mayor Keller Greeting Jericho

City of Albuquerque officials participating in the Zoom meeting.

Photos courtesy of the Municipality of Jericho



**Mayor Sider of Jericho and Wiam
Erikat
International Lasion**



Mayor Sider of Jericho sharing the signed agreement

The following pages present the official agreement and certificate between the two cities.



An agreement for the establishment of Friendship Sister Cities relationship between Albuquerque, New Mexico USA and Jericho, Palestine.

The Sister City Program administered by Sister Cities International was initiated by the President of United States of America in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and understanding between United States and other nations through direct personal contact; and

The cities of Albuquerque, New Mexico USA and Jericho, Palestine share similar goals of international cooperation, mutual prosperity, and world peace; and

They believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two cities; and

The cities place similar values on and desire the exchange of best practices for tourism, preservation of culture and historical sites, education, and business exchanges; and

Albuquerque and Jericho share a common interest in their environments such as water, resources, and climate and aspire to work together on these initiatives

The Mayors of Albuquerque and Jericho do believe that this pact will further contribute to the cause of world peace and to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of Palestine and the United States and our two cities; and

Further, we affix our signatures and our city seals on this declaration to establish our relationship as Friendship Sister Cities on October 22, 2025.

Mayor Timothy Keller
Albuquerque, NM USA

Mayor Abdul Karim Sider
Jericho, Palestine



Sister Cities International

recognizes the Friendship City relationship between

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

and

Jericho, Palestine

established

October 22, 2025

We hereby acknowledge and commend the efforts of both communities in the pursuit of peace, mutual respect, and understanding through citizen diplomacy.

Ricki R. Garrett

Ricki R. Garrett
President & CEO



Carlo Capua

Carlo Capua
Chair of the Board of Directors

Bringing Community Together Through Mochitsuki at the Botanic Garden by Kazumi Kawakubo

The Sasebo Sister City Committee was pleased to sponsor and take part in the annual Mochitsuki (mochi-making) event at the Botanic Garden on Saturday, February 21st, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event was held outdoors at the Heritage Farmhouse this year.

Volunteers joined in to pound the mochi, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere for everyone. It was a fun and memorable experience, and we were delighted to share the tradition of sweet rice mochi-making with the community.



The community watching the Mochitsuki process



ASCF board greeting the community

Continued:



Community Making Their Mochi



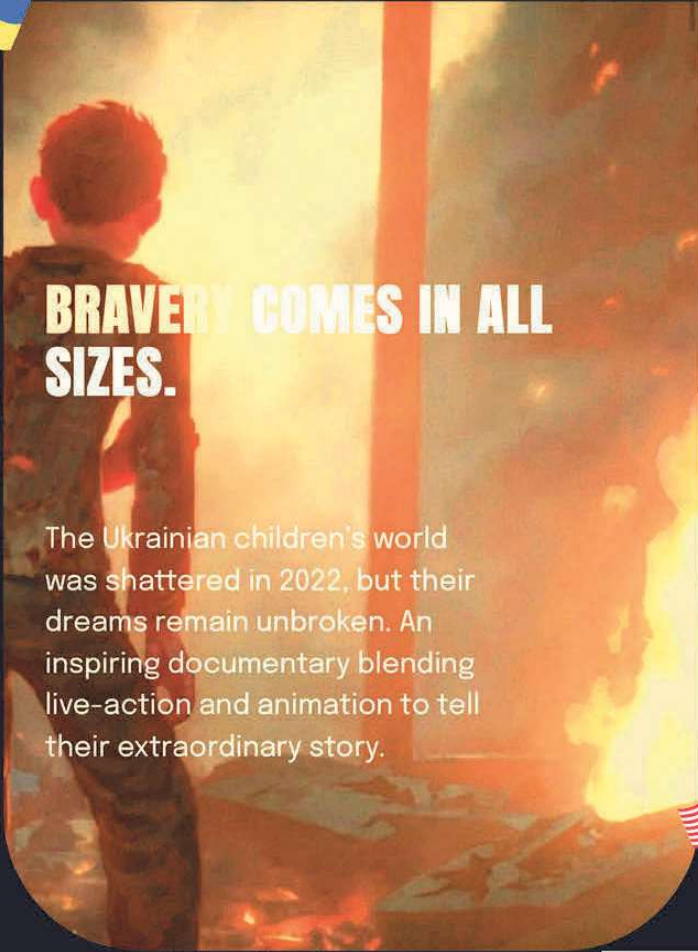
Community Making Their Mochi

Children in the Fire film by George Klapischak

Our Kharkiv group participated and enjoyed the event. Using those new contacts, a month later we coordinated with the Ukrainian Americans of NM and screened the Children in the Fire movie there by an award winning Ukrainian director. The film showed the lives of 8 youngsters that were physically, mentally and emotionally scarred by the Russian invasion but remained unbroken and resilient, coming back from those injuries to become examples to others like themselves.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026 AT 1-4 PM

A FILM BY EVGENY AFINEEVSKY
CHILDREN IN THE FIRE
OSCAR® NOMINATED DIRECTOR OF "WINTER ON FIRE"



BRAVERY COMES IN ALL SIZES.

The Ukrainian children's world was shattered in 2022, but their dreams remain unbroken. An inspiring documentary blending live-action and animation to tell their extraordinary story.



Addmission: Free

ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM

2000 Mountain Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

*Sponsored by Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation
and Ukrainian Americans of New Mexico, Inc.*



YOU'RE INVITED TO A



DINNER *Party*

as we celebrate 30 years of Sister City Partnership!

Honoring Lanzhou Municipal Government
and Business Executives

DATE & PLACE

JUNE 2, 2026 FROM 5:00-7:00 P.M.

COST: \$10 AT THE DOOR

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St NW,
Pottery & Private Rooms, 2nd floor.



Kindly RSVP by May 14 to Richard Buckler.
Treasurer@abqsistercities.org

Welcome to the board **Brooke Meisner** the new Youth Ambassador

Brooke Meisner grew up in the mountains East of Albuquerque. She attended APS mountain schools and she is currently a freshman at Manzano High School. Brooke is a varsity soccer player, she is active in Model UN, student government, and she is reestablishing the greenhouse garden at MHS. She participates in theater productions at the high school, and she has assisted in producing shows for Roosevelt Middle School. She volunteers in the Best Buddies program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is also a student representative for the APS Academies of Albuquerque initiative. Brooke's hobbies include cooking, baking, hiking, and she is an avid reader. Brooke is a dual citizen of Austria and the United States, and she is currently learning German.



Welcome to the board Ondine Montoya new Sasebo Co-Chair

Ondine grew up in Albuquerque, NM, where her love for Japanese culture was first sparked during Japan Week in 1995. After she began teaching herself Japanese in high school, she jumped at the opportunity to participate in Albuquerque Sister Cities' first youth delegation to Sasebo in 2003 and, in turn, to host a Sasebo student delegate in 2005. She went on to study Japanese language and culture at the University of New Mexico and Akita International University in Japan. Her interests span both traditional and contemporary pop culture—from folklore, kimono, kokeshi, and hanafuda to anime and cosplay, where she has earned international awards for her costume craftsmanship. As Sasebo Co-Chair, Ondine hopes to spark that same cross-cultural curiosity in others by helping create fun, memorable events and perspective-broadening exchanges.



Welcome to the board Samia Assed Jericho Chair

Samia prides herself in being a Palestinian Muslim-American. A grassroots feminist and mother of nine, Samia has advocated as well as organized for oppressed, poor, and marginalized people locally, nationally, and internationally. She has served as Chair and board member of the city of Albuquerque's Human Rights Board and is the newly elected Chair of the Friendship City of Jericho - Albuquerque. By doing such work, Samia has brought much needed insight into intersectional movements building with Palestinian, Indigenous, Chicano, Black, Jewish, and Muslim communities. Samia has facilitated and mediated many community conversations and continues to work on addressing anti-racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, and anti-Palestinian racism. Samia's many years of experience organizing events and marches have also allowed her to build and mobilize coalitions on many fronts including within interfaith communities, intersectional feminism, human rights, civil rights, and environmental justice. Samia served on the National Women's March C-4 board and currently serves as Board Secretary of the Women's March WIN PAC and Chair of NM Women's March. Samia has previously served as Chair of the ACPJ, SWOP, and the NM Poor People's Campaign.



Photo used by permission from Samia Assed

Welcome to the board Dr. Lynne Newton - Jericho Co-Chair

Dr. Lynne Newton has a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation research, conducted in the Mahra region of Yemen from 1997-2001, focused on Islamic period regional trade and pilgrimage. A Fulbright in 2005 gave her the opportunity to expand that research across the border in Dhofar, the southern region of Oman. Newton remained in Oman to work with the Office of the Advisor to HM the Sultan for Cultural Affairs to continue archaeological work, but also to help establish a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites that tell the history of the incense trade. As the co-director of excavations at Al Baleed, an Islamic period port on the Dhofar coast and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Newton focused on maritime trade and the connections between the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. As the curator of maritime history at the National Museum of Qatar in Doha from 2011-2015, she continued this research while working with international teams to deliver the largest museum at that time in the region. After nearly twenty years in Arabia, she relocated to New Mexico in 2015, but has since consulted on heritage projects in Dubai and Oman. Currently Dr. Newton is the exhibitions curator at the Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum, and is honored to serve as co-chair of Albuquerque's Friendship City with Jericho.



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



The Honorable Wei, Chia-Yen
Mayor
Hualien City Office
No. 252, Linsen Rd., Hualien City
Hualien County 970
Taiwan

Dear Mayor Wei Chia-Yen,

Thank you so much for your kind and thoughtful letter of congratulations. I was deeply touched by your generous words and the warm sentiments you expressed regarding my re-election as Mayor of Albuquerque. It is an honor to serve our community, and I am grateful for the trust placed in me by our citizens.

I, too, look back fondly on my visit to Hualien City in March 2024. The warmth and hospitality shown to me and the Albuquerque delegation left a lasting impression. Although your planned visit to Albuquerque was unfortunately affected by the typhoon, we were delighted to welcome the delegation from Hualien City in October of the same year. The visit was a very meaningful step forward to strengthen the bond between our two cities.

I share your enthusiasm for continuing to deepen our collaboration in areas such as city governance, cultural exchange, and sustainable development. The relationship between Albuquerque and Hualien City is a valuable one, built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to the well-being of our communities. I look forward to the possibility of meeting again in the near future and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

As we enter the Lunar New Year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and the people of Hualien City. May the Year of the Horse bring you good health, prosperity, and happiness.

Once again, thank you for your congratulations and for your enduring friendship. I wish you every success in your own re-election journey and in all your endeavors for Hualien City.

With sincere regards,

Timothy M. Keller
Mayor
City of Albuquerque

PO Box 1293

Albuquerque

NM 87103

www.cabq.gov



City of Albuquerque Office of the Mayor

Timothy M. Keller | Mayor
Samantha Sengel, EdD | Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Whelan | Chief Operations Officer
Carla Martinez | Chief Financial Officer
Malaquias "JR" Rael | Chief of Staff

February 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Jianxun Liu,

On behalf of the City of Albuquerque, I extend my warmest greetings to you and to the citizens of Lanzhou as you celebrate the Chinese New Year of 2026. Thank you as well for your New Year greeting letter dated December 24, 2025, which was received with great appreciation.

As we welcome the Year of the Horse, I wish you health, prosperity, and continued success for your city and its people.

This year holds special significance for both of our cities as we proudly commemorate the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Albuquerque and Lanzhou. Over the past three decades, this partnership has stood as a meaningful symbol of friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation across cultures and continents.

Albuquerque deeply values its relationship with Lanzhou. Despite the distance between us, our shared commitment to collaboration and understanding has brought us closer together. As we reflect on the achievements of the past 30 years, we also look forward with optimism to new opportunities for cooperation and dialogue in the years ahead.

May the Year of the Horse bring renewed energy, progress, and harmony to Lanzhou and to our sister city partnership. I look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the friendship between our cities and to promote peace and prosperity for future generations.

Please accept my best wishes for a joyful and prosperous Chinese New Year.

Timothy M. Keller
Mayor
City of Albuquerque