

Sister City Services Agreement



September 9, 2025



Sister Cities International

Mission:

To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation one individual, one community at a time.

Sister Cities International remains at the forefront of *global citizen diplomacy, fostering connections* that promote peace, cultural understanding, and economic collaboration.

Types of exchanges

- Arts & Cultural
- Youth & Education
- Business & Trade
- Community Development

www.sistercities.org



Corpus Christi Sister Cities

- 1962 Yokosuka, Japan
- 1986 Keelung, Taiwan*
- 1986 Veracruz, Mexico
- 1988 Toledo, Spain*
- 1993 Monterrey, Mexico*
- 1995 Agen, France
- 2008 Playa del Carmen, Mexico*

*Not in active communication



Sister City Committee

- 9 members appointed by Council
 - Engage and maintain relationships with Sister Cities
 - Coordinate all committee events and programs
 - Collaborate with local organizations and businesses for official visits
 - Fundraise as needed
 - Represent the City when performing official committee business
- Supported by City Secretary's Office since October 2024 as temporary custodian
 - Previously housed under Intergovernmental Relations, Visit Corpus Christi, and Parks and Recreation.
 - Parks and Recreation maintains an ex-officio, non-voting member to assist with planning and events.
- Many ideas and opportunities to expand engagement but City departments are not staffed to adequately support this expansion.



Sister City Activities

- Summer student exchange
 - Two-week visit in each country
 - Corpus Christi sends up to 4 students every summer
 - Our students return with exchange students
 - Students stay with a local family to experience local culture, explore and learn about the city, and be an ambassador of Corpus Christi. Upon return, we do the same with the exchange students.
 - City level engagement
 - Delegation visit with city officials (send and receive guests)
 - Photo or art exchanges
 - Virtual meetings and exchanges
 - Pen pal program
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Use of Funding

- Pay annual dues with Sister Cities International
 - Implement the summer student exchange program
 - Flights for Corpus Christi students
 - Activities when exchange students are in Corpus Christi
 - Host delegation visits
 - Hotels, transportation, and activities for visiting officials
 - Sister City funds have not used for travel expenses for committee or council members to travel abroad since FY 2023.
 - Funds may be used to pay for conference/summit registration fees
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Funding FY 2025

Sister City Financials FY 2025		
Event/Expense Type	Description	Total
Membership dues	Annual membership dues to Sister City International	\$ 1,380
Flight reimbursement	Reimburse CC families up to \$1500 each for flight expenses to Sister City	\$ 4,500
US-Japan Summit	Registration fee for 2 members to attend	\$ 1,382
Welcome gifts	Gifts for 4 foreign exchange students	\$ 75
Welcome Reception	Official welcome for exchange students, their host families, committee members, and supporters	\$ 861
Lunch	Lunch at Whataburger on the Bay after Council proclamation	\$ 90
Hooks game	Dinner before & snacks during a baseball game; a suite was donated	\$ 567
Lunch	Lunch on TSA & Lexington tour day; admission tickets donated	\$ 142
Harbor Playhouse	Attend performance of "Hairspray"	\$ 326
Lunch	Lunch after meeting & touring the Port	\$ 157
Lunch	Lunch on-campus after touring TAMU-CC	\$ 108
Farewell Dinner	Official send-off for exchange students, their host families, committee members, and supporters	\$ 1,100
Total		\$ 10,689
Approved budget		\$ 20,000
Remaining funds*		\$ 9,311

*A few expenses remain for the year



Agreement with the United Chamber

- Chamber will assume committee management
 - Cost: amount approved by City Council for each fiscal year
 - FY 2026: \$20,000 plus about \$8,000 in remaining FY 2025 funds, for a total of \$28,000.
 - Administrative fees 5%, remaining funds used for programs
- Benefits
 - Experience managing city-wide committees (ex. Leadership CC, Conquer the Coast) & engaging government leaders
 - Equipped to upsize the committee size for additional activities, including fundraising and sponsorships
 - Wide range of city and community connections to support Sister City mission
 - City staff member in IGR will serve as Contract Administrator
 - Mayor or designee to have a permanent position on Executive Committee



Next steps

- Current committee members may continue to serve on the new committee under the Chamber.
 - Bring their knowledge, experience, and connections to our Sister Cities
 - Educate Chamber officers on committee purpose, goals, plans, etc.
 - Restructure the committee
 - Executive Committee recruitment (steering committee)
 - Structuring committee and subcommittees to achieve goals
 - Expanding activities to further Corpus Christi's reach
 - Updating governing documents and standard operating procedures
 - Establishing goals and plans
 - Plan for FY 2026
 - Future growth plan
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Recommendation & Alternatives

- Staff recommend approval of the agreement
- Alternative
 - Council can designate a different city department to house the committee.
 - City Secretary is not staffed to house the committee as their purpose is to serve as clerk of the council, among other responsibilities, and that often means committee needs being put to the side.
 - IGR previously stated they are not staffed to house the committee and their involvement with state legislative sessions does not allow for staff time to be dedicated to the committee.