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Minneapolis, MN To Host Sister Cities International's 2015 Annual Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 16, 2014) -- Sister Cities International has selected the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to host its 2015 Annual Conference, hosted every year for close to six decades now, brings together citizen diplomats from United States and the world. Participants attend interactive seminars, network and develop strategies to strengthen and expand their sister city programs. The event will be held July 16-18 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

Mary D. Kane, president and CEO of Sister Cities International said, "Our Annual Conferences bring together hundreds of citizen diplomats, mayors and local elected officials, city managers, business executives, educators, nonprofit, youth, and community leaders from across the United States and around the world. We're excited to host them in the exciting city of Minneapolis."

"We are proud of our 11 sister city relationships and we look forward to welcoming the attendees of Sister Cities International's 59th Annual Conference," Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges said. "Minneapolis' rich history with the sister cities is evident by the dedicated members of each committee locally and the relationships formed throughout the world."

Minneapolis' sister city program has won Sister Cities International's Annual Award in both 2012 and 2013 for Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance and Arts and Culture programming. "Minneapolis is honored to host the Sister Cities International 2015 Annual Conference," said Melvin Tennant, president and CEO, Meet Minneapolis, Convention & Visitors Association. "The thriving sister city partnerships showcase the global character of our city."

Minneapolis' 11 sister cities are: Cuernavaca, Mexico; Eldoret, Kenya; Harbin, China; Ibaraki City, Japan; Kuopio, Finland; Najaf, Iraq; Novosibirsk, Russia; Santiago, Chile; Tours, France; Uppsala, Sweden; and Winnipeg, Canada.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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