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**Brighton Sister Cities wins *Sister Cities International's* Innovation: Arts & Culture Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – Brighton Sister Cities has won *Sister Cities International's* 2011 Innovation: Arts & Culture Award for a city with population under 100,000. The Innovation awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

Brighton Sister Cities won the award for its “Ziebice Gate Project”. The project began with a vision to build a “piece” of its sister city Ziebice, Poland in Brighton Sister Cities Park to serve as a showpiece of its art and culture. The result was a 15 feet replica of Ziebice’s iconic 500-year old Paczkow Gate.

Brighton Sister Cities members conducted fundraising activities and worked with city officials, parks and recreations staff, and local businesses to ensure the successful completion of the project. The gate has fast become a favorite play structure for the neighborhood kids. Brighton Sister Cities now aims to keep the popular site well maintained.

The *Sister Cities International* Annual Awards are awarded in several categories. Award winners will be honored at a special luncheon ceremony on July 14 during the *Sister Cities International* 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

**About *Sister Cities International***

*Sister Cities International* facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. *Sister Cities International* represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations’ mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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