
**CHICAGO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
INNOVATION AWARD (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

WASHINGTON, DC – Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) won Sister Cities International's 2015 Innovation Award (Economic Development) for a city with a population greater than 500,000. The 2015 Sister Cities International Innovation Award (Economic Development) recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

In May 2014, CSCI worked with Mayor Rahm Emanuel, World Business Chicago, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, and Choose Chicago to welcome a group of nearly 50 business and government leaders from Mexico City, Mexico to share economic development best practices and showcase Chicago as a premier global business destination. This put into action the implementation phase of the "Global Cities Economic Partnership" Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chicago and Mexico City, signed by Mayor Emanuel and Mayor Miguel Ángel Mancera in 2013.

The agreement was signed to foster trade, investment, innovation, and learning. It will expand the economic ties between the two cities and build on several market opportunities, such as shared industry specializations, existing foreign investments and strong research institutions.

While activities in 2013 led up to the signing of the MOU at the end of the year, 2014 was a year of action and implementation. The key areas of cooperation identified as part of the MOU with Mexico City include the following: promote foreign direct investment, trade, innovation, tourism, and education to increase employment, expand advanced industries, and strengthen global competitiveness.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, July 18 during Sister Cities International's 59th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Sister Cities International 59th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in Minneapolis, Minnesota to discuss, "Building Generations for Peace." Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2015 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: www.SisterCitiesConference.org.

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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 545 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in over 2,100 communities in 145 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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