
PHOENIX SISTER CITIES WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Phoenix Sister Cities (PSC) has won Sister Cities International's 2015 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population over 500,001. The 2015 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2014 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2014, PSC's strategic goal included sustaining and increasing participation in youth and education programs, creating economic development initiatives, strengthening municipal cooperation for the mutual benefit of Phoenix and its sister cities, playing an active role in the development of arts and culture events and activities, sustaining PSC's inclusion of people with disabilities in programs and exchanges, and establishing a PSC signature event.

Their strategic goals were fulfilled through 52 events, exchange, and activities including the participation of students and graduates in teaching and exchange programs, creating business programs in multiple sister cities involving young entrepreneurs and delegation visits, training medical professionals on the treatment of burn patients and sponsoring youth burn survivors in sister cities, hosting a myriad of cultural events including a Chinese Week Festival and a Sicilian wine and cheese tasting, conducting workshops, visits, and art competitions for people with disabilities, established a Mayor's International Gala as a signature event and fundraiser for PSC, and many more. PSC continues to enhance the City of Phoenix's international presence. Conservatively, it is estimated that 100,000 Phoenix citizens and visitors were directly touched by a PSC related event or program in 2014.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable 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 to 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.

#

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.

Facebook: [Sister Cities International](https://www.facebook.com/SisterCitiesInternational); Twitter: [@SisterCitiesInt](https://twitter.com/SisterCitiesInt); Website: www.sistercities.org