



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

Cities Seeking Cities

Sister Cities International's Cities Seeking Cities program offers support services to help U.S. members cities find new sister city partners abroad. The Membership Department works closely with members and utilizes a wide range of channels, including foreign and U.S. embassies, federal agencies, municipal associations, twinning organizations, among others, to find potential matches.



Looking for a sister city? Let us know!

To request Cities Seeking Cities support, the administrator of your city's profile should go into your community's profile and click "Yes" under the Cities Seeking Cities section. A few additional questions will request more specific information about geographic preferences and what types of programming your city is interested in, although these are not required. If you don't know who your administrator is then please contact us at info@sister-cities.org.

After you indicate that your city is looking for a new sister city you will receive a follow-up email from Sister Cities International staff to set up a debriefing. A Sister Cities International staff member will speak with you and your fellow members to get more details on what you are looking for in a partner as well as information about your city (such as industries, educational institutions, demographics, etc.).

Staff Assistance and Outreach

Staff will then research and provide a list of prospective cities, after which the member will narrow the search to 3-5 communities abroad. Following this, we can reach out to foreign embassies in the U.S., U.S. embassies abroad, municipal associations, and other contacts in the U.S. and internationally to find the appropriate contact in the potential partner city. Our research will be targeted towards gauging interest and get more detail regarding how sister cities are managed in the prospective city/country.

Finally, staff will work with you to set up a direct conversation between your city office and the potential sister city matches to discuss a partnership. Along the way Sister Cities International can provide information on procedures, protocol, format, and content of invitation letters and partnership agreements, as well as serve as a general liaison, best practices, and information source.

Foreign City Looking for a U.S. Partner?

If you are a foreign city looking for a U.S. partner, please fill out this form (insert link) giving us details about your city and your interest in a partnership with a U.S. city. After submitting the form, Sister Cities International will follow-up with you via email and establish your city as City Seeking a City in our interactive online city directory. If a U.S. city is interested in connecting, Sister Cities International staff will contact you and guide you through the partnership process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Cities Seeking Cities team at partnerships@sister-cities.org.



Cities Seeking Cities—Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Sister Cities International's Cities Seeking Cities?

A: Cities Seeking Cities is a support service provided by Sister Cities to help members find new sister city partners abroad. The Membership department works closely with members and utilizes a wide range of channels, including foreign embassies, federal agencies, municipal associations, twinning organizations, among others, to find potential matches.

Q: Who can request Cities Seeking Cities support?

A: All Sister Cities International member cities in good standing may submit a request for Cities Seeking Cities support. For more information on membership please visit our website at <http://www.sister-cities.org/about-sci-membership>.

Q: How can I request Cities Seeking Cities support?

A: The administrator of your city's profile should go into your community's profile and click "Yes" under the Cities Seeking Cities section. A few additional questions will request more specific information about geographic preferences and what types of programming your city is interested in, although these are not required. If you don't know who your administrator is then please contact us at info@sister-cities.org.

Q: Once I request Cities Seeking Cities support what will the process be?

A: After you indicate that your city is looking for a new sister city you will receive a follow-up email from Sister Cities International staff to set up a debriefing. A Sister Cities International staff member will interview you and your fellow members to receive more detail on what you are looking for in a partner as well as information about your city (such as industries, educational institutions, demographics, etc.). Staff will then research and provide a list of prospective cities, after which the member will narrow the search to 3-5 communities abroad. Sister Cities International staff can then reach out then out to foreign embassies, municipal associations and other contacts in the U.S. and abroad to find the appropriate contact in the target city, gauge interest, and get more detail regarding how sister cities are managed in the prospective city/country. Finally, staff will work with you to set up a direct conversation between your city office and the potential sister city matches to discuss a partnership directly. It's important to note that while Sister Cities International can help match prospective cities and provide assistance, at some point the U.S. member will need to make this final outreach and begin the process of formulating an agreement. Along the way Sister Cities International can provide information on procedures, protocol, format and content of invitation letters and partnership agreements, as well as serve as a general liaison and information source.

Q: Do I need to have a city or country in mind when I request Cities Seeking Cities support?

A: This is not necessary, but it helps. Sister Cities International will provide assistance in identifying countries and regions that might be good places to start, although members are encouraged to narrow their search somewhat, whether in terms of a geographic region or programmatic focus. However, if a member has a specific city or cities in mind Sister Cities International will work with them to reach out and explore a partnership.

Q: How long does it take for Sister Cities International to assist members in finding a sister city?

A: This is highly variable, but the process of researching, identifying, reaching out to, and finally forming a partnership with another city can, depending on your city's profile and what you are looking for, last between a few months to over a year. The more research and outreach that is done at the local level, the more effective the process tends to be.

Q: My community doesn't have any current sister cities and we are not members but we'd like assistance. Can Sister Cities International help?

A: Sister Cities International is happy to provide basic information on the process of becoming sister cities. However, communities must be members of Sister Cities International in order to participate in Cities Seeking Cities. Communities without any sister cities that join as members of Sister Cities International, should their search last longer than a year, will have the renewal of their membership dues waived until they find a partner.

Q: I come from a community outside the U.S. Can Sister Cities International help us find a partner in the U.S.?

A: Cities outside of the U.S. may indicate that they are looking for a U.S. city by filling out the form at <http://www.sister-cities.org/cities-seeking-cities>. These requests will be assessed and posted on our interactive map as a public listing of foreign cities looking for U.S. partners. When U.S. members indicate that they are looking for a sister city staff will first look at these cities for potential matches. Please note, however that due to staffing limitations Sister Cities International cannot provide the same Cities Seeking Cities service to cities outside of the U.S.