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# ATLANTA SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

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2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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# ASCC

## ATLANTA SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

### The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

Date of Inauguration: 1974  
Web site: <http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=642>



#### Atlanta Sister Cities

**Ancient Olympia** – Greece  
**Brussels** – Belgium  
**Bucharest** – Romania  
**Cotonou** – Benin  
**Daegu** – Korea  
**Fukuoka** – Japan  
**Lagos** – Nigeria  
**Montego Bay** – Jamaica  
**Newcastle-Upon-Tyne** – Great Britain  
**Nürnberg** – Germany  
**Port-of-Spain** – Trinidad  
**Rio de Janeiro** – Brazil  
**Ra'anana** – Israel  
**Salcedo** – Dominican Republic  
**Salzburg** – Austria  
**Taipei** – Taiwan  
**Tbilisi** – Republic of Georgia  
**Toulouse** – France

## About The ASCC

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair appointed by the Mayor of Atlanta and ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Mayor Reed and prior Mayor

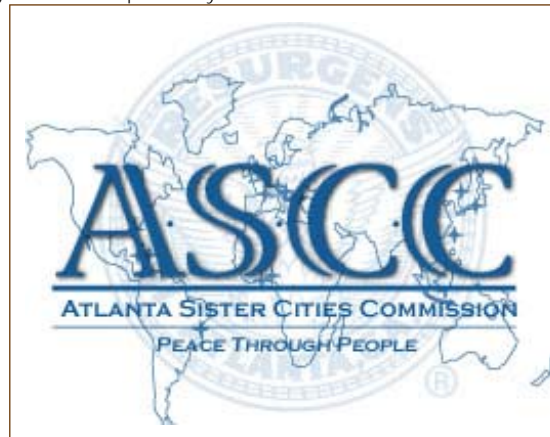
Franklin supported the appointment of Teri Simmons as Chair. Arnold Heller served as Vice Chair, in 2013.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2013 were Cedric Suzman, DBA and Samuel Bacote.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a

Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office. Officers include Charleise Young, Ph.D, Secretary and Victor Ramirez, Treasurer.



The Commission is supported by members of the Mayor's Office staff who participate in monthly and special meetings, help shape the Commission's policy and act as liaison with the Mayor. In 2013, two new appointments were made at the Mayor's office—below. Noah Downer, formerly International Affairs

Liaison for the Mayor is now Chief of Protocol in the Office of International Affairs. Noah has supported ASCC throughout his tenure with the city of Atlanta.

ASCC maintains a web site with annual reports, information on each of the sister cities and details of the process of becoming a sister city.

## The Mayor's Office of International Affairs

In 2013, Claire Collobert Angelle was appointed as Director of International Affairs for the City of Atlanta.

In her role, she will plan, develop and implement international activities on behalf of the city. In addition, her duties will include facilitating trade, economic

development, tourism and cultural initiatives with local, national and international agencies.

Bettina Gardner was also appointed as the new International Affairs Coordinator for the Office of the Mayor. As International Affairs Coordinator,

she coordinates marketing and communications, promotes international trade and economic development initiatives and organizes and manages global events and relationships.

# Atlanta Sister Cities Commission activities

## Themes and objectives:

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) is an organization whose objective is to form friendship links between the Atlanta community and similar jurisdictions in other countries so that citizens can express their goodwill and common desire for friendship and the development of understanding through a variety of mutually beneficial programs.

The ASCC encourages the participation of a cross-section of citizens in the development of international relationships.

ASCC manages the process of developing Atlanta's sister city affiliations, and establishes and supports a sister city committee for each recognized link.

ASCC has a vigorous program of exchange activities with its sister cities, including educational programs, cultural exchanges, philanthropy, economic development and social development.

ASCC members' programs have been recognized by Sister Cities International and awarded for their community outreach, economic and educational development.



Atlanta-Montego Bay Health Mission Award

## Programs

### Atlanta Sister City Commission Student Exchange

The objective of the program is to foster exchange of knowledge in practical aspects of globalization; encourage people to people connections, partnerships and joint projects; and to expose students and teachers to opportunities to work with international organizations.

### Atlanta Sister City Commission Economic Development Conference

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission's focus on economic development is aimed at facilitating the exchange of economic development practices and increasing awareness of economic conditions among Atlanta's sister cities. The format of the conference is based around a best practice sharing and case study methodology that invites political and professional participants to share best practices around key themes and tracks.

The program has demonstrated that its best practice sharing methodology complements and extends the role of city promotional agencies by sharing knowledge of sustainable practices among global cities. A number of practice areas have been explored at these conferences including Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Greener Cities: Public Transit and Green Space Policies, Fostering a Productive Business Climate by Public- Private Partnerships, Identifying City Development Challenges, Leveraging Educational Institutions for Economic Development, Creating Greater Quality of Life and Increasing Economic Vitality of Underserved Areas via Sustainable Urban Regeneration, City Planning for Success, Tourism and Cultural Institutions as Economic Development Tools, Promoting Health & Safer Living in Urban Areas, and Leveraging Airports for Economic Growth.

## Highlights and accomplishments

ASCC's most recent exchange of students from Atlanta's sister cities took the theme "Training the Next Generation of Sister City Program Leaders". Over 30 participants came from Atlanta's sister cities of Montego Bay, Jamaica; Newcastle, United Kingdom; Nurnberg, Germany; Salcedo, Dominican Republic, Taipei, Taiwan; and Toulouse, France.

Sister Cities International has previously presented its Youth Leadership Development Award to ASCC member Dr Arnold Heller recognizing the creation of student exchanges with secondary schools through a joint global business education program aimed at creating long term friendships that would help build new bridges and expand international trade.

Sister Cities International also honored ASCC for an outstanding sister city economic development program. Top honors recognize programs throughout the U.S. doing work around the globe.

"These awards showcase the best work for cultural understanding in our network," said Patrick Madden, President and CEO of Sister Cities International. "These are the communities with Sister Cities that are blazing trails."



Photo: At the Sister Cities International Annual Conference, Teri Simmons accepts the award for Innovation: Sustainable Development on behalf of the ASCC. Left to right: Patrick Madden, President & CEO, Sister Cities International; Margaret Jankowsky, Professional Training & Coaching Consultant, Nuremberg, Germany (Atlanta's sister city); Teri Simmons, Chair, Atlanta Sister Cities Commission; Mike Hyatt, Chair, Sister Cities International Board of Directors. (Photograph by Harrison photography).



ASCC is an affiliate of Sister Cities International (SCI), the association of sister city, county and state programs in the U.S.

SCI has twice recognized and awarded ASCC for serving as a model to other Sister City programs, demonstrating excellence and innovation on sustainable development issues and fostering international cooperation and understanding through its volunteer organization

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# Ancient City of Olympia

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GREECE

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## Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1994  
Chair: Dr. Margo Alexander : Co-Chair: Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp



Map: Greka.com

- In close proximity to Ancient Olympia is the modern city, which bears the same name and has about 11,000 population.
- The municipality Archaia Olympia ("Ancient Olympia") was formed at the 2011 local government reform by the merger of four former municipalities.
- The Olympic flame is lit at the ancient site and carried by runners to the city where the games are held.
- Olympia Greece hosted the ancient Greece Olympics every four years ("olympiad" is the Greek word meaning a period of four years) beginning in 776 B.C. and lasting for more than 900 years.

## Ancient City of Olympia Profile

Olympia is one of the most popular and visited destinations in the Peloponnese, as this was where the ancient Olympic Games were held. It was a festivity, important not only to this region, but the rest of Greece, and the entire world.

Olympia is situated in an area surrounded by hills and mountains in such a way that they provide a very peculiar and interesting background to this ancient spot.

The modern history of Olympia began with the rediscovery of the ancient city in 1766. But it was not until 1829 that the first scientific excavations were begun in the vast field of majestic ruins that dot the landscape where the ancient city of Olympia Greece once thrived.

Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Archaeologists from Germany became responsible for excavation and preservation in the 1970s, and it

is still the German Archaeological Institute at Athens that oversees the site.

The city of Olympia is famous for its impressive statue of Zeus, a statue of great size made of gold and ivory, within a temple built in honor of the deity.

Olympia is one of the most popular destinations for tourists in Greece. Cruise ships dock at the nearby port of Katakolo and bus visitors the site. The village of Olympia itself is a collection of tourist shops, cafes, restaurants and a historical museum of the Olympic Games.

In 2004 Olympia completed development of roadwork, museum renovations and sports facilities for Athens' hosting of the Olympic Games. The men's and women's shot put competition were held at the restored stadium in Olympia.

Source text and photo: Greece.com



## The Atlanta—Olympia link

The Atlanta-Ancient Olympia Greece relationship has its origins in a vision by Mayor Maynard Jackson and Mr. Louis Zakas in 1992 after the City of Atlanta was awarded the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. The cities of Atlanta and Ancient Olympia formed their sister city

relationship by 1994. The purpose was to promote good relations between the two countries during the Centennial Games. The Atlanta Ancient Olympia Sister City Committee maintains connections with the city and organizations in each location.

In November 1992, an "Olympic" olive tree was presented by the Citizens of Olympia, Greece in honor of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. It resides in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.



# Atlanta—Olympia activities

## Themes and objectives:

The Committee's ultimate plan is to promote:

- Cultural Activities
- Economic Development
- Trade Opportunities
- Youth Programs/ Education

The committee's general program mainly focuses on activities that center around Greek traditions.

These include meetings and conferences on the future of Hellenism, film documentary, music, youth education and supporting the Consul General stationed here in Atlanta.



## Activities

In January, the committee hosted a "Vasilopita Celebration" for all its committee members. This is a celebration of St. Basil and the beginning of the New Year. The lucky coin was won and best wishes were given to all members.

*Kai tou xronou!*

In May, the Ancient Olympia Committee was one of the proud sponsors of an event at the Carter Center Library where Ambassador Gianna Angelopoulos, President of the Athens 2004 Olympics Organization Committee, presented her book "My Greek Drama". Following the presentation, a book signing was held along with a reception to meet Ambassador Angelopoulos.

Photo (L-R): Maria Mandekos Sharp and Margo Alexander at book signing with Ambassador Gianna Angelopoulos.



Flag: Greece.com

## Highlights in 2013

It was with great pleasure that the committee was one of the sponsors along with the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation and Lykion ton Ellinidon in a screening of an Original Documentary film "SMYRNA: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City -1900-1922 with an introduction by the Director, Maria Iliou.

The documentary about the former city on the coasts of Western Anatolia brings to the forefront a part of history that has been ignored for too long.



Photo above: Maria Sharp with documentary director Maria Iliou and Louis Arthur Ruprecht Jr.



The event was held on November 7 and following the screening, a reception was held for all to meet the director,

Photo: Attendees of the screening at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Photo top opposite: Julia Kalinoglou, Maria Sharp, Maria Iliou, Louis Arthur Ruprecht Jr., Margo Alexander and Consul of Greece, Mr. Vasillas Goulousis.

# Daegu

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## Atlanta - Daegu Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1981  
Chair: John J. Lee  
Contact: JRLee-2000@msn.com



Map: Wikipedia

- Daegu is located in south-eastern Korea, 282km south of Seoul and 121km north of Busan. The city covers 886 square kilometers.
- Daegu is the third largest city, population 2.5 million. As a city of education, it has produced figures in politics, economy, administration and arts: the first Korean female president Park Geun-hye and founder and former chairman Kim Woo-jung of the Daewoo Group.
- The service sector occupies 71.4%, manufacturing – 22.9% and construction – 5.35%. Manufacturing consists of machinery and metal, textiles, auto parts and electronic industries.

## Daegu Profile

Daegu is the birthplace of SAMSUNG. In 1938 Lee Byung-chul started a small trading company called Samsung Sanghoe in Daegu, which grew into Samsung Group of today. It clearly shows that Daegu has played a leading role in developing the Korean economy.

Also, Daegu is a city where Warren Buffett sees a business opportunity by investing in TaeguTec, a cutting tool manufacturing company, "Daegu is an attractive city equipped with a solid investment infrastructure, and I will seriously consider investing more in this city in the future".

Politically, Daegu is famous for producing several Korean presidents including Park Chung-hee, Chun Doo-hwan, Roh Tae-woo and the incumbent president Park Geun-hye. They were born and educated in and around the city. It is because Daegu has been the center of education and we possess

excellent human resources.

Daegu has rich experience in major international events from sporting to water and energy issues: We hosted four matches of the 2002 Korea/Japan FIFA

World Cup, the 2013 Summer Universiade Game, the 2011 IAAF World Championships in Athletics, the 2013 World Energy Congress and have prepared the 2015 World Water Forum.

As for core industrial projects, we have been developing Daegu National Industrial Park

where next-generation electronics and communication, high-tech machinery, future automobiles and renewable energy industries are invited; Daegu Technopolis as an R & D hub has been established. Its target sectors are renewable energy, future automobiles, IT convergence, new materials and mechatronics. Daegu-Gyeongbuk Medical Cluster is an R & D center for the medical industry.



## The Atlanta—Daegu link

The Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee has a continuous history of promoting friendship throughout each Mayoralty from Ambassador Andrew Young and Honorable Maynard Jackson through to Mayors Shirley Franklin and Kasim Reed.

The sister city relationship between Daegu and Atlanta was initiated when Mayor Maynard Jackson visited Daegu and signed the agreement in November 1981.

In over thirty years, a wide range of initiatives have taken place

including mayoral visits, citizen and school exchanges, sports and cultural activities, professional training, trade, technical and economic development programs.

# Atlanta—Daegu activities

## Themes and objectives:

Following visit of the chair Lee of the Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee to Daegu, the Committee has established the following objectives:

- Facilitate practical cooperation in various sectors: youth, city officials, business, music, culture and arts, exhibitions & conferences.
- Daegu International Youth Camp
- City official training program
- Business meetings and participating in exhibitions
- Daegu International Musical/ Opera/ Bodypainting Festival
- Daegu Sister Cities Day
- Korean Urban Agriculture Expo
- World Energy Congress in 2013



## Exchanges

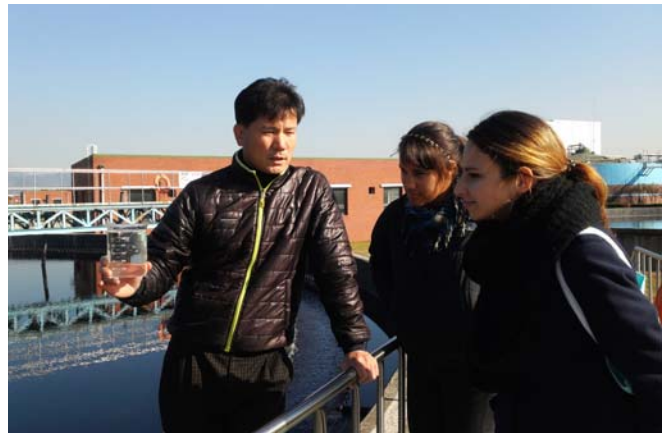
Daegu has invited Atlanta officials, students, cultural and business teams and urban agriculture experts to various programs including the Daegu International Youth Camp in August, the Korea Urban Agriculture Expo in September, the Daegu Sister Cities Day in October, etc.

The International Affairs and Trade Division, Daegu city offered an internship for an American student for September to November in collaboration with Kyungpook National University. One of her jobs was to promote amicable relations with the U.S. Army stationed in Daegu by organizing a cultural event and helping better cooperation between the local community and the U.S. Army.

Photo right: American interns visit Daegu Water Works.

Photo left: Korean Overseas Business Leaders Conference in Seoul, Korea.

L-R Ms. Yonni Kim, Ms. Lee Shreve, Vice Chair, Mr. Keyman Nam, Washington State Senator Paul Shin, Chair John Lee.



## Highlights in 2013

On October 28 Chair John Lee visited Daegu City Hall and met Vice Mayor Kim Yon-chang and Director General Ahn Guk-jung of the Economy & Trade Bureau to discuss how to revitalize mutually beneficial cooperation between the two cities.

Daegu's Vice Mayor introduced major annual international events in which Atlanta could participate: Firstly, the youth exchange. It is very important to provide an opportunity for young people to understand foreign culture by experiencing it themselves. Therefore, Daegu has held an annual International Youth Camp where this year 70 students from six different cities participated in and learned basic Korean language, traditional musical instruments, Taekwondo, K-pop dance and culture. With this experience, one of the participants from Milan, Italy got an internship in Milan Municipality.

Secondly, cultural exchanges. Daegu has hosted an annual international musical festival and international opera festival in June and in October respectively. Apart from Seoul, the capital city of the nation, Daegu has the most profound cultural

facilities and performances. Therefore, both sides can explore potential cooperation in this field.

Thirdly, local government's dedication to world issues such as energy and water matters. Daegu held the World Energy Congress where 7,000 energy-related CEOs, high-ranking government officials and energy-related people gathered together to find solutions for energy matters.

Daegu will host the World Water Forum in 2015 to discuss how to prevent water shortage and water-related problems. Experts from Atlanta will be invited to this event.

Lastly, business opportunity and participating in mutual exhibitions. Since Daegu is an industrial city, both cities can have business meetings to find potential partners and provide information on major exhibitions in each location.



On Oct. 28, 2013 Chair John Lee visited Daegu Sister City.

L-R: Director Charlie Bae, Daegu Vice Mayor Kim Yon-Chang, Chair John Lee, Mr. Do-Hyun Kim, Director General Ahn Gok-Jung.



# Fukuoka

JAPAN

## Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 2005  
Chair: Co-chaired by Ms. Sue Lin Lange & Ms. Keiko Scott  
Contact: ksspnuts@hotmail.com



- Fukuoka city is located at 130° 24' 06" E. longitude and 33° 35' 24" N. latitude.
- The climate is warm, with an average annual temperature of 17.3°C (as of 2009).
- The population continues to grow, reaching an estimated 1.45 million in 2009.
- Industry in Fukuoka is primarily tertiary, with wholesaling, retailing, food and beverages, and service sectors. Manufacturing industries continue traditional craftsmanship including Hakata dolls and Hakata-ori textiles.

## Fukuoka Profile

In 1889, the government issued a regulation for municipalization and parochialism. The great controversy occurred over the name of the city. Originally, the area was called Hakata; however, in 1600 a Japanese warlord, Nagamasa Kuroda, named this area Fukuoka in tribute to his ancestors' land, called Bizen Fukuoka (which is now Okayama). Since then, the eastern area of the city from the River Naka had been called Hakata, the port and merchant district, and the western area Fukuoka, a proud samurai town. The locals chose the name of their city, Fukuoka;



but the name Hakata remains in many areas such as the traditional crafts, the railway station, foods, etc.

In addition to its beautiful natural surroundings, such as Hakata Bay, and its sophisticated

metropolitan features, Fukuoka City also has a proud tradition and a rich cultural heritage. It remains a city with its own distinct character and charm, providing a diverse range of attractions to visitors including urban tourism inside the city proper, resort tourism at nearby resorts, historical

tourism to see sights such as the Korokan guest house or the Gold Seal, festival tourism with the excitement of the Yamakasa, Dontaku or Asian Month, and culinary tourism drawing on the rich bounty of the Genkai Sea. In recent years, the city has welcomed a growing number of domestic and

international visitors as the hub of government, economy, culture and fashion in Kyushu.

Source: Website of Fukuoka City, and Photo: Provided by the City of Fukuoka.

## The Atlanta—Fukuoka link

Fukuoka became the 18th Sister City of Atlanta in February 2005, after enjoying the special relationship with Atlanta as a Partnership City for 12 years.

In late March every year, one to several high school students from Fukuoka visit Atlanta, where the students enjoy the American school life and home stay. The committee makes arrangements for their stay in Atlanta, a

welcome dinner, a courtesy visit to the Mayor, and sightseeing.

In July, usually four 11-year old children, selected by the Japan-America Society of Georgia, participate in the fully-funded program, the APCC (Asian-Pacific Children's Convention), to Fukuoka. The Atlanta-Fukuoka Committee assists with the selection process.

Photo: Bullet Train that runs between Fukuoka and Kagoshima (Sister State of Georgia).





# Atlanta—Fukuoka activities

## Themes and objectives:

Our activities have mainly been focused on student exchange programs and participation in the cultural events such as JapanFest, the largest Japanese festival in the U.S. Southeast.



Japanfest 2013

## Activities

In March, 20 members with two guests from North Atlanta High School (NAHS) got together for a dinner. Later in the year, six Fukuoka's high school students visited Atlanta with two Fukuoka City government staff. The students enjoyed American school life at NAHS, home stays at local students' houses, and a welcome dinner hosted by the Committee.

In July, four children (11-years old) and two former participants from the Atlanta area visited Fukuoka on the APCC program as Junior Ambassadors.

In September, we participated in the JapanFest at Gwinnett Center by setting up a booth to sell unique Fukuoka goods such as the Hakata dolls and Hakata weave fabric donated by the Sister City Committee in Fukuoka. The proceeds support our student exchange program here in Atlanta. Thanks to our volunteers, we were able to share information about Fukuoka with many festival attendees. We also set up a booth at the Gibbs Garden's Japanese festival in November.



(Photo: JapanFest 2013)

In October, the delegation from the Fukuoka Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Atlanta. One Fukuoka City government official also joined and had a meeting with us at the Japan-America Society of Georgia and discussed our future joint activities.

## Highlights in 2013

Welcoming high school students from Fukuoka and the participating in JapanFest are always our two biggest activities. In addition, particularly in 2013, we had more meetings with Fukuoka City government officials than ever before.



Photo: Six High School Students from Fukuoka welcomed by N. Atlanta High School parents & Fukuoka Sister City Committee members at the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

In March, two officials who accompanied high school students had different occasions to discuss cultural activities and exchange programs with Fukuoka group members.

In the October's previously mentioned meeting, Kazumi Leedy (Treasurer/Secretary) and Keiko Scott (Co-chair) along with Yoshi Domoto, Executive Director of the Japan-America Society of Georgia, attended to discuss the APCC program, high school students' exchange, and more involvement for 2014 & 2015 JapanFest.

In July, Keiko Scott visited Fukuoka City Hall and discussed cultural activities and possible college level exchange with the International Affairs' staff.

In December, Tom Yamamoto (newly appointed Economic Development Head) visited Fukuoka to meet staff members of the International Economy & Content Industry Department and the International Affairs Department of the city government, and also the Fukuoka Chamber of Commerce & Industry to start initial discussions for future possible trade and investment opportunities with Atlanta.



We cannot forget to mention that Ms. Sue Renfroe who had been our Chair for a long time retired as Chair in July. She was a strong leader who maintained our major activities and brought members together. Without her leadership, the Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister City Committee would not have grown and sustained itself so successfully. Please allow us to express our sincere appreciation to Sue in this report.

# Lagos

NIGERIA

## Atlanta - Lagos Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1974  
Chair: (Atlanta—ALSCC) Professor Emeritus Augustine O. Esogbue: (Lagos—LASCC) Mr. E. Chike Nwanze  
Contact: esogbuennom@gmail.com



Map: Britannica

- Lagos is the economic, social, and educational heart of Nigeria. It is the leading non-oil sector contributor to Nigeria's GDP
- Lagos contributes 30% of the nation's GDP, consumes 60% of its energy, pays 65% of its Value Added Tax (VAT), and accounts for 90% of Nigeria's foreign trade and 70% of all industrial investment.
- Lagos is popularly known as the Center of Excellence and could easily double as the Center of Logistics industry.
- The new planned EKO Atlantic city is designed to catapult Lagos into the 21st century as a major modern city.

## Lagos Profile

Lagos, the most populous city in Nigeria, sixth largest in the world, and projected to become the third by 2015, has a population density that is second only to Mumbai, India.

Situated along the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean in the West African sub-region on a network of islands connected by several bridges, Lagos was Nigeria's capital from the colonial days through independence in 1960 and continuing till the mid 80s when the capital was moved to Abuja.

Lagos is perhaps the largest and most diverse multi-ethnic megacity in Africa with Nigeria's over 250 ethnic groups and several African and global countries well represented. The main language of education and business is English although the predominant native languages of Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa and Pidgin English are spoken liberally in the market places. Christianity and Islam are the dominant religions.

Several annual cultural festivals, the centerpiece of Nigeria's budding cultural tourism industry are featured but FESTAC 1977, is still remembered as the

single most ambitious cultural extravaganza of peoples of African descent ever held anywhere in the world.

Lagos boasts Nigeria's best known museums hosting the original exhibition of the famous 2000 years of Nigerian art, several private museums, the Museum of the Black World, numerous educational institutions, etc. The climate is tropical with the year broken primarily into rainy and dry seasons.



Photo: Announcement of first direct flights between Atlanta and Lagos

## The Atlanta—Lagos link

The Lagos relationship dates to 1974 becoming Atlanta's first African sister city and validating Atlanta's claim as America's gateway city to Africa.

Contributions to the location of the Nigerian Consulate General in Atlanta in 1980 and the Delta Air Lines direct flights between Atlanta and Lagos in 2007 are stellar ALSCC achievements which have promoted increased

educational, cultural and economic exchanges.

It has also created improved opportunities for Nigerians living in the Atlanta Metro area but particularly students attending area schools to be better integrated in their host communities. It especially improved the erstwhile non-existent Nigerian community's connection with City Hall.

ALSCC quickly became a rallying ground for all Nigerians not only in Atlanta, but in Georgia. ALSCC developed a counterpart committee in Lagos to provide a link and official ties between Lagos and Atlanta. It provided support for the Consulate and leadership mentoring role for emerging multitude of Nigerian organizations to flourish.

# Atlanta—Lagos activities

## Themes and objectives:

The overarching goals have been to support and grow the local counterpart LASSC efforts to supplement government's programs to improve the welfare of the citizenry. This includes exemplary leadership and mentorship roles in community groups' projects on both sides of the relationship.

The centerpiece remains education, health and socio-economic empowerment activities of local groups, development of linkages between the private sector and institutions, in both Lagos and Atlanta, and facilitating access.

School adoptions, book donations, cultural exhibits promoting awareness of life in the two cities, free clean water distribution with health-care imperatives for Lagos families, and community development activities in Lagos are prominent examples of ALSSC's specific projects.

Nigerian President and Top Ten Nigerians in the U.S



## Highlights in 2013

Some exemplary education centric visits include those of members such as Otunba Alani Ogunlade, who had opened up a new school in his hometown, a few miles outside Lagos; Morehouse College Economics Professor Juliet Elu's leading a delegation of Morehouse School of Medicine experts to Gregory University to explore possible partnerships; several visits by ALSSC Chair Esogbue to Lagos to confer with the local Committee and provide advice on their programs including presentations to the four adopted schools (see photos right); the reciprocal visit to Atlanta by the Lagos counterpart Secretary General, Prince Bashiru Agunloye featuring an educational tour of Morehouse College, the Atlanta University Center, Georgia Tech, etc (photo



left), and the visit and signing of MOUs between four Nigerian universities led by the Federal Minister of Science and Technology with Georgia Tech and facilitated by the ALSSC Chair.

Stellar exemplary leadership provided by ALSSC members and recognized both in Nigeria and the U.S. include the honor bestowed in Lagos on Professor Esogbue as the 2013 recipient of the Stephen Oluwole Awokoya Foundation Distinguished Partner in Science Education Award for academic excellence and mentorship of youths; and in the U.S., in New York in September, by the President of Nigeria as among the Top Ten Nigerian Americans in the U.S. excelling in their fields of endeavor and contributing positively to Nigeria's image and development; his recognition by the Nigerian Consul General, Ambassador Teneilabe during the independence celebrations in Atlanta with an award for Lifetime Service to the Nigerian Atlanta Community. Others include the celebration of Dr. Busola George by the Alliance of Nigerian Organizations in Georgia in October as a recipient of the prestigious 2013 ANOG Image and Service Award and supported by the ALSSC and the support of the annual fundraising and awards ceremonies hosted by ALSSC member and Founder/CEO of Africa's Children's Fund, Mr. Victor Mbaba. The ALSSC worked with the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDOA) and the Consulate General, to facilitate the successful launch of a fundraiser to build a world class Trauma Center in Abuja, Nigeria.



## Plans for 2014

Mobilization and membership drive to reinvigorate the hard core members of the group and intensive campaign to recruit new members both in Atlanta and Lagos;

Renewal and forging of new bonds with the EKO Club Atlanta and the development of joint program of activities;

Resuscitation of a once popular activity and celebration as well as fund raising event called Lagos Day in Atlanta;

Participation in the planning and execution of Year of Africa-Atlanta: a year-long initiative highlighting ties between Atlanta and the African continent. This was the brain child of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech, with Honorable Kasim Reed, Honorary Chair;

Participation in the planning and execution of Mayor Reed's Economic Development Mission to Nigeria in October, 2014 and the full involvement of our Lagos

counterpart, the Atlanta Lagos Committee along with the government and people of Lagos Island City in welcoming Mayor Kasim Reed's team to Lagos and Nigeria;

Continuation of the provision of needed support to our 4 sister city adopted schools in Lagos, and development of a program to link Atlanta schools with our adopted schools in Lagos;

Continuation of our visibility, leadership and vibrancy in the Nigerian-Atlanta communities including projects geared towards infusion of knowledge and expertise acquired in the U.S. in the socio-economic development of Nigeria and those of our members in Atlanta communities.



Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Atl-Lagos Committee Chair Esogbue Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph. D. Professor Emeritus H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta.

Opposite: Planning meeting between Atlanta Committee Chair and Atlanta International Affairs Director Claire Collobert Angelle, with Lagos Island Mayor, Lagos Atlanta Committee discussing Atlanta Mayor's planned visit.



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# Montego Bay

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JAMAICA

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## Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1972  
Chair: Attorney Vin N. Martin, O.D.  
Web site: [www.atlantamobayscc.org](http://www.atlantamobayscc.org)  
Contact: [martinlaw@vinmartinllc.com](mailto:martinlaw@vinmartinllc.com)



Map: Montego-Bay-Jamaica.com

- The City of Montego Bay is coastal town located on the North Western part of Jamaica.
- The population of Montego Bay is approximately 200,000 which includes many international residents.
- The primary business for the City is tourism. Montego Bay boasts some of the top hotels in the Caribbean.
- Montego Bay is served by Jamaica's largest airport, the Sir Donald Sangster International Airport. Air Jamaica and several North American and European airlines run their Caribbean hub in "MoBay" connecting the island with the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada.

## Montego Bay Profile

Montego Bay is the capital of the parish of St. James and the second largest city in Jamaica by area and the fourth by population. It is a tourist destination with duty free shopping, a cruise line terminal and several beaches. The city is backed by picturesque low mountains.

Today, Montego Bay is known for its large regional hospital (Cornwall Regional Hospital), port facilities, second homes for numerous upper class Jamaicans from Kingston as well as North Americans and Europeans, fine restaurants, and shopping opportunities. The coastland near Montego Bay is occupied by numerous tourist resorts, most newly built, some occupying the grounds of old sugar cane plantations with some of the original buildings and mill-works still standing. The most famous of these are the White Witch's Rose Hall and Tryall, both of which now feature world-class golf courses.



The infrastructure of the city is going through a series of explosive modernizations which once completed, aims to keep Montego Bay as a top destination in the Caribbean and the world. The Montego Bay Convention Centre, built on a large site near to the Rose Hall estate, was opened by Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding on 7 January 2011.

Source: Wikipedia

## The Atlanta—Montego Bay link

The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") is a non-profit, international organization with a branch in Atlanta, Georgia, and another in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The relationship between Atlanta and Montego Bay was established in 1972 by formal declaration of the respective

Mayors and City Councils of both cities. It is the second longest relationship that exists between Atlanta and its 18 sister cities.

Both the Atlanta and Montego Bay branches utilize the same business structure and operate in a similar manner. The Committee is run by a Chairperson and has several sub-committees each of

which is headed by a sub-committee chair.

Activities have included educational exchanges for students, academic and administrative staff, reciprocal art exhibitions and business and economic missions.



# Atlanta—Montego Bay activities

## Themes and objectives:

- **CULTURAL AFFAIRS:** To identify areas of mutual cultural interest between Atlanta and Montego Bay.
- **EDUCATION:** To expose High school students of both cities to the respective educational systems of each City. To act as a liaison and facilitate the application of Montego Bay High School students in seeking access and admission to Atlanta's institutions of higher learning.
- **FUND RAISING:** To raise funds for the promotion of the affairs of the Committees.
- **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** To expand the base of support for health programs directed to the under-served residents of Atlanta and Montego Bay, by bringing to the attention of health policy members, the varied and urgent needs of this population.
- **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:** To promote and/or facilitate the use of technologies to establish and expand mutually beneficial business ties between Atlanta and Montego Bay.
- **TOURISM:** To promote and encourage visitors to select Montego Bay as their location of choice while vacationing in Jamaica.
- **TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** To identify economic opportunities which would benefit both cities.



## Activities

From May 18-22, 2013 a delegation of Montego Bay City officials and Sister Cities representatives, lead by Montego Bay's Mayor, His Worship Councilor Glendon Harris, visited Atlanta (Photos left and below).

The delegation met with Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

officials and with Atlanta's Solid Waste Department. Among their other activities were courtesy calls on Mayor Reed and Councilman Kwanza Hall. In order to strengthen ties between both cities, the delegation held meetings and had presentations from the Atlanta Fire Department and the Atlanta Convention and Visitors' bureau. Both entities agreed to provide assistances to their respective counterparts in Montego Bay, as requested by Mayor Harris.



Throughout the year, to support our activities, the Committee engaged in several fund raising activities. These included a brunch held at Atlanta City Hall and a banquet held in September. Additionally The Committee was one of the primary organizations that organized Jamaica's 50th anniversary of political Independence, the final activity of which was held at Atlanta City Hall's Atrium.

## Highlights in 2013

Among the Committee's activities during the year was our annual health mission to Montego Bay undertaken by our Health and Human services sub-committee.

The twentieth annual medical mission was undertaken from October 9-12, 2013. Our team comprising 20 physicians, 13 nurses, a pharmacist and 10 non-medical professionals provided needed medical care to 1,746 patients during the three days of the mission. The team also donated a significant quantity of medicine and medical supplies to these patients.

Medical specialists who accompany the team include OB GYN's, internists, pediatricians, ophthalmologists, dentists, and a pharmacist.

Further, in October Mayor Reed, at the invitation of the Montego Bay chamber of Commerce, was

the guest speaker at the opening of the Montego Bay's Chamber of Commerce 2013 Expo. While in Montego Bay, Mayor Reed also visited with members of Jamaica's Trade and Industry and discussed area of possible collaboration between both cities in the area of economic development.

Photo: Children participating in the Annual Medical Mission



Members of the Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee health team in attendance at Montego Bay's 2013 Expo held at the new Conference Center in Rose Hall, Montego Bay. Here members of the mission are seen with Mayor Reed and other local dignitaries.

Mayor Reed delivered the keynote address on the opening night of the event.

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# Newcastle

GREAT BRITAIN

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## Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1977  
Chair: David Smith  
Contact: AtlantaNewcastle@gmail.com



- Newcastle is the capital of the North East of England, located close to the border with Scotland, 100 miles south of Edinburgh and 276 miles north of London.
- It is an important business and financial center, with a broad economic base spanning manufacturing, information technology, commercial and professional services and retail distribution.
- Newcastle upon Tyne is 113 sq km in size with a population of 269,500. The city is the 20<sup>th</sup> most populous in England, and as such, is one of England's core cities.

## Newcastle Profile

Newcastle is a city full of energy, with a fierce sense of pride and a friendly regional identity. Dramatically located on the steep banks of the River Tyne, the city is an impressive sight whether approached by road or rail. Newcastle is rich in culture, architecture and history with a great reputation for style, shopping and nightlife.

Historically, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne was at the forefront of 19th century industrial innovation. At one time a quarter of the world's shipbuilding was centered in the district.

Other trades, particularly retail, have now replaced traditional industries. Major employers now include the public administration, education and health sectors.

There has been recent large-scale regeneration in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The Quayside is the area along the banks of the River Tyne that has received heavy investment to provide a modern environment

for modern arts, music, housing, culture as well as bars and night clubs. It is one of the most dramatic areas of townscape in the country.

Newcastle is designated as one of six UK cities of

science in recognition of world-class strengths, notably in the fields of healthy aging, medical science and sustainability. Together with the North of England, the region hosts 1,000 companies in the Life Science and Healthcare industry.

Five Centres of Excellence encourage the

exploitation of world-class research; build infrastructure to support and nurture high technology companies; and form international partnerships. The Centres of Excellence combined are an engine of highly skilled, internationally experienced technology executives in Bio-processing, Fuel Cells, Assistive Technologies for the Aged and Open Access.



## The Atlanta—Newcastle link

The Atlanta-Newcastle relationship has its origins in a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King and Andrew Young (subsequently UN Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta) to Newcastle in 1967, when Dr. King was recognized with an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Newcastle. In 1977, then Governor Jimmy Carter announced the foundation

of the Atlanta Friendship Force, a citizen diplomacy organization, whose first mission was to Newcastle (the nearest major city to George Washington's ancestral home).

The cities of Atlanta and Newcastle formed their sister city relationship at that time.

The **Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee** maintains connections with both Atlanta and Newcastle city governments and organizations in each location. Activities have included educational exchanges for students, academic and administrative staff, reciprocal art exhibitions and business and economic missions.

# Atlanta—Newcastle activities

## Themes and objectives:

Following the economic development mission in May 2013 (story below), the Atlanta—Newcastle Sister City Committee has established the following objectives:

- Share best practices in key domains: science, innovation and culture. Specifically to organize a quarterly conference call with City agencies/departments on:
  - Newcastle Science City
  - Bike sharing program
  - Economic Development/Workforce Development/Tax Increment Financing
  - Airport
- Invite Newcastle to the next Sister Cities Economic Development Conference in Atlanta, titled *Infrastructure by land, air and sea*.
- Establish contact between local sister city committees and maintain contact between Mayor Reed and Leader Forbes.
- Develop airport cooperation.
- Increase trade opportunities.
- Increase opportunities for foreign direct investment.

## Exchanges

Since 1998, an annual Joint Exchange in British & American Cultures has taken place between Georgia State University and the University of Northumbria in Newcastle (UNN).

Aimed at English and History majors with two years left of their degree, the program provides a total immersion experience through which American students visit the Newcastle to study, live, and travel with British students over an academic year, followed by a reciprocal visit to Atlanta by students of UNN.

The program offers students the opportunity to jointly concentrate their studies in British and American cultures with a focus on literature, culture and history. Participants are able to expand their experience through travel throughout the region and beyond.



Information on the exchange is located at <http://english.gsu.edu/nbt/>

American students immerse themselves in British culture during their study program in Newcastle.

## Highlights in 2013

Following a visit by Atlanta Mayor, Kasim Reed, to Newcastle in November 2012, a delegation from Newcastle visited Atlanta in May 2013.

The group was led by Leader of the Council, Councilor Nick Forbes, who was joined by 10 others representing regional economic development organizations, universities, the Science City program, business parks and cultural institutions.

The group met with Invest Atlanta and toured The Beltline and Atlantic Station. Meetings were held at City Hall with Mayor Reed and at the Mayor's Office of Sustainability.

On the evening of Tuesday May 28th, a reception was held at the Metro Chamber with members of the British American Business Group, Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee and others Atlanta groups interested in links with Great Britain. Mayor Reed, Councilor Forbes and British Consul General, Annabelle Malins addressed the audience.

On the following day the Newcastle group visited the Atlanta Technology Development Center and

the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Councilmember Kwanza Hall took the group on a tour of the Martin Luther King site, with wreath laying, in recognition of the MLK link with Newcastle.

Discussions about Atlanta's Olympic legacy focused on Centennial Park. The group also held meetings at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.



Newcastle delegation to Atlanta May 2013.



Newcastle delegation meets with Mayor Reed at City Hall

Mayor Reed meets with member of the delegation headed by Councilor Nick Forbes, who is joined by representatives from Newcastle universities, the Science City program, business parks and the regional inward investment agency.



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# Nürnberg

GERMANY

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## Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1998  
Chair: Shean L. Atkins  
Contact: shean.atkins@atlantahousing.org



Map: Britannica

- Nürnberg is the second-largest Bavarian city, and fourteenth largest municipality in Germany.
- With 500,000 inhabitants, Nürnberg is the economic, services and cultural centre of Northern Bavaria, and the centre of the Nürnberg Metropolitan Region with about 3.5 million inhabitants.
- The city benefits from its central location within the European economic region.
- The freight centre in the port of Nürnberg is one of the most important transfer centers in Southern Germany.

## Nürnberg Profile

Nürnberg boasts a unique mixture of tradition and modern times. Its almost thousand years of history are still obvious in its cityscape.

The City acknowledges the historical responsibility resulting from its special role during the period of Nazi rule and for this reason is actively concerned to

promote respect for human rights.

In addition to international conferences, human rights education in the Nazi Party Rally Grounds Documentation Centre, the

Human Rights Film Festival and other events, these efforts include the Nürnberg International Human Rights Prize.

Today, Nürnberg citizens from all nationalities live together in an atmosphere characterized by tolerance and calm co-existence. The city supports international relations with 14 sister cities.

Since the 1970s, Nürnberg has transformed itself

into a service center with high growth rates in the fields of innovative services. The strengths of the Nürnberg economic region lie in the fields of communication and multimedia, traffic engineering and logistics, energy and environment, power electronics and service industry. Nürnberg expertise,

particularly in some seminal technologies, ranks among the best in Europe. Valuable impetus is given by research institutes located in the Nürnberg region, such as for

example the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits.

Nürnberg is one of Europe's fastest growing trade fair locations. Every year, over 1,2 million people visit about 100 events and about 50 specialist trade fairs and congresses, including the world's largest specialist trade fair for toys.



Text: <http://www.nuernberg.de>; Photo: Germany Travel

## The Atlanta—Nürnberg link

Established in 1998, the City of Nürnberg, Germany is Atlanta's 16th sister city. Atlanta-Nürnberg remains a very active partnership in the areas of civil and human rights, economic development, education, and culture. The relationship continues to expand and encourage exchange on both sides of the Atlantic.

With the establishment of Atlanta's National Center for Civil and Human Rights, collaboration in this area has deepened and become stronger. Given the histories of both cities, Atlanta and Nürnberg-based institutions are more engaged in exposing, advocating for, and protecting

human rights and civil liberties for the world's citizenry.

For a thriving, sustainable and continued relationship, there is also a focus to cultivate young, emerging leaders who will build on the success of the partnership's solid foundation.



# Atlanta—Nürnberg activities

## Themes and objectives:

- As German companies are major investors in the State of Georgia – employing more than 20,000 Georgians, economic development undergirds the partnership between Atlanta and Nürnberg.
- In addition to economic development, the Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee also focuses on civil and human rights as well as cultural and educational exchanges.

ASCC Chair Teri Simmons with Nürnberg future leaders



## Activities

**Student Exchange:** In August, a Nürnberg delegation of nine future leaders and two chaperones visited Atlanta, spotlighting the partnership's focus on cultivating emerging leaders to build upon the success of the existing relationship – built on civil and human rights advocacy, economic development, education and cultural exchange – between the two sister cities. During this visit, spearheaded by the German-American Institute and made possible by youth fundraising efforts and through the generous sponsorship of other German organizations, the students expanded their knowledge on the subject of human and civil rights through visits to local cultural institutions, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and the Carter Center. Additionally, the delegation took part in several community engagement activities, working with Trees Atlanta to plant trees along the Beltline and a facility tour at the Southface Energy Institute to learn about the company's sustainable architectural design initiatives in Atlanta and throughout the southeast region. At Southface, the future leaders spent time with Dennis Creech, the executive director, who also presented at Nürnberg's international sustainable energy conference in 2012.



## Highlights in 2013

**International Human Rights Award:** Twenty years after the conceptualization of the Nürnberg International Human Rights Award, the Office of Human Rights awarded the 2013 prize to Kasha Nabagesera of Uganda for her efforts to combat homophobia in her country. The founder and executive director of Freedom and Roam Uganda, an organization that supports members in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, Nabagesera was presented the award by Nürnberg's Lord Mayor, Dr. Ulrich Maly, at a ceremony in September.

Though her role as vocal advocate for improved living conditions for the LGBTI community has made her the target of violent harassment, Nabagesera continues to press the Ugandan



government to implement international covenants and eradicate laws criminalizing homosexuality.

Through a grant from the German-American Cultural Foundation, Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee chair, Shean Atkins, and National Center for Civil and Human Rights (NCCHR) executive vice president, Deborah Richardson, traveled to Nürnberg along with Atlanta Sister Cities Commission chair, Teri Simmons, for the ceremony and to continue to build a partnership of human rights advocacy in the twin cities and throughout the world. Atlanta will welcome Nabagesera in 2014 as an invited guest to participate in a series of public programs hosted by NCCHR in the fall.

Photo left: Christian Sliinsky, Kasha Nabagesera, Shean Atkins, and Lord Mayor Maly at the Peace Table after the ceremony.

Photo Right: Shean Atkins, Deborah Richardson, Christina Plewinski, and the Headmaster of the Sigmund-Schuckert Gymnasium pose with students after panel discussion on "life in Atlanta"



### Nürnberg's Black History Month Celebration:

During an almost two week February trip to Nürnberg, sponsored by the Nürnberg Office of International Affairs, Atlanta-based abstract artist Gina Chaney kicked-off the city's Black History Month celebration through a solo exhibit of her highly acclaimed commissioned work. The Dream Series and Servants of Time, a series of 35 paintings, pays homage to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 25th anniversary of the national holiday in his honor and the contributions of Coretta Scott King to the civil rights movement.

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# Port of Spain

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TRINIDAD

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## Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1986  
Chair: of Atlanta-Port of Spain Sister City Committee (APSCC) Karen Clarke (kclarke@cmmglobalonline.com); Co-Chair: Norma Kendall-Hamlet (zaxn27a@juno.com)  
Chair of Port of Spain-Atlanta (PASCC): Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor (learntrinidadtobago@yahoo.com)  
Website: www.atlantaposscn.org



- Settled: 1560
- Incorporated: 1990
- Mayor: Raymond Tim Kee
- Governing Body: City Corporation
- Port of Spain is the capital of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It is located on the Gulf of Paria, on the northwest coast of the island of Trinidad with an estimated population of 600,000.
- The city serves primarily as a retail and administrative center and it has been the capital of the island since 1757. It is also an important financial services center for the Caribbean.

## Port of Spain Profile



The city is home to the largest container port on the island and is one of several shipping hubs of the Caribbean, exporting both agricultural products and manufactured goods.

The pre-lenten Carnival is the city's main annual cultural festival and tourist attraction.

hosted a Commonwealth Business Forum in 2011.

Port of Spain reflects its wealth from proceeds from the international sale of natural gas, which has aided the country in the Port of Spain International Waterfront project constructed on the former Port Authority site.

Today, Port of Spain is as a leading city in the Caribbean region. Trinidad hosted the Fifth Summit of the Americas in 2009 whose guests included US President Barack Obama and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Port of Spain also hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2009 and

## The Atlanta—Port of Spain link

Under the Sister Cities Charter, the Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee was founded in 1986 as a people-to-people exchange.

It was an outgrowth of an Atlanta trade mission to Trinidad and Tobago in 1985 and a subsequent trip to Trinidad by the Atlanta Women's Chamber of

Commerce in 1986. The purpose was to foster understanding across international frontiers and to promote good human relationships.

The two cities were officially twinned in 1987. The Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee maintains connection with both Atlanta and

Port of Spain city governments and organizations in each location.

Activities have included educational exchanges for students, academic and administrative staff, reciprocal art exhibitions and business and economic missions.



# Atlanta—Port of Spain activities

## Themes and objectives:

The Committee has put on its agenda the promotion of the undermentioned activities between both cities.

- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development
- Humanitarian Assistance
- Youth
- Sports

Photo: On October 31, 2013, Mr. Raymond Tim Kee was elected the new Mayor of Port of Spain. Ms.



Norma Kendall-Hamlet (APSCC - Chair) hands Deputy Mayor Mr. Ker-ron Valentine a congratulatory letter from Mayor Mr. Kasim Reed, City of Atlanta, for the newly elected Mayor Mr. Raymond Tim Kee.

## General activities

Plans are being formulated for a contingent from Port of Spain comprising Mayor Tim Kee, Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor (PASCC), small business owners, fire and police service personnel, and members of the trade and development sector to visit Atlanta in 2014.

- Invite Port of Spain to the upcoming sister Economic Development Conference in Atlanta, titled "Infrastructure by Land, Air and Sea."
- Becoming A Sustainable City by focusing on environmental and infrastructure issues, cultural heritage restorations, and social and economic development.

## Exchanges and training

In 1999, the Atlanta Fire Service Department and the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The major purpose was to foster the mutual growth and development of the two Firefighting Organizations.

These exchanges are still ongoing.



Atlanta firefighters

## Highlights in 2013

Our star Student Rondelle Keller (PASCC) has been a participant iEARNTnT since 2009; he has earned many awards, which took him to Taiwan in 2011. Most recently, in 2013 he received a national award for his work in the environment, and a scholarship that was offered by the Embassy in China to study the language in China where he is at present. His interests are in international relations.

"Carnival 2013" - Members and guest of APSCC enjoyed "The Greatest Show in The World." Carnival is beautiful festival of Arts, Masquerade, Calypso, Music and Creativity. The delegation participated in the celebrations, enjoying the fun of children in "Kiddies Carnival" shows, competitions and parades. Mayor Lee Sing, Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor (PASCC), and Norma Kendall-Hamlet (APSCC) hosted guests.

The Committee co-sponsored the Opening Ceremony and Awards Event for Caribbean American Heritage Month, which took place at the Fulton County Atrium on June 02. The theme for the evening was "Spotlight on St. Kitts and Nevis, and the Common Wealth of the Bahamas", included an awards



Mango Festival

presentation, islands display, flag salute and cultural presentations.

Trinidad & Tobago Mango Festival sponsored by our corresponding organization, the Port of Spain Sister City Committee, was held on Sunday, July 7th featuring byproducts of the mango fruit, for example; mango wine, chow, kutchela, jam, pone, ice cream, body products and more. At the upcoming Mango Conference participants will like to interface with small businesses exploring and developing import and export markets in Atlanta.



Global Winter Wonderland was spectacular lantern festival and multicultural theme park were visitors can travel the world in one visit while viewing the larger-than-life lantern designs of landmarks from countries all over the globe, please see [www.globalwonderland.com](http://www.globalwonderland.com)

The Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee and the Dominican International Association participated at the Global Winter Wonderland in a cultural performance on December 29, 2013. This was an initiative spearheaded by APSCC Cultural Chair, Mike Tyler. The Committees showcased their diverse multicultural heritage with playing of the Steel Pan by Roger Knight (TnT), singing, and dancing.

# Ra'anana

ISRAEL

## Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 2001  
Chair: Arnold Heller  
Web Site: [www.arnoldheller.org](http://www.arnoldheller.org)



Map: GraphicMaps.com

- Ra'anana is in the heart of the Central District, located 15 miles north of Tel Aviv.
- The population was about 80,000 in 2013 – Israel's tenth largest city
- It is bordered by Kfar Saba on the east and Herzliya on the west.
- The majority of residents are native-born Israelis; a quarter of the population are immigrants from the Americas, Europe, and South Africa.
- Ra'anana is home to many leading global companies and local start ups. It was designated a Green City award by the World Health Organization in 2005.

## Ra'anana Profile

Ra'anana is known locally as 'Little America' because so many settlers came from New York. By the 1947 War for Independence, it was a village of 3,000 residents. In the 1980's, Ra'anana was declared a city and occupies six square miles.

Ra'anana's industrial zone in the north of the city is home to the Renanim shopping mall and many high-tech companies that include Emblaze, Hewlett-Packard, NICE Systems, On Target Communications, SAP and Texas Instruments. In addition, Microsoft's head office in Israel and Amdocs are located in an office complex at the eastern edge of the city, close to the Ra'anana Junction. Ahuza Street runs through the city from east to west and is lined with shops, restaurants, and a cultural center.

Ra'anana is renowned for its excellent school system – there are twelve elementary schools, ten middle schools, and eight high schools. The world class K-12 Music Conservatory opened two years ago to nurture young prodigies. Ra'anana is also home to

the Open University and Ra'anana College.

Ra'anana Park is the largest in the Sharon District – it offers walking and bike trails, sports fields, a zoo and children's petting center, and a lake which is surrounded by special gardens. The Founder's Museum presents the story of Ra'anana's original settlers in diorama's that capture the city's frontier spirit.



Ra'anana is home to the Lowenstein Hospital, a national rehabilitation center. The main soccer club of the city is Hapoel Ra'anana – Bnei Hasharon is the best basketball team and plays in the Metro West High School.

With a large population of American expatriates, the Ra'anana Express were an inaugural team in the Israeli Baseball League.

Ra'anana is also home to Beit Issie Shapiro, a world class institute dedicated to providing innovative therapies and education for people with special needs. Beit Issie has developed a special relationship with Atlanta's Marcus Center.

## The Atlanta—Ra'anana link

The Atlanta – Ra'anana Committee formed out of a student exchange between North Atlanta High and Ostrovsky High School in 1998. At that time, Dr. Arnold Heller, applied to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission for Ra'anana to become the

seventeenth sister city partnership.

The first twinning mission took place from May 11 – 17, 2001. The second took place on July 25 – 28, 2001 when the proclamation was signed as a highlight of the

2001 Sister Cities International Convention in Atlanta.

The Atlanta – Ra'anana link celebrates its thirteenth anniversary in 2014. anniversary on July 27, 2014.



# Atlanta—Ra'anana activities

## Themes and objectives:

The main focus of the Atlanta – Ra'anana Sister City Committee (ARSCC) has been to nurture economic development and facilitate educational, cultural, and athletic exchanges.

In the area of economic development, the ARSCC has worked closely over the years with the American – Israel Chamber of Commerce – Southeast Division (AICCSE) – to strengthen economic life in both cities and regions. Currently there are six Ra'anana based companies that have invested in Atlanta – Amdocs is the largest. Valuation impact of the six companies has been estimated at \$200,000,000.

The two cities have engaged in exchanges of all types but very few in recent years. It is hoped that with the recent election of Zeev Bielski, activities will increase dramatically in 2014 and the years ahead.

Sister City signing ceremony at City Hall, Atlanta in 2000.



## General activities

The ARSCC members work closely together. We attempt to meet socially at least once a year at a restaurant to strengthen our bond. The ARSCC looks forward each year in participating in the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Holiday Party – we bring Chanukah foods and religious symbols to the serving table.



Left: Myna Cohen and Dr. Arnold Heller at the ARSCC Holiday Party.

In 2013, there were no exchanges. ARSCC Vice Chair Myrna Cohen visited Ra'anana in June of 2013 to re-affirm our partnership and engage in joint planning.



Right: Dr. Arnold Heller with President of Masorti Congregation in Ra'anana.

## Highlights in 2013

The focus of the past year was not on planning and executing activities – it was on strengthening the committee's relationship with integral organizations making up the Atlanta Jewish Community.

For example, Dr. Arnold Heller, on October 16, 2013, met with Michael Horowitz, Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (JFGA) and Cherie Levitan, Israel Programs. The aim of the meeting was to forge a closer working relationship between the ARSCC and JFGA.

Below: Ra'anana Music Center .  
Opposite: Beit Issie Shapiro special ed and therapy center in Ra'anana



Since ARSCC's inception, JFGA has focused on its mission to improve the lives of the less fortunate people of Yochneam. Ra'anana has always offered to assist JFGA in uplifting the lives of the city of Yochneam – this may start happening later this year.

Dr. Heller also urged JFGA to include a visit to Ra'anana in the June 2014 Federation mission to Israel. This was achieved – JFGA is organizing for interested mission participants a visit to Beit Issie Shapiro to observe cutting edge therapies and educational approaches for special needs individuals.

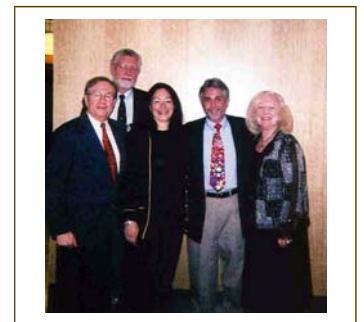


Photo: Members: Dr. Cedric Suzman, Mr. Nadav Sivan, Mrs. Rena Kahn, Dr. Arnold Heller – Chair, Mrs. Myrna Cohen – Vice Chair

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# Rio de Janeiro

BRAZIL

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## Atlanta - Rio Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1972  
Chair: Joseph Walker  
Contact: joseph.walker@walkertravelgroup.com; TurnerFreda@msn.com

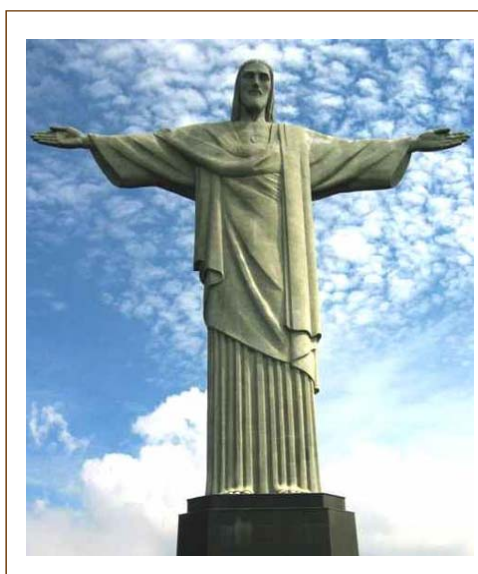


Map: GraphicMaps.com

- Rio de Janeiro is Brazil's second most important city in economic terms.
- The City has an annualized GDP at more than US\$ 70 billion and growing approximately 3% a year.
- 57.1% of the economy of Rio de Janeiro is service based, 10.3% industry, and the remaining portion in education, administration and government.
- Population stands at approx. 6.5 million within the city of Rio de Janeiro and nearly 12 million in the greater metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro.
- There are approximately US\$35 billion in infrastructure improvements being executed in and around Rio de Janeiro for the World Cup 2014 and the Olympics.

## Rio de Janeiro Profile

Rio de Janeiro is the cultural capital of Brazil especially when the subject is music, from Ipanema and its sophisticated Bossa Nova to the Favelas and its popular Samba, Rio is a city to be sung and danced. The historical center of Rio is rich in cultural attractions, architecture of many different schools, churches, public buildings squares and museums. The city of Rio de Janeiro is the main location of the most important political events in Brazil, and the city is the



second most important city in Brazil in economic terms.

Rio was the capital of Brazil for nearly two centuries, from 1763 to 1815 during the Portuguese colonial era; 1815 to 1821 as the capital of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves; and 1822 to 1960 as an independent nation. Rio de Janeiro represents the second largest GDP in the country and 30th largest in the world. Tourism and oil production are the main economic activities.

## The Atlanta—Rio link

The Atlanta-Rio Committee has participated in helping Brazilian students achieve higher education opportunities in the Atlanta area. In the past, with a project linked to Mercer University, the Committee played a direct role in publicizing Georgia higher learning opportunities in Brazil via secondary schools and universities.

Currently, there are around 50 Brazilian Science without Borders (SWB) students in Atlanta. They come from 16 different Brazilian states, including Rio de Janeiro. Host universities in Atlanta are: Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia

State, Mercer, Morehouse and Spelman. Some of the grantees' fields of study are engineering (industrial, aerospace, chemical, civil, environmental, software), biology, biotechnology, nursing, creative industry, medicine, IT and computer science. There are students from the undergraduate to the post-doctoral levels.

The Atlanta Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee has also enjoyed a strong working relationship with Troy University of Atlanta creating the opportunity for Brazilian students to learn about English. Future joint endeavors are quickly moving towards teaching on the global workplace

as well as offering seminars directly linked to cross-culture communications.

The Committee also plays a major role in providing tourism information on Atlanta to the travel industry in Rio de Janeiro (and other locations in Brazil). As the only Atlanta based organization with a permanent presence in Rio, and with major industry contacts, the committee is a major link between Atlanta based companies hoping to offer their services to guests from Rio de Janeiro and for Rio de Janeiro based companies who want to offer new destinations to their clients.

# Atlanta—Rio activities

## Themes and objectives:

- The Committee strongly believes that business development is derived in large part from activities that bring tourism to the city of Atlanta.
- Tourism is the gateway to economic development as guests learn what a great place Atlanta is to do business, some will be tempted to invest in the city. This is beyond the millions of dollars Brazilian tourists already leave through their visitations.
- The committee also recognizes the economic impact of education and educational exchange. Whether it be for students or for businesses, the committee is aware of the economic impact international students have when studying in Atlanta.
- Reversely, the committees as the only local entity with a real permanent presence in Rio de Janeiro, committee members are often engaged with assisting business and political trade and fact finding missions and making contacts that often are fruitful.

## General activities

The committee energetically through its meetings and outreach efforts helps Atlanta based companies and citizens understand the true multi-faceted nature of the local culture. More than Samba and Carnival, Rio de Janeiro has deep cultural roots that extend back to Europe, Africa, and to the native indigenous populations. Business and business development is as serious as the dance and music that make the city so enjoyable.



The Committee recently has entered into a partnership with the Rio Film Festival to help local Atlanta based film makers enroll in the international segment allowing them and other individuals the opportunity to show their work to a large international audience.

Photo above: Atlanta—Rio Olympic Cities: A wonderful poster depicts the bridge between these two sister cities, celebrating the shared experience of hosting the Olympics.

Photo left: Brazil Plaque: Atlanta-Rio Sister Cities Committee participated in the Fernbank Winter Wonderland and this plaque was placed in front of the decorated holiday tree.

## Highlights in 2013

The Committee deepened its contacts in Rio de Janeiro in business development, education, and tourism opportunities as to better assist Atlanta based citizens wanting to travel to Rio de Janeiro. This was made possible by the opening of an office together with a Committee board member that helps serve as a permanent base.

The Committee through this new permanent office, solicited and received permission to promote Atlanta as a tourism destination to some major tour operators in Rio de Janeiro, received the go ahead to promote cultural exchanges between Atlanta and Rio based film makers (as well as the "OK" to allow Atlanta based film makers to enter their work into the film festival).

The Committee also engineered its first intern placement in Rio de Janeiro for an Atlanta area University student. The Committee, beyond assisting Brazilians to learn about higher education opportunities in the Atlanta area, believed it was important to assist Atlanta based students wishing to broaden their horizons and education in Rio de Janeiro. This program should grow in the near future.

- The Committee has been engaged with various meetings with government officials including those linked to the business development department of the city of Rio de Janeiro and representatives of Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes.
- The Committee has held meetings regularly via its meet-ups where Brazilian culture, tourism, business opportunities, have been discussed.
- The Committee, led by Freda Turner and Kathy Ellis, participated in the Fernbank Winter Wonderland.
- The Rio Film Festival was approached and agreed in principal to an exchange of film makers.
- The Committee actively pursued partnerships to bring student from Rio de Janeiro to study English and Cross Country Communications to Atlanta.
- The Committee hosted its first Georgia based intern in Rio de Janeiro and there will be many more to follow.



Atlanta-Rio Sister Cities Committee enjoys a holiday lunch with the Brazilian Meet Up group created by the ARJSCC last year.

The meets ups are usually at a Brazilian establishment.



# Salcedo

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1996  
Chair: Victor Ramirez, Co-Chair: Miguel Contreras



Map: Wikipedia

- Located approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes from the nation's capital of Santo Domingo, the city of Salcedo has 92,193 inhabitants. (Wikipedia)
- The main economic activity of Salcedo is agriculture and the main products are plantain, cassava, coffee and cacao.
- In 1994, Dominican-American author Julia Alvarez published her novel, *In The Time of The Butterflies*, a fictionalized account of the lives of the heroic Mirabal sisters, from Salcedo. The novel was adopted into a Hollywood movie starring Selma Hayek as Minerva and Edward James Olmos as Trujillo.

## Salcedo Profile

Salcedo is the capital of the Mirabal Sisters Province and birthplace of the three Dominican heroines who made their ultimate sacrifice for their country by giving up a privileged life to fight against the powerful dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo.

On December 17, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the annual date of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in commemoration of the sisters.

Salcedo has one of the most visited museums in the Dominican Republic, the Mirabal Sister Museum.

## The Atlanta—Salcedo link

The active sister cities ties between Atlanta and Salcedo contributed toward the opening of Delta Air Lines' first direct flight to the Dominican Republic. The director of the Atlanta's Office of International Affairs Claire McCleveighn, the chair of the ASSCC Victor Ramirez, and the ASSCC committee member Fernando Ramirez were at the

Basically, the museum consists of a walk-through tour of the house the family lived in before the sisters' death. The house is kept in the same condition as it was back in the 1960s- the furniture, the clothes, the kitchen, everything. There's a memorial to the sisters in the backyard, and in 2000 the sisters' bodies were exhumed and moved there as well.

The Mirabal sisters are also commemorated on the 200 Dominican pesos bill. They are seen as heroes in

the Dominican Republic, as Trujillo's dictatorship crumbled after their death.

Photo: Parque Atlanta, Salcedo (see Highlights, next page)



cutting-ribbon ceremony for that flight at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, on December 1, 2005 (Photo right). They also flew on that inaugural flight to the capital of Santo Domingo and met with the US Consul

General to inform him on future exchange plans between the two cities.





# Atlanta—Salcedo activities

## Themes and objectives:

- To promote the legacy of outstanding leaders who fought bravely and heroically.
- To develop business exchanges among companies interested in implementing and acquiring Atlanta's high technology industries and Salcedo's vast production of agricultural and handcrafts products.
- To promote high school student exchanges between Atlanta and Salcedo.
- To generate cultural exchanges among citizens of both cities with the purpose of embracing the human and civil rights movements lead by Reverend Martin Luther King and the Mirabal Sisters.
- To promote collaboration and fellowship between our cities governments to better serve our constituents.



## Activities

The Atlanta – Salcedo Sister Cities Committee participated at the Atlanta's Global Winter Wonderland lantern festival. Dominican singer Clelia Elila entertained the crowd with a Merengue and Bachata music performance. A delegation from Salcedo visited this festival and enjoyed the world's greatest architectural achievements: the Eiffel Tower, the MLK Monument, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Liberty Statue, the Great Pyramid of Giza, the US White House, the Chichen Itza, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Chinese Temple of Heaven, among other attractions.



Photo above: Dominican songwriter and singer Clelia Elila is greeted by a group of participants who attended her music performance at Global Winter Wonderland lantern festival in Atlanta.



Photo above: Salcedo delegation visits Martin Luther King Center, accompanied by Councilman Kwanza Hall.

Photo below: Dominicans celebrate their country's independence with the international community at the Atlanta City Hall.

Photo left: Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed greets his counterpart Salcedo Mayor Valentín Fernández as he visits the City of Atlanta to participate at the ASCC Economic Development Global Partnership Forum.



## Highlights

In 2008, Parque Atlanta was inaugurated at the city entrance of Salcedo. As a cultural and recreational venue, the park was conceived to honor the three Dominican heroines, as well as to give relevance to our sister city of Atlanta.

This project was initiated with the collaboration of various community and business leaders within the government and private sector. From Atlanta, it got relevant contributions from Williams – Russell and Johnson Engineering Co., Guerra – Stoll Barker Architects, and the Atlanta City Hall. From Salcedo, there were significant contributions from Mena – Pantaleón Engineering Co., the Dominican Justice Supreme Court, and the Salcedo City Hall. The completion of this park got a strong support from the former Vice President of the Dominican Republic Dr. Jaime David Fernández and his mother Ms. Bélgica – Dedé Mirabal.

Mirabal Sisters DR  
200 peso bill  
(Expat-chronicles.com)



Photo above: Atlanta Councilman Kwanza Hall conducts a tour of the Martin Luther King historic site in Atlanta for a delegation headed by Salcedo Mayor Valentín Fernández

Photo right: Atlanta - Salcedo Committee members meet with Atlanta - Newcastle Chair David Smith (center) and members of the Office of International Affairs, Bettina Gardner and Claire Angelle (Director).



Salcedo Mayor Valentín Fernández [on left] delivers a letter of invitation for Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed [center] to visit the Dominican Republic.

Victor Ramirez, Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee Chair [on right] accompanies Mayor Fernández and his delegation.

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# Taipei

TAIWAN

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## Atlanta - Taipei Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1979  
Chair: Peter Yeh



Map: globaltrade.net

- Taipei is located in the Taipei Basin of Northern Taiwan. It is surrounded by New Taipei City and is the largest city in Taiwan.
- There are approximately 2.6 million people living in Taipei, and a population of over six million in the metropolitan area.
- Taipei City Government, the administrative hub of the city, was founded in October 1945 as a provincial municipality.
- The city government has committed much of its resources to creating investment opportunities and executing policies to attract capital from the corporate world.

## Taipei Profile

Taipei originated as a small trading port over two hundred years ago before becoming the political, financial, and cultural center of Taiwan, the island's most populous city.

During the last few decades there has been tremendous growth in the city. Now a sprawling metropolis, Taipei is an ideal place to visit for those who love the hustle and bustle of the big city. (Source: yahoo travel)

There are many tourism attractions in Taipei. Among them, the most famous ones are Taipei Building 101, the 4th tallest building in the world, and National Palace Museum, which houses one of the world's largest collections of artifacts from ancient China.

Taipei City's industrial environment has progressed into a new era in line with changes around the globe. In addition to building a quality investment environment and attracting outside companies to

move in, the city government has also introduced several incentives, subsidies and guidance measures in order to encourage increased research and innovation as well as to improve added value and

competitiveness from enterprises. Meanwhile, the department is pro-actively paving the way for technology industries, including biotech and cloud computation, and creative design industries by

combining Taipei Neihu Technology Park, Nankang Software Park, and Beitou-Shilin Technology Park into a Taipei Technology Corridor, which will become the core of Taipei City's industrial growth and the beginning of a transformed economy.

As the nation's capital, Taipei City is devoted to improving its infrastructure and building an environment favorable for production and economic activities.

Source Taipei.gov.tw; Photo: WikiTravel



## The Atlanta—Taipei link

Taipei became the sister city of Atlanta in November 5, 1979, when Mayor Lee, Teng-hui of Taipei and Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta signed a sister city agreement in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee, with the assistance of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, maintains connections with both Atlanta and Taipei city governments and organizations in each location.

Activities have included student exchanges from high schools and colleges, cultural performance, trade missions, and official visits between the two governments.



# Atlanta—Taipei activities

## Themes and objectives:

The Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee has set its agenda to promote the following objectives:

- Youth exchanges
- Cultural exchanges
- Economic development
- Official visits

Plans have been made this year specifically to focus on economic development, which includes:

- Invite Taipei to the next Sister Cities Economic Development Conference in Atlanta, titled *Infrastructure by land, air and sea*.
- Invite Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta to lead a trade mission to Taiwan.
- Arrange business delegations from Taiwan to visit the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce to increase trade opportunities.
- Provide useful contact information of economic development officials and local business organizations in each location to boost future cooperation.

## Activities and highlights in 2013

On Sep 1st to 7th 2013, Youth Ambassadors comprising a group of six students along with one professor from Fu Jen Catholic University of Taipei visited Atlanta. They had the honor to meet with some government officials and visited their offices, including Fulton County Chairman Dr. John Eaves, Atlanta City Council member Alex Wan, and Mr. Noah Downer of Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed's Office.



During their visit to Atlanta City Hall, they so enjoyed the conversation with city officials to exchange ideas of enhancing the relationship between Taipei and Atlanta, such as expanding the working holidays program for young Taiwanese university students to experience American culture and way of life.

These Youth Ambassadors also visited Georgia State University and made a cultural presentation about Taiwan. They introduced the brief history of the Republic of China (Taiwan), a few popular tourism landmarks in Taipei, and last but not least, the authentic Taiwanese street food from the night market. The students from Georgia State University absolutely were excited about the presentation. Some even exchanged contact information with the Youth Ambassadors to make sure they have local free tour guide when they visit Taiwan.

## Highlights in 2013 continued

In order to learn more about the city of Atlanta, this delegation also spent a full day at CNN Center, the World of Coca Cola, and other cultural landmarks and attractions. The tour at CNN center was very informative, showing the Youth Ambassadors the intense hard work behind the scene. At the World of Coca Cola, they learned about the successful story of

one of the most name brands and had great fun test -drinking all different flavors of soda innovated by Coca Cola around the world.

Additionally, in November, Mayor's Office of International Affairs Director, Claire Angelle, visited Taipei as part of the 'Young Political Leaders Program'.



The 2013 Youth Ambassadors Taiwan ROC from Fu Jen Catholic University of Taipei was well received by Mr. Noah Downer of Mayor Kasim Reed's Office during their visit to Atlanta City Hall.



# Tbilisi

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

## Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1988  
Chair: John Hall ; Co Chair Nina Tickardze  
Web Site: [www.atscc.org](http://www.atscc.org)  
Contact: [ninat@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:ninat@hallboothsmith.com)



- Located in the South Caucasus.
- Population of 1.5 million (2012).
- Key Business Sectors: agricultural production. Significant oil and gas potential as well as other natural resources including manganese, iron, coal, copper, gold, granite, limestone, marble, mineral waters and dense forests that cover one third of the country.
- Doing business in Tbilisi- with the establishment of Free Industrial Zones in Georgia, there are new incentives and opportunities to produce and export goods with a minimal tax burden.

## Tbilisi Profile

Tbilisi (Georgian: თბილისი), is the capital and the largest city of Georgia. According to Georgian legends, it was founded in the 5th century by King Vakhtang Gorgasali who, while hunting, shot a pheasant which fell into a warm spring and was either boiled or healed. The king was inspired to found a city on the site, and the name of the city derives from the Georgian word tbili meaning "warm". Although the city has been destroyed and rebuilt some 29 times, the layout of the Old Town is largely intact with narrow alleys and big crooked houses built around courtyards.



The Georgian language is a member of the Kartvelian (South Caucasian) family of languages. It has its own alphabet, which is thought to have evolved about the 5th century.

Tbilisi has been home to people of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, though it is overwhelmingly Eastern Orthodox Christian. Notable tourist destinations include cathedrals like Sameba and Sioni, classical Freedom Square and Rustaveli Avenue, medieval Narikala Fortress, pseudo-Moorish Opera Theater, and the Georgian National Museum.

The Georgians are a proud people with an ancient culture. They have through the ages been noted as warriors as well as for their hospitality, love of life, lively

intelligence, sense of humour, and reputed longevity.

Sources: Wikipedia, Britannica. Photo provided by the City of Tbilisi.

## The Atlanta—Tbilisi link

The Atlanta-Tbilisi sister city committee was formed in 1988.

Since the beginning of the Atlanta-Tbilisi committee the two cities have since benefited from each other. Many students, lawyers, educators, doctors, and

politicians have come to Atlanta from Tbilisi for educational training and they left here with a wealth of knowledge and many new friends. Committee members have gone to Tbilisi and experience the culture and hospitality and the warmth of the

Georgian people. Many committee members still have long lasting relationships with the many people who have come to Atlanta from Tbilisi and we look forward to building new lasting relationships with the people of the country of Georgia and Tbilisi.

# Atlanta—Tbilisi activities

## Themes and objectives:

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee & Georgia to Georgia Foundation work together to seek out, facilitate and promote social, economic, humanitarian and cultural interaction between Atlanta, GA, USA & Tbilisi, Georgia.

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC) endeavors to build economic, legal, educational and humanitarian progress in Georgia. We believe, with efforts of our developing friendships between the two great countries, we can assist and further promote stability and economic growth within the country of Georgia.

The Georgia to Georgia Foundation (GA2GE) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. GA2GE is dedicated to following the philosophy of American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie "to do real and permanent good" in Georgia.

The Foundation seeks to assist humanitarian efforts, promote education and cultural exchange, encourage sustainable agriculture, and ensure that the country of Georgia has one of the most efficient, open, and productive climates for economic development in the region. By providing practical education to Georgian professionals and expanding the horizons of Georgian students through exchange programs and education, the foundation is building a brighter future for the development of Georgia.

## General activities

Activities this year have concentrated on promoting Georgian culture and traditions of Georgia.

EMORY UNIVERSITY, ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH - CELEBRATES GEORGIAN DAYS. January of 2014 Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health celebrated International week by introducing its students and guests to the country of Georgia. With the support of Honorary Consulate's office, Emory displayed beautiful traditional Georgian souvenirs, arts and crafts. Guests enjoyed Georgian traditional cuisine, Georgian wine and fun demonstration of Georgian cooking of traditional Cheese Bread, as well as presentation on Georgian alphabet and calligraphy.

2nd Annual GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, ATLANTA. ATSCC volunteering team of local Georgians organized and sponsored a display of the Annual Georgian Christmas Tree at the Fernbank Museum. Georgian ornaments decorating the tree represented cultural traditions and holiday crafts found through different regions in Georgia. The colorful dolls, flowers and hats displayed traditional regional textiles and dresses while the wooden instruments (panduri) represented musical traditions. Felt flowers and ornaments highlighted the holidays while showcasing the Georgian tradition of felt-making.



## Highlights in 2013

GEORGIAN DELEGATIONS IN ATLANTA OPEN WORLD PROGRAM, 2013. ATSCC together with GA2GE continues its long relationship with Open World Programs by hosting Georgian delegates from various cities in the country of Georgia in Atlanta. In 2013 we hosted two Georgian delegations in 2013 with the concentration on Rule of Law.



The delegates included: leaders of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association, leaders and managers of the Georgian Chamber of Control, head of Legal Administration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, judges from different regions of Georgia, prosecutors, attorneys and administrative personnel of Justice department; a total of 12 guests.

Schedules for the delegates were personalized based on their interests and experiences. Some of the most memorable meetings were with Judicial Qualifications Commission State of Georgia Jeff Davis, Director; Richard Hyde, Investigator; meeting with Greg Loughlin, Executive Director of Georgia Commission for Family Violence, tour of Fulton County Jail, The Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia, meetings with judges and hearings at the courts. Delegates also got a chance to visit local attractions, Coca Cola Museum, CNN center, and greatly enjoyed spending time with their host families.

Photos: Georgia delegates visit Atlanta



LETTERS TO CHILDREN IN KITSKI INSTITUTION. With the initiative and participation of local Georgian community members, Kitski Children's Institution was chosen to receive letters, gifts and books for Christmas 2013. The program seeks to connect Georgian children living in the USA with the children living in institutions in the country of Georgia. Children write letters to each other in their native language and share their experiences with each other. This summer several of children living in the USA will visit Kitski Institution and meet their new friends. We hope to build long lasting friendships and support groups for children in Georgian Institutions.

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# Toulouse

FRANCE

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## Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

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Date of Affiliation: 1974  
Chair: Betty Davis  
Web Site: [www.AtlantaToulouse.org](http://www.AtlantaToulouse.org) ; Facebook address: Atlanta Toulouse Sister City Committee  
Contact: [bettydavis@mindspring.com](mailto:bettydavis@mindspring.com)



Map: Country-France-Holidays

- Toulouse is France's fourth largest city.
- Population – 1.2 Million.
- Capitol of the Midi-Pyrénées Région.
- Capitol of Europe's aerospace industry.
- Major industries include Aeronautics, Space, Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology.
- Toulouse's world renowned university is one of the oldest in Europe (founded in 1229) and, with more than 119,000 students, is the third-largest university campus of France after Paris and Lyon.

## Toulouse Profile

Toulouse, known as La Ville Rosa, the Pink City, because of its red-brick architecture, is a popular tourist destination. As the gateway to the Pyrenées, it is close to a number of wonderful outdoor attractions. The city itself is full of character and charm.

Toulouse boasts dozens of museums and exhibits about the region's history and culture. Toulouse has two historic sites listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Toulouse is always working to improve its culture. In the last decade, the city has restored monuments dating back to the time of the Counts of Toulouse, refurbished the city's symphonic concert hall, built a city theater,

constructed the massive concert venue Zénith, the largest in France outside Paris, and more.

Culturally, Toulouse is home to the Galerie du Château d'eau, one of the oldest places dedicated to photography in the world and the Académie des

Jeux floraux, the oldest literary society of the Western World.

Toulouse's economy is growing as quickly as its population. Thriving aerospace and biotech industries fuel the economy.

The city hosts l'Oncopole de Toulouse, the largest cancer research center in Europe.

The city is also a major French university location, with four

universities and 16 quality institutes.



## The Atlanta—Toulouse link

Since 1974 the Atlanta Toulouse Sister Cities Committee has maintained an active and productive relationship with Toulouse, France. With a membership in Georgia of over 100, the Atlanta Toulouse Sister Cities Committee communicates with our corresponding

committee in Toulouse, and we maintain a focus on French culture. We host visitors from Toulouse who come to Atlanta for business or social purposes. We share activities with Alliance Francaise, the French American Chamber of Commerce-Atlanta,

and the French Heritage Society that promote French-American collaborations and expansion of interests.





# Atlanta—Toulouse activities

## Themes and objectives:

Our mission is to establish friendships and promote cultural understanding between the people of Toulouse and Atlanta. The Atlanta Toulouse Sister Cities Committee accomplishes its mission through citizens exchanges, and events with a focus on culture.



## General activities

2013 was a year of learning for ATSCC. Our members expanded their knowledge of the business and cultural recent developments and past history of France by attending France-Atlanta "Together Towards Innovation" activities in October and November, as well a series of lectures on French art at Oglethorpe University, French films, French dinners and wine tastings, and a French cooking class taught by Jeanne Castell-Kozik.



ATSCC Member John Lyons provided us with a dinner lecture on commonalities in the French and English languages in March

Photo left: Art lecture at wine tasting in February.

Photo below: ATSCC President Betty Davis with John Lyons at our annual Fete de Rois.

Mr. Lyons provided a well-researched lecture on English/French language commonalities.

Our members attended a French Community night at the Atlanta Symphony in May.



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## Highlights in 2013

We provided hospitality to a group of students from France who are enrolled in graduate studies at Georgia Tech: a dinner party at the home of Judy and Rick Fritz to get to know the students, and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant at the end of the semester before they returned to France.

This year the ATSCC aided a group of Atlanta school children planning a trip to France for the purpose of enhancing the students' knowledge and skills in the French language and culture. Believing that children who are exposed to other cultures are stimulated in ways that could benefit both cultures, we contributed funds to subsidize the cost of airline tickets for their trip.

On June 7, 2013, the students of Luther Judson Price Middle School, of Atlanta Public Schools, embarked upon a trip of a life time. Four students of the French language traveled to Nancy, France. Upon arrival, the American students met their French middle school colleagues of Collège de Haut Penoy face-to-face for the first time after communicating with them for nine months, by postal letters, emails, social media, and Skype.

A few days after the American students were

greeted by their French host families, they were warmly welcomed by the Honorable Mayor Stéphane Hablot and his cabinet at Vandœuvre-les-Nancy, France City Hall. The American students and their French colleagues, along with the principal, teachers, and parents from Collège de Haut Penoy, met face-to-face with the Honorable Mayor Hablot who informed all of the students that "Today is the beginning of a lasting international relationship between Nancy, France and Atlanta, Georgia. Students, we are counting upon you to lead us into the 21st century through technology and more importantly culture and language".

In May 2013 ATSCC members visited Georgia Tech University to hear Dr. Yves Bethelot, Vice Provost and President of Georgia Tech Lorraine France campus, give the history and goals of Georgia Tech's collaboration with Metz, France.



Photo above: ATSCC Program Chair Mark Long, ATSCC President Betty Davis, Dr. Yves Bethelot, and Segolene de Marolles, Communication and Marketing Director of the Alliance Franciase.

Photo opposite: ATSCC members at dinner with French students attending Georgia Tech.



## CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300  
TEL (404) 330-6100

KASIM REED  
MAYOR

February, 2014

Greetings:

With 18 sister cities throughout the world, Atlanta's international footprint keeps growing. Sister city partnerships indeed represent an incredible tool to promote peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian and economic development exchanges.

The friendships that Atlanta shares with these 18 cities worldwide has been particularly highlighted in 2013. I personally visited two of our sister cities while traveling to Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Montego Bay. On these occasions, I experienced first hand the driving force of which these powerful partnerships are capable.

Once again, 2014 will put our sister cities relations at the forefront of the city's international agenda as I will be leading two trade missions to Rio de Janeiro and Lagos. These trips present a great opening to introduce Atlanta-based companies to these important markets while connecting our colleagues and universities with companies and institutions there.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the many volunteers of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, chaired by Teri Simmons, and those of each individual committee who work tirelessly to ensure the success of these long-lasting connections.

Sincerely,

Kasim Reed