

# City of Lawrence Outside Agency Annual Report For Calendar Year 2017

**Reporting Period:** Calendar Year 2017

**Agency Name:** Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board

1. Refer to the program in which your agency received funding; provide a participant success story that helps demonstrate the accomplishments of the program.

The principal programs conducted by the Sister Cities Advisory Board in 2017 were the two student exchange trips to Hiratsuka, Japan, and Eutin, Germany, as well as the hosting of the student delegations and chaperones that visited Lawrence from these two sister cities. We sent 17 students and two chaperones from Lawrence schools to Japan in mid-summer and 7 students and one chaperone to Germany in June. Lawrence Sister Cities was host to a delegation of students from Hiratsuka at the end of July and a delegation of 12 students and a teacher from Eutin in September/October. The German student visit included the 500th participating student since our exchange began in 1990.

Additionally, Sister Cities honored the president of the Friends of Lawrence in Eutin, Martin Vollertsen and his wife Marion, at a reception held in Lawrence in October. Mr. Vollertsen plans to step down soon after directing the exchange activities in Eutin for some 10 years. He received a special proclamation from the City of Lawrence as well as a key to the City of Lawrence for his many accomplishments in promoting the relationship between our two cities.

Sister Cities also followed up on the request of G. Faye Watson, widow of former Lawrence City Manager Buford Watson, to take action to clean up and renovate the Japanese Friendship Garden adjacent to Watkins Museum. Faye had noted a general deterioration in the appearance of the Garden and the artwork in the Garden. Sister Cities worked with City agencies to make the necessary improvements and restore the Garden as an important example of international cooperation in downtown Lawrence.

As part of our ongoing effort to provide opportunities for Lawrence students, Sister Cities is exploring the possibility of sending a student exchange group to our third sister city, Ithaca, Greece, in the near future.

Sister Cities has also adopted a procedure for vetting chaperones for our student exchange groups.

One of our major goals is to provide adequate scholarship support for students wishing to participate in the exchanges who have demonstrable financial need. To the end, we instituted an International Trivia Night to be held each November to raise funds for our scholarship needs. We have also reached out to civic organizations such as Rotary for contributions to our scholarship.

In addition, the untimely death of board member Jon Josserand led to the establishment of a scholarship fund in his memory.

2. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide a brief narrative of the activities funded with City funds.

Sister Cities received \$8,000 in CY 2017 in support of the programs outlined above in section 1. Of that amount, \$4,000 was allocated as direct subsidies for the two student exchange trips to Hiratsuka and Eutin. Additionally, City funds were used in covering in part a number of other expenses during 2017: liability insurance amounted to \$800; background checks as part of the chaperone vetting program amounted to \$300; \$1700 was expended for office, printing, mailing, credit card use fees; \$1400 for membership development; dues for Lawrence's membership in Sister Cities International also amounted to \$800.

At the end of 2017, Lawrence Sister Cities approved some \$8,000 in scholarships for the 35 students planning to participate in the two exchange trips to Eutin and Hiratsuka in the summer of 2018.

City funds as well as funds generated by membership dues in Lawrence Sister Cities and scholarship contributions have all been part of the mix.

3. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide specific detail (use supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate what progress was made toward your proposed outcome.

See item 2 above.

4. Refer to the line-item budget provided in your 2017 application for funding; is this accurate to how you allocation was actually spent? If no, what changed and why?

See item 2 above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William D. Keel', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

William D. Keel, Chair  
Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board  
March 20, 2018