

500



MNPS and other students participate in international travel, hosting, and virtual exchanges

NEW FRIENDSHIPS

16

Delegates from Nashville travel to Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq to explore a new partnership and finalize sister city relations with our first partner in the Middle East

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

20

Magdeburg and Nashville celebrate 20 years of friendship through art exchanges and by welcoming a Magdeburg delegation to Nashville for the first time in over 10 years

2022-2023 ANNUAL BRIEFING

SISTER CITIES OF NASHVILLE

TRAVEL BUG

9

Official Delegation Visits took place this year, allowing hundreds of Nashvillians to experience our sister cities, meet new friends, or reunite with old both here at home as well as abroad

ACADEMIC AMBASSADORS

12

Educators represent SCN as official ambassadors to their schools, promoting SCN programming, welcoming international students to schools, and encouraging Nashville students to travel abroad

SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN EXCHANGES

Nashville area public and private schools participate in SCN programming

19

- Hume Fogg
- Hillwood
- Hillsboro
- Harpeth Hall
- Battle Ground Academy
- Ensworth
- Nashville School for the Arts
- Brentwood Academy
- Cane Ridge
- MLK
- Hunters Lane
- MBA
- USN
- Schwab Elementary
- Bellshire Elementary
- Antioch HS
- Montessori Academy
- Donelson Christian Academy
- Meigs Middle School

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

35

Hosted or supported events took place in our community this year, offering meaningful exchange and cultural experiences to anyone interested in citizen diplomacy

Sister Cities of Nashville plays a critical role not only in advancing cultural opportunity and international diplomacy in and for Nashville, but also in keeping our city a diverse, welcoming, inclusive place where people from every corner of the globe can find their own version of home. This year, in-person travel, hosting, and programming opportunities were abundant with an exchange happening almost once a month and an event or activity occurring weekly. From visiting Belfast & Tamworth musicians gracing iconic stages across our city to elementary students working alongside their international peers to tackle civic issues from their classrooms, we were able to provide creative ways for citizens to engage globally here at home as well as abroad.

SISTER CITIES OF NASHVILLE: MISSION

The mission of Sister Cities of Nashville, Inc. is to foster understanding among citizens of Nashville and other cultures of the world. It is an active volunteer organization connecting Nashvillians with friends around the world through cultural exchange and community partnership. The mission of the organization is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation — one individual, one community at a time.



SCN: ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION

1. Developing long-term global community partnerships that create opportunities for people to experience and explore each other's cultures;
2. Creating an environment that promotes an international perspective, an appreciation and celebration of the richness of the diversity of cultures in Nashville and the acceptance of all nationalities, religions and ethnic backgrounds;
3. Providing educational opportunities for communities to learn creatively, work and solve problems together through reciprocal arts and cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional, and technical exchanges of citizens and projects; and
4. Collaborating with other organizations with similar goals.

Through Sister Cities of Nashville, hundreds of global citizens get to see and experience Nashville and to meet Nashvillians, and Nashvillians of all ages and walks of life get the chance to visit foreign countries and experience their cultures. This promotes a better appreciation of who Americans really are and helps to overcome stereotypes and hostilities caused by policy disagreement between our nations. In this way, Sister Cities of Nashville helps to promote world peace.

SCN: A COLLABORATIVE ORGANIZATION

Sister Cities is committed to the collaborative process with other Nashville organizations and institutions:

- SCN has also worked closely with a number of community organizations including Metro Nashville Public Schools, Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation, the Nashville Bar Association, Alliance Française de Nashville, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the American Council on Germany, German American Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville, Japan America Society of Tennessee, the Consulate General of Japan in Nashville, Global Chamber, Girl Scouts, Oasis Center, Nashville International Center for Empowerment, Arts & Business Council, Tennessee World Affairs Council, Nashville Education, Community and Arts Television, Nashville Young Leaders Council, Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. George's Episcopal Church, and Nashville Oktoberfest. Also with Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University, many area private schools, the Tennessee Language Center, Metropolitan Nashville Public Library, Nashville Symphony, Cheekwood, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville Entrepreneur Center, Nashville Zoo and others.

SCN: HISTORY, ORGANIZATION

Sister Cities of Nashville, originally founded by the Mayor's office, was incorporated as a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation in December of 1990 by a group of dedicated volunteers. SCN is a mem-

bership organization led by a community Board of Directors with a paid Executive Director working in cooperation with the Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development. The Mayor of Nashville is the Honorary Chairman.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP

In 2023, SCN looks forward to celebrating a new sister city: Erbil, in the Kurdistan region of Iraq will officially become Nashville's 10th Sister. We encourage you to stay tuned for an exciting upcoming year as we celebrate this new adventure!

SCN NASHVILLE: INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION

Sister Cities of Nashville is a chapter of Sister Cities International which developed from a program begun in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower to promote international goodwill through citizen diplomacy. Originally housed as part of the National League of Cities, SCI became a separate nonprofit corporation in 1967 and is funded through a core grant from the U.S. Department of State.



Sister Cities sent delegations from Nashville to several cities this past year, including this group in Caen.

Sister Cities of Nashville Activities

A Roundup of Programming and Events in 2022-2023

JULY 2022

- SCN Celebrates Bastille Day

AUGUST 2022

- Academic Ambassadors meet to kick off a new year with 14 teachers at 12 schools county-wide and give educators toolkits promote our programs in their schools for the upcoming school year

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Kamakura committee hosts an 8th Anniversary celebration featuring Japanese food, friends, and a virtual visit from our friends in Kamakura
- Spanish language learners at MNPS schools begin virtual language and classroom exchanges with our partners in Mendoza, Argentina
- Official delegations visit Magdeburg and Caen for the first time since the pandemic. Plans are put in place for school exchanges to restart
- Tamworth committee holds happy hour and has a surprise virtual visit from friends Down Under



Justice Sharon Lee, former Mayor David Briley and SCN board member Carol McCoy were among those celebrating the 8th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Kamakura.

OCTOBER 2022

- SCN participates in annual Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival, sharing education opportunities and programming
- Magdeburg committees helps kick off Nashville Oktoberfest by sharing remarks from Magdeburg's new mayor
- SCN partners with Nashville Chamber of Commerce to welcome British Consul General and staff to Nashville

Sister Cities of Nashville Calendar of Events

- SCN staff presents to the St. George's Prime Time Speaker Series to share about Nashville's international partnerships

NOVEMBER 2022

- SCN Staff and Board members meet with MNPS's GATE Program to promote and begin a virtual cultural exchange with Edmonton classrooms
- Belfast committee hosts partners with Westminster Presbyterian for a discussion with Northern Irish Peacemaker and Community Arts Leader the Rev. Bill Shaw
- Magdeburg committee hosts happy hour to begin planning a visit from Magdeburg in the spring

DECEMBER 2022

- Metro Council members record and share personalized holiday and New Year greetings with each of our nine Sister Cities

JANUARY 2023

- Annual Membership Mixer is held at Noble's Kitchen and Beer Hall kicking off a very busy new year
- Taiyuan and Chengdu committees host a booth at the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville's annual Chinese New Year Festival at Centennial Park with a very popular kite-flying activity
- SCN hosts a Virtual Perfume Masterclass live from Paris as participants learn about the Immortelle scent and history
- The student exchange committee holds Chapter Orientation, training area teachers for upcoming international exchanges
- SCN partners with Nashville Chamber of Commerce to welcome Irish Ambassador to Nashville

FEBRUARY 2023

- SCN partners with Nashville Chamber of Commerce to welcome Canadian Consul General to Nashville
- An official Nashville Delegation travels to Mendoza, Argentina for the Vendimia Festival
- Student Ambassadors meet for the first time to learn about the cities they are visiting this summer



Rev. Bill Shaw from Belfast speaks at Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Mayor Jim Cooper meets with students from Bellshire Elementary Design Center who are participating in a virtual civics exchange with students in Edmonton.



Magdeburg Committee Chair Tom Elmlinger and committee members met at the Nashville Brewing Company to plan the 20th Anniversary of the relationship (above) after meeting with staff and Magdeburg officials in Germany earlier in the year (below).



Sister Cities of Nashville Calendar of Events

and to meet with Vanderbilt's Humphrey Fellows to learn more about what it is like to live and study abroad

MARCH 2023

- SCN and the Belfast committee welcome music students from South East Regional College and St. Mary's University as they study music business for several weeks in Nashville. The festivities include home hospitality dinners, tours, and meeting the Mayor
- Music City Irish Fest returns featuring music students from Belfast and SCN hosts a booth at annual two-day festival
- SCN celebrates Kurdish New Year, Newroz, and participates in public proclamation declaring Newroz as a Kurdish holiday and March as Kurdish History Month in Nashville



Participants in the delegation to Mendoza learned about Argentinian cuisine in a cooking class.

APRIL 2023

- 11 students and 2 chaperones arrive from Mendoza, Argentina for our annual student exchange, staying with local families and attending local schools
- SCN hosts 13th Annual World of Friendship fundraising gala at Tenn14 featuring 10 area ethnic restaurants
- Student Ambassadors traveling to Caen this summer meet to plan their weekend in Paris
- SCN hosts Cherry Blossom Walk and participates in Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival



The spring was a busy time with exchange groups from Belfast coming to learn about the music business and take part in the Music City Irish Festival, and a student group from Mendoza spending two-weeks here with host families.

Taiyuan and Chengdu committees hosted a booth at the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville's annual Chinese New Year Festival at Centennial Park that featured this dragon dance.



Sister Cities of Nashville Calendar of Events



Mayor John Cooper led the Sister City delegation to Erbil and was joined by former Mayor Bill Purcell and others.

MAY 2023

- SCN sends a delegation including Mayor John Cooper and Councilmembers to Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq to explore exchange opportunities and finalize a sister city partnership
- Magdeburg and Nashville celebrate 20 years of partnership by launching a photography exchange and welcoming a delegation to Nashville for the first time in over a decade
- Metro Council officially swears in 25 student ambassadors to represent Nashville abroad during summer exchanges
- Elementary and Middle school MNPS classrooms finish their virtual civics exchanges with Edmonton including presenting to civic leaders and even visiting the Mayor's offices



Sister Cities Erbil Chair Patsy Cottrel joins Mayor Cooper in presenting a Metro Nashville flag to Erbil Governor Omid Khoshnaw. Below are scenes from other events and gatherings in Erbil.



JUNE 2023

- SCN sends student delegations to Mendoza, Argentina and Caen, France for two-week long culturally immersive exchanges
- SCN Board of Directors votes to add Erbil as Nashville's 10th Sister City
- Local WPLN radio program "The is Nashville" features SCN during their lunchtime program, highlighting exchanges, new partnerships, and citizen diplomacy

CONNECTING NASHVILLE TO THE WORLD

Nashville's 9 Sister Cities Span the Globe

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland. The region's connection with Tennessee dates from the Scots-Irish settlement of the area in the 18th century to the diverse relationships and cultural ties that link Belfast and Nashville today. Nashville's partnership with Belfast focuses on social projects, educational, musical and cultural exchanges.

**BELFAST,
NORTHERN
IRELAND**



**EDMONTON,
CANADA**

Edmonton is the capital city of Alberta, Canada. Beginning as a fur trading post at the end of the 1700s, the city has grown into an economic, political and educational center. Known as Canada's "festival city," Edmonton hosts numerous international events throughout the year celebrating culture and the arts.



**MENDOZA,
ARGENTINA**

Located in the eastern foothills of the Andes Mountains, **Mendoza** was settled in 1561 by Pedro de Castillo. Two of the region's main industries are wine making and olive oil production. Mendoza has been designated as one of the top 10 historic destinations in the world.



**CAEN,
FRANCE**

Caen, the capital of Lower Normandy is located a few miles inland from the D-Day beaches. It was one of William the Conqueror's capitals and the departure point for his invasion of England. Caen was Nashville's first active sister city with the relationship originating even before it became an official sister city in 1991. Programs have included professional, educational, arts, music and sports exchanges.

Sister Cities
Of Nashville
Timeline



1985 Nashville and Caen Bar Associations have first exchange

1990 Sister Cities of Nashville formed

1990 First sister city treaty signed with Edmonton, Canada

1991 Sister Cities of Nashville incorporated and granted 501c3 status

1991 Treaty signed with Caen, France

1995 Treaty signed with Belfast, Northern Ireland

CONNECTING NASHVILLE TO THE WORLD

Nashville's 9 Sister Cities Span the Globe

 **MAGDEBURG, GERMANY**

Magdeburg is located along the Elbe River in northern Germany about 90 miles west of Berlin. The importance of this city extends from the middle ages through the Reformation to the present. Just to the east of the former inner-German border, Magdeburg is now the capital of Saxony-Anhalt.

 **CHENGDU, CHINA**

Chengdu is the capital of the Chinese province of Sichuan. It is one of the three most-populous cities in Western China and one of the most important economic, financial, commercial, cultural, transportation, and communication centers in Western China. It is also home to the renowned Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

 **KAMAKURA, JAPAN**

Approximately 30 miles south of Tokyo in the Kanagawa Prefecture, **Kamakura** is a popular tourist destination due to its scenic beaches and numerous temples, shrines and historic monuments. This small city was once the seat of the shogunate established by Minamoto no Yoritomo in 1192.

 **TAIYUAN, CHINA**

Taiyuan is the capital of Shanxi Province. A military town in ancient times, Taiyuan is now one of China's major industrial cities. The partnership builds on a long-standing regional partnership established between Tennessee and Shanxi Province in the 1980s.

 **TAMWORTH, AUSTRALIA**

Tamworth is a regional center for industry, commerce, education and tourism. Located in the state of New South Wales, Tamworth is 260 miles northwest of Sydney. It is best known as "The Country Music Capital of Australia," hosting an annual festival lasting 11 days.

2003 Treaty signed with Magdeburg, Germany

2007 Treaty signed with Taiyuan, China

2009 Treaty signed with Mendoza, Argentina

2013 Treaty signed with Tamworth, Australia

2014 Treaty signed with Kamakura, Japan

2020 Treaty signed with Chengdu, China

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(Nashville MTA & RTA)

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(International Scholarship
and Tuition Services Inc.)

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Layla Smallwood-Gabrielle
(Director of Student Exchanges)

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