

8

Music Events

Artists from our Sister Cities performed at – Music City Irish Fest, Music City Roots, Curb Event Center, Cherry Blossom Festival, Bluebird Cafe, Global Showcase at Hard Rock Cafe, Americana Music Festival, Sister Cities Jam at The George

12

Outbound adult and student exchanges to Sister Cities

1

Presidential address at Sister Cities Conference

2016-2017 ANNUAL BRIEFING SISTER CITIES OF NASHVILLE

54

Student Ambassadors and teachers from 16 schools

39

Youth Advisory Board members from 12 schools

1,250+

Students, classmates & family members involved in exchanges

25

Celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning with Caen, France

100+

Visiting Delegates from Sister Cities 8 international city partners

3

International Conferences Attended on 2 Continents

8 Areas for Adult Exchanges in 2016

Law, healthcare, higher education, creative industries, technology, culture, food & wine

6

Receptions & Celebrations Membership Appreciation Reception, SCN Music Industry Reception at Music City Irish Fest, SCN Reception for Belfast delegation, Student Ambassador Showcase, Americana Music Festival reception, World of Friendship

30,000+

Nashvillians reached at 3 Festival Events — Music City Irish Fest, Celebrate Nashville and Cherry Blossom Festival

# 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

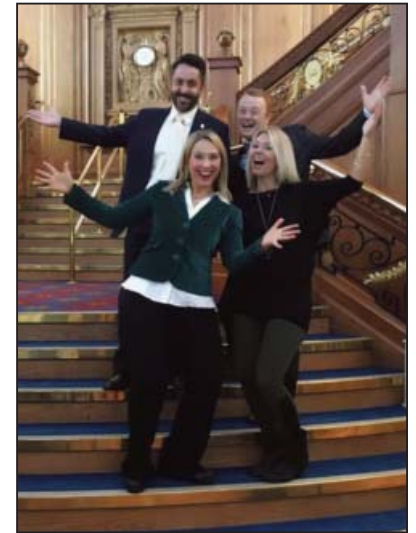
Sister Cities is committed to the collaborative process with other Nashville organizations and institutions:

- SCN has also worked closely with Metro Nashville Public Schools, Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation, the Nashville Bar Association, Alliance Francais, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the American Council on Germany, German-American Chamber of Commerce, the Ulster Project, U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association, Japan-America Society of Tennessee, the Consulate General of Japan in Nashville, Conexion Americas, Global Chamber and the Tennessee World Affairs Council.

Also with Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University, Watkins College of Art, Design and Film, many area private schools, the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, Metropolitan Nashville Public Library, Preston Taylor Ministries, Martha O'Bryan Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Nashville Ballet, 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 membership 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.



## 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 of Nashville Calendar of Events

### JULY 2016

- Reciprocal college internship exchange with Cane, France
- Sister Cities International Annual Conference and 60th Anniversary celebration in DC; SCN ED Heather Cunningham attends along with six Youth Advisory Board members who participated in the Youth Leadership Summit

### AUGUST 2016

- Student Ambassador Showcase – students present experiences/videos from the summer exchanges

### SEPTEMBER 2016

- SCN welcomes artists and music industry executives from Edmonton, Canada, and Tamworth, Australia, for the Americana Music Festival – SCN hosts reception
- SCN and Tamworth County Music Festival host free annual Sister Cities Jam at The Jones rooftop bar
- Tamworth artists perform at The Bluebird Café
- Nashville delegation visits Kamakura, Japan to commemorate Kamakura-Nashville Friendship Day



- SCN Youth Advisory Board meets with representatives from Tennessee World Affairs Council and Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

### OCTOBER 2016

- SCN exhibits at Celebrate Nashville
- First high school exchange to Belfast, Northern Ireland, during MNPS fall break
- Creative industries and higher education delegation visit to Belfast for Belfast Homecoming 2016
- Belfast/Nashville/Boston healthcare technology conference in Boston with Nashville healthcare professionals in attendance
- “Nashville Days” music festival launched in Magdeburg, Germany. Mayor Barry sends video greeting.
- Caen high school students visit Nashville on two-week exchange



# CONNECTING NASHVILLE TO THE WORLD

## Nashville's 8 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 treat 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 8 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.

**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 longstanding 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.

**1995** Treaty signed with Belfast, Northern Ireland

**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

# Sister Cities of Nashville Calendar of Events



- SCN member and Director of Tennessee China Network meets with city leaders in Taiyuan, China
- SCN board member presents at International Music Cities convention in Toronto

## NOVEMBER 2016

- SCN hosts World of Friendship annual fundraiser
- Nashville Metro Council members skype with Caen mayor and civic leaders to discuss results/thoughts about U.S. presidential election.
- More than 40 students and faculty from TSU and Belmont visit Kamakura and meet with Mayor Matsuo
- SCN Youth Advisory Board meets with Humphries Fel-



- lows from eight countries at Vanderbilt University
- Sister Cities International CEO Mary Kane visits Nashville and serves on panel with Mayor Barry at Global Action Summit.
  - Metro Council members meet Caen city officials at League of Cities in Pittsburgh.

## JANUARY 2017

- Delegation visit to Tamworth for Tamworth Country Music Festival
- Tamworth-Nashville Sister City Show on Jan. 25 at Tamworth Country Music Festival
- President of Nashville Bar Association participates as judge in Caen Bar Association annual competition
- Four Harpeth Hall students spend Winterim experience interning at Tamworth Regional Council for the Tamworth Country Music Festival; Three students intern with Belfast City Hall; Ten students and two teachers visit Kamakura during Winterim trip to Japan.



- Belfast Queens University administrators visit Nashville and meet with Vanderbilt University
- SCN Annual Membership Appreciation Reception

## FEBRUARY 2017

- Mendoza college students visit on business/entrepreneurial exchange with Belmont University
- Taiyuan high school students visit Nashville on one-week exchange
- Youth Advisory Board meets at Islamic Center

## MARCH 2017

- Nashville songwriters perform in Belfast for Belfast-Nashville Songwriters Showcase.
- Music City Irish Fest – 17 days of Irish events at various cultural venues in town

# Sister Cities of Nashville Calendar of Events



- Belfast Nashville Songwriters Showcase in Nashville – performances at Music City Roots and Bluebird Café; reception, performance and taping of songwriters at NECAT
- TenX9 and SCN partner to host Irish-themed storytelling event at Douglas Corner
- SCN hosts whiskey tasting and mini-golf tournament at First Tennessee Park.
- First Mendoza high school exchange to Nashville

## APRIL 2017

- First Belfast high school exchange visit to Nashville
- First visit from Belfast's Ulster University students for business/culture exchange
- Nashville Healthcare Council delegates visit Belfast on trade mission
- Kamakura delegation visits Nashville for Cherry Blossom Festival on April 8
- SCN co-hosts Annual Cherry Blossom Walk with Japan America Society of Tennessee; Mayor Barry leads walk with Consulate General of Japan
- SCN exhibits at Cherry Blossom Festival
- Magdeburg's former Vice Mayor visits Nashville to prepare for Nashville Days Festival to be held in September in Magdeburg
- Mendoza Mayor and delegation visits Nashville and participate in Music City Marathon April 29

## MAY 2017

- Belmont students spend Maymester in Mendoza

- Belfast delegation visits Nashville with focus on business and higher education
- Nashville delegation visits Chengdu and Taiyuan, China

## JUNE 2017

- Nashville high school Student Ambassadors travel to Caen and Paris on two-week educational exchange
- Nashville high school Student Ambassadors travel to Magdeburg and Berlin on two-week educational exchange
- Nashville high school Student Ambassadors travel to Mendoza on two-week educational exchange
- Nashville high school Student Ambassadors travel to Taiyuan and Beijing on two-week educational exchange
- Nashville high school Student Ambassadors travel to Tamworth and Sydney on two-week educational exchange



## FALL 2017 DELEGATION VISITS

### September

- Sister Cities delegation visits Magdeburg to commemorate 500th anniversary of Protestant Reformation and celebrate "Nashville Days" Festival
- Sister Cities/Nashville Bar exchange to Caen (not exclusive to Bar Association – all members welcome)
- Sister Cities welcomes official civic delegation from Tamworth, Australia
- Taiyuan delegation visits Nashville; commemorates 10th anniversary of twinning

### October

- Sister Cities delegation visits Belfast for Belfast Homecoming 2017

# SISTER CITIES 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Gail Vaughn Ashworth**, President  
(Wiseman Ashworth Law Group)

**Yuri Cunza**, Vice President, Community Affairs (Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)

**Paula Jennings**, Vice President, Programming and Student Exchanges (Community Volunteer)

**Marieta Velikova**, Secretary (Belmont University)

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**Fletcher Burton**  
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**Tracy Kane**  
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