

Sister Cities of Durham, NC

PO Box 767; Durham, NC 27702 www.sistercities-durham.com

Sister Cities of Durham



2024 Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony

5:30 – 7:00 pm, October 18, 2024

City Hall: Lobby and Council Chambers

5:30 – 6:00: Reception: Lobby. Welcome and Introductions Tom Harris, President

Special Guests: From Celaya, Mexico – Sarahi Varilla, Daniela Arteaga

Award Recipients: Joe Gary, Randy Griffin, Vivian Wan

6:00 – 7:00 Annual Meeting in Council Chambers Tom Harris, President

Election of New Board Members for 2024 - 2027 Tom Harris

Nominees: Susanna Ochala, 2nd Term

Zenani Fogg, Salma Rashid, Katie Vanhoy, 1st Term

Highlights of 2023 - 2024: State of the Organization Tom Harris

Financial Report

City Committees Reports

Youth Committee

Appreciation to Retiring Board Member Mark Goodwillie, Bd Member

Tom Harris

13th Annual Dorothy Borden SCD Volunteer Awards Chris Boyer, Chair, Awards Com.

Joe Gary, Randy Griffin, Vivian Wan

Message on Behalf of the Mayor and City Council Mark-Anthony Middleton, Mayor Pro Temp

Reports from Selected City and Board Committees

Arusha, Celaya, Durham UK, Toyama, Kunshan,

2024 Mayors Conference

Annual Fund Drive Mark Goodwillie

Closing Comments Tom Harris

We Thank Our Supporters and Partners

City of Durham	Durham Central Park	Durham Public Schools
Mexican Consulate, Raleigh	Glass Jug Beer Lab	Ponysaurus Brewery
Fullsteam Brewery	Bull City Burger and Brewery	Durham Distillery
Clouds Brewing	Emmy's Squared Pizza	Safari Eatz
La Superior Carniceria	Mr. Tokyo	
Center for the Global Learner, DTCC	Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum	

City Committees Annual Reports, 2023 – 2024

Arusha, Tanzania: For the second year, a student from Arusha achieved a winning placement in Young Artists and Authors Showcase, a Sister Cities International initiative for youth from around the world to express their creativity through producing an original work related to the year's theme.

Sponsored one youth to attend the Youth Leadership Summit, with youth from around the world.

They continued Kiswahili language and culture "coffee and conversation" gatherings.

They hosted the SCD table at the Durham Central Park Food Truck Rodeo in September,

The co-chairs served on a Sister Cities panel at the Diaspora Council for Council for Tanzanians in America in Texas.

Celaya, Mexico: for the third year, hosted students of the Universidad Latina de Mexico from Celaya in Queretaro in partnership with UNC School of Dentistry. Celaya continues to partner with the Consulate of Mexico in Raleigh.

Durham, United Kingdom: has new Co-Chairs who are working with a new contact person in Durham, UK.

They participated in the Durham UK Peace Project on MLK Day at the annual Book Harvest Festival where we invited children to make origami cranes to send to Durham UK to be part of an art installation.

Much of the Durham UK committee's activity this year was focused on preparing for the third annual "Two Durhams Beer Festival", June 14th at Durham Central Park. The event was very successful with a large crowd in attendance. The Festival featured four Durham breweries, a Durham based music group, and several food trucks. Plans are underway to possibly expand the beer festival in 2025.

Also for 2025, they are exploring a trip to Durham UK, and hosting the Castle Theatre troupe from Durham University..

Kavala, Greece: assisted with the Two Durham's Beer Festival in June 2024 with set and take down as well as working at the SCD tent during the event. We participated in the Food Truck Rodeo event also in 2024. We were disappointed that the two Greek students we met in Kavala in 2023 were not able to visit us in Durham in 2024. The new plan is for them to come to Durham in 2025. They are planning an event with St Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church to view the church art.

Sibiu, Romania is working on finding funding for the classical music festival, exploring student exchanges and has connected Duke hospital with Sibiu children's hospital. This has great potential for future exchanges.

Toyama, Japan: resumed hosting Toyama College of Foreign Languages students for studying English at DTCC and with host family homes. TCFL students taught paper crane making to DSA Middle School students for an exhibit in England. They held a virtual meeting with Toyama Division of International Affairs and Cultural Resources, and Toyama Cosmopolitan Association to discuss SC activities and their exchanges with other Sister Cities. And they submitted their Japanese Sister City "story of origin " for the SCI compilation of US-Japan cities origin stories.

Zhuzhou, China: was represented at the 5th Annual China-US Sister Cities Conference in China in Nov. 2023, and attended the 6th Annual China-US Sister Cities Conference in Tacoma WA in July 2024. They assisted with Durham's Holiday Parade by coordinating the Dragon dancing and Drum performance groups, assisted in building the Durham-Kunshan Sister City relationship, assisted with the Two Durham's Beer Festival in June. and coordinated the Chinese New Year gift of Spring Strolls from Zhuzhou to Durham and Club Blvd. Elementary School. Participated in the Mayor's Roundtable meeting, and worked with a local NC Chinese media to advertise among the Chinese American community about the YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM for USA Pavilion at World Expo 2025 in Japan

Kunshan, China, Friendship City: attended the 5th Annual Sister Cities Conference in Kunshan, Participated in the Sister Cities Mayor's Conference, and attended the 6th Annual US-China Sister Cities Summit, in Tacoma Washington. Also, they are exploring establishing summer camp options with Shandong American Youth in Beijing for the summer of 2025, developed relationships with two administration departments at Duke University, with the relationship with Duke, SCD, Kunshan, and Duke-Kunshan University, helped coordinate with Duke and Kunshan, a cultural exchange with 90 US students, mostly from Duke, coordinated with Mayor Williams a video message delivered at the cultural exchange, promoted the 2024 movie "Sight" with the Chinese-American Friendship Association of North Carolina (CAFA), about the true story of a young Chinese man and the extreme challenges he came to become a medical eye doctor, coordinated the planning of the Kunshan Mayor's visit to Durham in November 2024, and developed a photo

exchange between Durham and Kunshan.

Our Sister Cities of Durham Organization Annual Report, 2023 - 2024

At our January Planning Retreat, we met with new Mayor Williams to discuss ways to support SCD.

To advertise SCD, we partnered with Durham Central Park to have a SCD booth at each of their 4 Food Truck Rodeos, and we participated in the Durham Holiday Parade with most of our City Committees represented with flags/banners. The Oak trees in our Peace Grove at Durham Central Park, recognizing our Sister Cities, are growing well and we look forward to signage there to promote SCD.

Our Kunshan, China Friendship City applied to be a full Sister City, and that process will be completed in November

In addition, we are in discussions with people interested in having Monrovia, Liberia as a Sister City.

We celebrated our 35th Anniversary with a major celebration at Durham Arts Council, Oct. 11.

Sister Cities Awards:

The Dorothy Borden Annual Volunteer Award --To members with long term service to Sister Cities

This award honors our founding president and recognizes Sister Cities members who have provided significant leadership in Sister Cities programs for a number of years. Previous Recipients:

2012	Mavis Mayer	2013	Anne Berkley, Dorothy Osborn
2014	Richard Hill, Scott Hill	2015	Ann Evangelisto, Julia Williams-Davis
2016	Chris Boyer, Boyd Strain	2017	Gwenn Bookman, Dick White
2018	Margaret Neeley, Margaret Harrison	2019	Jim Force, Anthony Ntirugelegwa
2020	Linda Horstman, Nancy Proia	2021	Mark Goodwillie, Ronda Pierce
2022	Lusia Li, Eve Marion	2023	Brady Surles
2024	Joe Gary, Randy Griffin, Vivian Wan		

The Annual Sister Cities/Mayor's Awards for "Promoting International Understanding"

This is a partnership between Sister Cities and the Office of the Mayor of Durham. The purpose is to recognize both individuals and organizations (non-profits and businesses) in the Durham community who have made significant contributions in helping Durham citizens expand their understanding and awareness of Durham's international connections. An occasional award is presented to an international guest who has made similar contributions.

<u>2014 Recipients:</u>	Kathie Davidson, Riverside High School Latino Community Credit Union Susan Urakami, Toyama, Japan	Bill Ingram, Durham Tech Community College Sister Communities of San Ramon, Nicaragua Shuangyan Duan, Zhuzhou, China
<u>2015 Recipients:</u>	Star Sampson, Holt Elementary Language Academy Tatiana Podvetelnikova, Kostroma, Russia Rotary Clubs of Durham (Durham, North, Southwest, Sunrise), Rotary Club of Durham, England	Durham Children's Choir
<u>2016 Recipients:</u>	Lenora Helm Hammonds, North Carolina Central University Wendell Tabb, Hillside High School;	Durham Bulls Baseball Club
<u>2017 Recipients:</u>	Mayor Bill Bell;	American Dance Festival
<u>2018 Recipients:</u>	Dionne Jimenez, Githens Middle School Aaron Greenwald, Executive Director, Duke Performances The Bouncing Bulldog - Director Ray Frederick	
<u>2019 Recipients:</u>	Wib Gulley, Mayor, 1985-89 Harry Rodenhizer, Jr. Mayor, 1991-93, deceased Nick Tennyson, Mayor, 1997-2001	Chester Jenkins, Mayor, 1989-91, deceased Sylvia Kerckhoff, Mayor, 1993-97; Cane Creek Cloggers
<u>2020 Recipient:</u>	Heidi White, Director of International Student Services, Durham Technical Community College	
<u>2021 Recipients:</u>	Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor, 2017 – 2021 Center for the Global Learner, Durham Technical Community College	
<u>2022 Recipients:</u>	Ellen Holmes, Jordan High School; Durham Chamber of Commerce - Bryan Fox	Zweli's Restaurant - Leonardo and Zweli Williams
<u>2023 Recipients:</u>	John Demos; El Centro Hispanic Center	

We invite you to become a member of Sister Cities of Durham:

Family = \$35; Individual = \$20; Student = \$10; Business/Education = \$150; Life Time = \$300

-- Checks payable to Sister Cities of Durham; P. O. Box 767; Durham, NC 27702

-- Or online with PayPal: www.sistercities-durham.com

Board of Directors, 2023 - 2024, Honorary Chair, Mayor Leonardo Williams

Officers: President: Tom Harris Secretary: Nancy Cos
Vice President: Chris Boyer Treasurer: Min Shu

Members At Large: Gwenn Bookman, Mark Goodwillie, Susanna Ochala, Patricia Sheppard

City Committees, Chairs and Co-Chairs. Each City Committee also has one vote on the Board:

Arusha, Tanzania Ronda Pierce Ntirugelegwa; Gwenn Bookman

Celaya, Mexico: Elsa Jimenez

Durham, UK Eve Marion, Leslie Fischer

Kavala, Greece: Randy Griffin

Sibiu, Romania: Mitch Scurtu

Tilaran, Costa Rica: Melissa Perez

Toyama, Japan Chris Boyer

Zhuzhou, China Mark Goodwillie, Lusia Li

Life Time Director Dorothy Borden

City Council Liaison: Mark-Anthony Middleton, Mayor Pro Temp

Nominees to the Board of Directors for a 3 year term, 2024 – 2027

Zee Fogg, Salma Rashid, Katie Vanhoy
Susanna Ochala

For a first term of 3 years
For a second term of 3 years

Past Presidents of SCD:

Phail Wynn	Jim Sackett	Gary Shope	Tom Campbell	Joe Harvard
Dick White	Richard Hill	Brady Surles	Marianna Brier	Sarah Woodard
Bob Ashley	Sue Mathias		Gwenn Bookman	Eve Marion

Projects and Activities of Sister Cities of Durham through the years:

Student and Teacher Exchanges between Durham schools and our Sister Cities; Medical Projects with Toyama, Arusha; Hosting Local Government officials; Art and Music projects and exchanges; Library Programs for the Durham community with Durham County Library Partnering with Durham Central Park for International Festivals and the Peace Grove

Upcoming Giving Opportunities to Support Sister Cities of Durham

On Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2024, we invite you to support our youth programming. In 2025, we will kick off a renewed youth committee, welcome two young people from Kavala, Greece, send a student representative to the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Conference, and more. Our young people are our future and now is the time to invest in expanding their world.

On Sunday, December 15th look for your invitation to donate to our Annual Fund Campaign, "Take Flight with Sister Cities." In 2025, we have many exciting opportunities to welcome visitors here to Durham and for our members, city leaders, and people just like you to travel to our sister cities around the world. We rely on your generous donations to support our cultural exchanges, learning opportunities for the Durham community, and events celebrating Durham's embrace of our international connections and diversity. Plan to include Sister Cities of Durham in your year-end giving.

Ready to give now?

Mail Checks to: Sister Cities of Durham; PO Box 767; Durham, NC 27702

Or use PayPal on our web page: www.sistercities-durham.com

Financial Report: June 30, 2024 for Fiscal Year, July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024

Sister Cities of Durham, NC Inc

June 30, 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Arusha	1,974.36
Celaya	1,279.47
Durham UK	1,016.49
Gen Fund FH	15,972.57
Kavala	3,518.51
Kunshan	800.00
Kostroma Self Help Credit Union	2,863.52
MM First Horizon Reserve Account	5,161.76
Tilaran	1,596.04
Toyama	5,873.61
Zhuzhou	5,140.28
Triangle Community Foundation	100,882.65
Youth Scholarship- Self Help Credit Unio	3,571.46

Total Checking/Savings 149,650.72

Total Current Assets 149,650.72

TOTAL ASSETS 149,650.72

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Credit Cards

Chase Visa -42.10

Total Credit Cards -42.10

Total Current Liabilities -42.10

Total Liabilities -42.10

Equity

Opening Balance Equity 11,519.57

Perm. Restricted Net Assets 100,000.00

Unrestricted Net Assets 34,034.77

Net Income 4,138.48

Total Equity 149,692.82

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 149,650.72