



MARYLAND SISTER STATES PROGRAM

GET INVOLVED!

About the Program

The award-winning Maryland Sister States Program was established in 1980 to provide a forum for the promotion of international cooperation and understanding. Through broad-based citizen participation in a wide variety of exchanges in areas of mutual interest, the Sister States Program offers countless opportunities to develop partnerships around the world in:

- art
- business
- culture
- education
- transportation
- health care
- professional development
- film
- sports
- women's issues
- law, and more.



The Maryland Sister State Relationships

The Maryland Sister States Program currently includes ten relationships on five continents:

- Anhui Province, China 1980
- Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan 1981
- Nord-Pas de Calais, France 1981
- Gyeongsangnam-Do, Korea 1991
- Lodz Region, Poland 1993
- Leningrad Oblast/City of St. Petersburg, Russia 1993
- State of Jalisco, Mexico 1993
- Walloon Region, Belgium 1989
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 1999
- Bong & Maryland Counties, Liberia 2007

Sister State Relationships Making a Difference



- First-Ever Maryland Sister States International Film Festival, Towson University, Fall 2006.
- First-Ever 2007 Renewable Fuels Conference: A Maryland-Brazil Exchange, Spring 2007.
- Landscapes & Nature: A Maryland Art Collection celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Maryland-Kanagawa Japan Sister States Relationship tours Lowe House of Delegates Building, James Backus Gallery, and the Gladys Goldstein Gallery at UMUC, 2007.
- Anhui Education Subcommittee sponsors more than 11 libraries in rural China, 2005–2006.

- Best Practices Showcase Participant, Sister Cities International Annual Conference 2006 and 2007.
- Ten university & college presidents from Maryland attend the Maryland-China Presidents' Forum in Anhui, China, June 2006.
- Lodz Medical University and Johns Hopkins Medical School professional development exchange in Virology, Maternal Health and Public Health, July 2005 and September 2006.
- Leningrad Oblast municipal leaders met with the Maryland Municipal League, October 2006.
- Rio De Janeiro Committee Raises \$24,000 for the Graef Project during Volvo Ocean Race 2006.

Member of Sister Cities International

The Maryland Sister States Program is a member of Sister Cities International which is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. Headquartered in Washington, D. C., Sister Cities International and its organizational members strive to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development.



What We Can Offer You

A GROWING PUBLIC/ PRIVATE NETWORK: The Maryland Sister States Program relies on an extensive structure of representative volunteer committees for each sister state relationship and draws upon the expertise and experience of more than 200 individuals from educational institutions, businesses, and organizations across Maryland. These committees form a powerful network both at home and abroad for fostering public/private partnerships for both social and economic growth.



HIGH LEVEL ACCESS: Through the Office of the Secretary of State in the Governor's Executive Department, Sister State relationships give access to policy makers at the highest levels across the globe. The people to people contacts of the Maryland Sister States Program add a human dimension to governmental interaction and help to create friendly and receptive climate for continued development in today's highly competitive environment.

Get In On the Success

The Maryland Sisters States network is growing strong with passionate volunteers from across the State of Maryland interested in building their business relationships, engaging in cultural exchanges, and creating global educational initiatives. There are a number of ways that you can get involved:

✓ VOLUNTEER: You can lend support by providing a home stay experience for a visitor or manning the registration table at an international event. Opportunities are only limited by your desired level of involvement.

✓ HOST A DELEGATION OR EVENT: Sister State hospitality can be a simple potluck dinner at a committee member's home, or a grand fiesta at a major entertainment venue. Site visits to private industry and public sector facilities are welcome additions to most guests' itineraries as well.

✓ DONATE IN-KIND SERVICES: As valuable as financial contributions, in-kind donations can include anything from catering and printing services to meeting space and transportation.

✓ SPONSOR AN EXCHANGE: Tax deductible financial donations are vital to keeping these programs alive. Please make checks payable to the State of Maryland. Indicate on the memo line which specific program or event you would like to support.



UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

- **Maryland Sister States International Annual Film Festival** – Biennial, Towson University Center for Fine Arts, Fall 2008. Individual and Corporate Sponsorships Available.
- **Anhui Rural Libraries Project** – Ongoing. 11 libraries sponsored since 2005.

Visit www.marylandsos.gov for additional information and for a listing of the Maryland Sister States Board of Directors.

Contact Information

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MARYLAND

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