



**5-Year Plan of the Sister Cities Commission
2023 to 2028**

Submitted to the Red Wing City Council

December 28, 2022

Purpose:

The Sister Cities Commission promotes cultural exchange between cities of different nations to foster strengthened economics, world peace and a greater understanding of the world issues. The City of Red Wing has two official sister cities – Ikata, Japan and Quzhou, China. The Sister Cities Commission can have up to 15 members recommended by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The Sister Cities Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. We hold workshops in even months and meetings in odd months.

History of the Sister Cities Commission

The Sister Cities was founded in 1992, to promote cultural exchange between cities of different nations to foster strengthened economics, world peace, and a greater understanding of the world issues.

The City of Red Wing has two official sister cities – Ikata, Japan and Quzhou, China. Interest in a sister city started in the late 1980s. The idea did not take off until 1992. In March 1992 there was a reuniting of World War II Doolittle Raider Commanders who crash landed in China after a raid on Japan, and the Chinese farmers who had rescued them from Japanese soldiers. This event was brought to Red Wing by Wacouta artist and explorer, Bryan Moon. At a luncheon address during this event, Mayor Romeo Cyr suggested the possibility of a friendship connection with a city in the area of China that the rescue had occurred. At the August 10, 1992, city council meeting Mayor Romeo Cyr requested that the City Join Sister Cities International. At that point two delegates had contacted him from China and Norway to establish a relationship. The Council approved joining Sister Cities International and forming a Sister Cities Commission. Sister Cities International was formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The first reading of the ordinance creating the Sister Cities Commission was at the October 13, 1992, City Council meeting. Ordinance No. 137 was approved at the October 26, 1992, City Council Meeting. In December, fifteen community members were chosen by Mayor Romeo Cyr to be the first Commissioners of the Sister Cities Commission. The current Commission is also made up of fifteen members.

The first meeting of the Commission was held in 1993. Red Wings two sister Cities Ikata, Japan and Quzhou, China. The Partnership with Quzhou was formed in 1993 and the partnership with Ikata was formed in 1995. Mayor Nakamota from Ikata, Japan had been to Red Wing in order to assess Red Wing as a city in which his community wanted to establish an international connection. The reason that Mayor Nakamota was interested in Red Wing was that Ikata had a nuclear power plant that already had an exchange program in place with Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant in Red Wing. Mayor Nakamota liked Red Wing so along with NSP approached the Sister City Commission and asked to be considered as a Sister City. Official agreements between the two cities were signed in Red Wing on August 8, 1995

Definitions for the 5-Year Plan

Strategy: An overarching role or responsibility the board/commission does as part of its work.

Action: A specific action, activity, or priority the board/commission will accomplish.

Year: The year or years of a specific initiative. *Ongoing* means the action is continuous and not limited to a particular year.

Budget: The range of dollars an action is expected to cost.

0 = No dollars

\$ = \$1 to \$999

\$\$ = \$1,000 to \$3,000

\$\$\$ = \$3,001 to \$5,000

\$\$\$\$ = \$5,001 or more (a dollar amount will be noted if higher than \$7,000)

Staff Time: The estimated staff liaison time an action is estimated to take.

None = No additional time

Small = 5 hours or less

Medium = 6 to 15 hours

Large = More than 15 hours

Equity: How the board/commission will consider the input and experiences of all in Red Wing.

1 = The group will **collect input or feedback from more people** so a wider variety of ideas and thoughts are considered. This may involve using surveys, gathering input at public meetings, hosting events, attending community groups to learn, etc. This may include partnering with organizations, community members, and/or boards and commissions.

2 = The group will **increase its promotion or publicity in a wider variety of places** to reach more people in the community. This may include translating materials into Spanish.

3 = The group will **utilize data that identifies different population groups and how people are experiencing aspects of life** so that information can be considered during decision-making.

4 = The group will **lead or collaborate on an event or project that acknowledges history and/or provides representation or voice** to one or more identified groups*.

5 = The group will recommend to Council **a policy or practice that will improve the lives of more people.**

** "More people" or "identified groups" refers to those who are often under-represented or not focused on due to their age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance, and/or limited English proficiency. (These groups are identified by state and federal governments and are also included in the City of Red Wing's required Title VI Plan, approved by City Council on September 12, 2022.)*

Strategic Plan: This designates where the board/commission's actions fit with the goals of the City's 10-Year Strategic Plan.

2040 Plan: This designates where the board/commission's actions fit with the goals of the Red Wing 2040 Community Plan.

Sister Cities Commission 2023-2028

Strategies	Actions	Year	Budget	Staff Time	Equity	Strategic Plan	2040 Plan
Create opportunities for community involvement in the Sister Cities Commission and Sister Cities International activities.	Promote and expand participation in the YAAS (Young Artists and Authors Showcase) Competition for Sister Cities International	Annually	\$	Small	2	45, 67	10.B
	Recognize local participants and winners of the YAAS competition through a public visual display, via social media pages, and submitting local winners to the International Sister Cities competition.	Annually	\$	Small	2,4	45, 67	10.B
	Host or collaborate on public events to recognize various cultural events, such as a Lunar New Year Celebration.	Ongoing	\$	Small	2,4	45	12.D.2
	Participate in the annual River City Days Parade	Annually	\$	Small	2,4	66	12.D
	Host Lion Dancers performances within the community in conjunction with other celebrations or events.	Ongoing	\$\$	Small	2, 4	58	12.D.2
Celebrate and recognize our relationship with our Sister Cities in Ikata, Japan and Quzhou, China.	Promote the student exchange program with Ikata, Japan, within the school district, make classroom presentations on the program, reach out to age-appropriate students to ensure they are aware this opportunity exists. Ensure that ALL students can apply for this experience.	Annually	\$\$\$\$	Med-Large	1, 2	58, 44, 67	14.C.3, 12.D.2
	Participate in welcome and/or send off events for any Chinese or Japanese artist that has a residency at the Anderson Center.	Ongoing	\$	None-Small	2, 4	45, 58	10.B, 12.D.2
	Assist the Anderson Center with their celebration of 20 Years of the Artist Exchange program in 2023	2023	\$-\$\$	Small	2, 4	45, 58	10.B, 12.D.2
	Look at additions that could be made to Red Wing Area Parks to symbolize our Sister City relationships.	Ongoing	\$-\$\$\$	Small	1, 2	42, 44	10.B
	Look for ways to display or utilize	Ongoing	\$	Small	2,4	58, 44	10.B

	the gifts we have received from our Sister Cities over the years.						
	Send out Lunar New Year wishes to Quzhou, China from the Council and the Commission	Annually	\$	None-Small	2	60	14.C.3
	Send out Holiday Greetings to Ikata, Japan from the Council and the Commission	Annually	\$	None-Small	2	60	14.C.3
Collaborate with various groups, the City of Red Wing, and other boards and commissions on Sister City related activities	Continue to work with ISD #256 on revising and improving the current teacher exchange program with Quzhou, China and host a teacher in alternating years.	2023 and Ongoing	\$\$	Small-Med	1, 2, 4	58, 63	14.C.3
	Collaborate with City entities and businesses to assemble a diverse adult delegation to visit Quzhou, China or Ikata, Japan.	2024-2028	\$	Medium-Large	2, 4	66	12.B
	Offer an invitation to our Sister Cities to bring an adult delegation to Red Wing for a visit. Plan and coordinate events while they are in Red Wing.	2024-2028	\$\$-\$	Large	2, 4	66	12.B
	Collaborate and advocate for more culturally diverse programming through programs at the Sheldon Theatre, Red Wing Arts, Art Reach, etc., specifically more programming related to the cultures of our sister cities.	Ongoing	\$	Small	4,2	58	10.C, 12.D.2, 14.C
	Put together framework to send a Red Wing teacher to Quzhou, China as an exchange teacher in alternating years.	2023-2024	\$\$	Small2	1, 2, 3	44, 63	14.C.3