CITY OF MADISON Sister Cities Grant Program Application for Base Level Funding for 2006 Due: Monday, February 13, 2006

 Name of Sister City Organization: Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc. (MVSC)

 Contact Person: Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius
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 Address: PO Box 55034, Madison, WI 53705
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 Is your organization: Incorporated under Chapter 181 of Wisconsin Statutes? X Yes
 No

Is your organization: Incorporated under Chapter 181 of Wisconsin Statutes? X Yes Approved under Section 501(c)(3) of IRS Code? X Yes If Yes, EIN: <u>39-0912928 / ES35034</u> No

1. Briefly describe the history and purpose of your organization:

Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc. (MVSC) is a non-profit organization run solely by volunteers. It was created in 1987 (when Lithuania was still under Soviet occupation) to promote friendship between the people of Madison and those of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The two cities share similarities as they are both seats of government, are home to at least one major university, and are both urban areas surrounded by agricultural land. Before Lithuania's independence in 1991, MVSC played a role in introducing the western world to that country's inhabitants by hosting several delegations from Vilnius. Since 1991, with political restraints no longer in play, the exploration and exchange of each other's culture, education, and commerce have blossomed and these areas have become an important part of MVSC's mission. Although Lithuania has been an independent nation for fifteen years, it continues to experience economic and societal difficulties, some of which MVSC addresses with small but important contributions on a person-to-person level, thus elevating our mission to include humanitarian efforts. MVSC has sponsored significant exchanges with Lithuania in the scholastic, medical, governmental, and cultural fields. We are committed to supporting the youth of Vilnius on a humanitarian and educational level and continue our efforts to acquaint the citizens of Madison with the culture of their counterparts in Vilnius by hosting a number of free local events, such as concerts and art exhibits.

2. Briefly list and describe your organization's goals and objectives for the year. Include any significant activities and events that are planned.

MVSC's objectives for the coming year include continuing to provide monetary support for humanitarian efforts in Vilnius (specifically those concerning children), organizing book drives to supplement Vilnius libraries, working with organizers of the World Dairy Expo to open this event to agriculturalists from Lithuania, and continuing to enrich the people of Madison by offering free Lithuanian cultural opportunities. This year MVSC hopes to broaden its membership and sponsor additional fundraisers.

Application continued on following page

This application must accompany a completed Annual Report for 2005 and be submitted by <u>Monday, February 13, 2006</u> to: Mayor's Office, Room 403, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Madison, W1 53703-3345 or send via e-mail to llewis@cityofmadison.com **Note: City base level funding may not be used for staff salaries or for the purpose of supporting travel costs for Madison members of a Sister City organization.** MVSC's goals for 2006 include:

•Financially support "Saulute", an orphanage in Vilnius and "Vaiku Vartai", an organization that helps at-risk youth in Lithuania's capital city;

•Sponsor a delegation of Lithuanian agriculturalists to attend Madison's World Dairy Expo;

•Collect books written in the English language for adolescents and donate them to Vilnius libraries;

•Expose the public to Lithuanian art and history through an exhibit during the month of February, 2006 at the central branch of Madison's Public Library, 2nd floor gallery;

•Present a Lithuanian Independence Day (Feb. 16) program for members of MVSC and the general public with a reception to include traditional Lithuanian delicacies;

•Organize and produce free performances in Madison of Lithuanian musical groups as they become available, coordinating with the larger Lithuanian community in Chicago;

•Actively participate in Madison's 150th Celebration by hosting an informational table on MVSC and Lithuania, April 9, 2006, at Monona Terrace;

•Continue to support "Zaibas", Lithuanian Dancers of Madison, which provides a unique addition to Madison's "International Folk Fair", "Celebrate Madison", and in March of 2006, the "Folk Ball Festival" at the Wisconsin Union where a free educational workshop will be offered;

•Produce and distribute *The Lithuanian Connection*, a quarterly newsletter for the membership of MVSC and the community-at-large;

•Hold our annual banquet in June of 2006, serving as the year's largest fundraiser and a means to communicate and socialize with MVSC's membership;

•Maintain open communication with Madison's other sister cities.

3. What is the approximate size of your 2006 annual budget? \$ 3

\$ <u>3,500.</u>

4. Proposed budget for 2006 base level funding (equal share = \$500.00):

Budget Category	City Request		Explanation (if needed)
Program Supplies, Postage, Printing	\$	230.00	Costs incurred for production and distribution of quarterly newsletter
Equipment Rental	\$	N/A	
Donation to Vilnius orphanage, "Saulute" (Sunlight)	\$	100.00	
Donation to Vilnius' "Vaiku Vartai" (Child's Gate to Learning)	\$	100.00	Organization that assists at-risk youth
Annual banquet and LT Independence Day program	\$	70.00	Offset costs of these fund-raising events
TOTAL	\$	500.00	

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