

CITY OF MADISON
Sister Cities Grant Program
Application for Base Level Funding for 2007
Due: Monday, February 5, 2007

Name of Sister City Organization: Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc. (MVSC)
Contact Person: Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius Phone: 608-260-8971
Address: PO Box 55034, Madison, WI 53705

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

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. Its core membership is approximately 120 and is led by a 12-person board of directors that meets monthly from September through June.

MVSC was created in 1987 (when Lithuania was still under Soviet occupation) to promote friendship and understanding 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 over 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 goals and objectives continue to grow and evolve. In addition to the specific activities listed below, this year we plan to expand our membership through broader means of communication (electronic) and to seek additional financial resources to help fund our projects.

MVSC significant activities for 2007:

- MVSC will sponsor events that bring Lithuanian culture to the Madison community at-large. In particular:
 - Arrange an exhibit of professional Vilnius artists' work in Madison. This exhibit is now being shown in Appleton, WI ("Artists of Old Town") until the end of February. MVSC will find local gallery space and host these artists when they travel to the US later this

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year (more on this project appears in the Application for Annual Grant Funding portion of this document);

- Create an exhibit of Lithuanian textiles and weaving at the central branch of Madison’s Public Library, 2nd floor gallery to be shown during the month of February. The exhibit is entitled “Lithuanian Textiles, Past and Present” and includes many samples of woven folk art as well as traditional national costumes;
 - Host a presentation of an illustrated talk ‘Landscapes of Lithuanian Independence’ by UW graduate student Mary Wasilewski on February 22 at the main branch of Madison’s Public Library to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day;
 - Present and host Professor Giedrius Subacius of the University of Illinois at the MVSC annual banquet on March 30 at Tripp Commons. Professor Subacius is a noted linguist and the author of “*Upton Sinclair: The Lithuanian Jungle*”, which he will address as speaker at our banquet. The book targets Sinclair’s motives for choosing Lithuanian characters, his sources and his work methods in “field-research” conditions in Chicago. Some real-life individuals—Lithuanian *name-donors* for the protagonists of the world famous classic book, *The Jungle*—are presented in this volume.
- We will continue to financially support “Zaibas”, Lithuanian Dancers of Madison in order to present that facet of Lithuanian culture to the American community;
 - We will continue to publish and distribute *The Lithuanian Connection*, a quarterly newsletter for the membership of MVSC and the community-at-large. This year we will offer recipients of the newsletter the option of an electronic method of distribution thus saving on the expense of printing and postage;
 - MVSC will enhance and continue to maintain the MVSC website, www.madisonvilnius.org
 - MVSC will continue to provide monetary support for humanitarian efforts in Vilnius (specifically those concerning children);
 - We will continue the book drive initiative established in 2006 to supplement Vilnius libraries with not only children’s books but also ‘hard to come by’ American English language books for adults;
 - Having laid the groundwork in 2006, MVSC will continue the project of sponsoring and hosting agriculturalists from Lithuania to attend the 2007 World Dairy Expo in Madison, exposing these participants to the newest technology in their field;

3. What is the approximate size of your 2007 annual budget? \$2500.00_____

4. Proposed budget for 2007 base level funding (equal share = \$500.00):

Budget Category	City Request	Explanation (if needed)
Program Supplies, Postage, Printing	\$200	Costs incurred for production and distribution of quarterly newsletter
Equipment Rental	\$N/A	
Vilnius library book drive	\$100	shipping
Donation to Vilnius’ “Vaiku Vartai” (Child’s Gate to Learning)	\$100	Organization that assists at-risk youth
Textile exhibit Madison Library	\$100	Framing and supplies
TOTAL	\$ 500.00	

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