



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Approved SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Monday, September 13, 2021

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

**Excused:** 2 - Carolyn A. Gantner and Nasra Wehelie

Meeting called to order by Chair Charles James at 5:33PM.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Carranza, to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2021 Sister City Collaboration Committee Meeting. The motion was passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1 [66639](#) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

James mentioned that the UW Retiree Association's virtual meeting is to take place on October 26, 2021. They have invited members of SCCC to talk about our committee and the history of Madison's sister cities. Oyama-Miller, Alfano, James, and Sister City Collaboration Committee staff member Laila D'Costa have agreed to participate in the event.

James also mentioned that Dakar, Senegal expressed interest in becoming a Madison sister city.

Oyama-Miller asked if there has been any discussion regarding the number of cities that Madison can twin, in terms of financial support from the City.

Committee staff member D'Costa stated that according to the resolution which established Madison's sister city program, there is no limit on the number of cities that Madison can accept. However, there is a deficit in the room tax fund from which our sister cities' funding is generated, so no increase in funding can be promised.

## REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2      [67312](#)      Sister City Program Reports - September, 2021

**Obihiro:** Oyama-Miller received a letter from Obihiro's mayor congratulating her on the commendation, which is a worldwide nomination process. 170 people in the US were nominated. COVID restricts any in person celebration at this time.

She also mentioned that the celebration of the Madison-Obihiro Sister City's 25th anniversary will be postponed until 2022. She concluded with a mention that any virtual meetings are difficult because of the 14 hour time difference.

**Mantova:** Nothing to report

**Camagüey:** Heinrich et al are working on a fundraiser to bring COVID-19 supplies to Cuba, however this may not happen because of the current sanctions the US has placed against the country.

**Bahir Dar:** Desalegne mentioned the city's first ever bicycling event was held the previous weekend. She mentioned there is hope that this will be an annual event going forth. The UW is collaborating with Bahir Dar to further promote biking in the city.

**Tepatitlán:** Carranza mentioned the group has been in conversations with the Prepa (high school) in Tepatitlán to have a virtual class with students from East High School in Madison so students from both countries can learn about the First Nations history of their respective cities. A teacher from East High School has been in touch with the principal of the high school in Tepatitlán and they hope to have the joint class this semester.

The Mexican Government each year awards the Ohti Award, which means "path" in Nahuatl (the Aztec language) to recognize a citizen of Mexican descent for contributions to the Mexican Community abroad and for promoting the culture of Mexico. This year the Mexican Consulate in Milwaukee will present the award to Carranza at the Independence of Mexico Celebration at Breese Stevens Field on September 19th, 2021. Carranza is honored to receive this award.

**Vilnius:** Zemliauskas-Juozevicius mentioned that the Madison Vilnius Sister City (MVSC) annual banquet is set for May 21, 2022 at the Madison Club. Further details have yet to be determined but will be shared once they are. The MVSC group has been in contact with the Portal group in Vilnius to determine whether we can set up mutual "street scene" cameras. However, the 8-hour time difference is a concern.

**Kanifing:** The Madison-Kanifing Sister City family picnic was held on September 11, 2021. Committee staff member D'Costa was in attendance.

**Freiburg:** James began by mentioning that mosaics given to Madison by Freiburg had been removed to accommodate the renovation of the Madison Municipal Building. They have now been taken out of storage and placed by the City-County Building at the corner of Doty St. and MLK, Jr. Blvd.

More UW students are studying in Freiburg this semester.

James ended by mentioning he feels that more time should be spent getting the word out about sister city programs within the City to the Madison community.

**Arcatao:** (via email): Madison-Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP) is looking forward to participating in the Holiday Fair, scheduled for December 4, 2021 at Monona Terrace. MASCP are in touch with the Women's Embroidery Coop and other artisans in Arcatao for new items to display and sell at the event.

### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- 3      [66643](#)      Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities Events

Committee staff are continuing to plan with a tentative date of May 7, 2022 at Madison Area Technical College (MATC). The official work group, consisting of the three representatives from the European sister cities, (Alfano, James, and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) will look into the financial possibilities. Desalegne suggested that we consider having a livestream element at the event due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns.

- 4      [66999](#)      Establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Madison, Wisconsin in the United States and the City of Cusco, Peru in South America.

**Sponsors:**      Nasra Wehelie

**Attachments:**      [Cusco Peru Sister City Application 3- 2021.pdf](#)

Common Council meeting (1/4/22)

Per committee staff member D'Costa, the committee is waiting for more information and documentation from Cusco representatives.

James reported that the initial proposed draft resolution between Madison and Cusco may have changed due to requests by the city's governing body., The Cusco representatives in Madison as a result are in no hurry to go forth with the sister city application process as a result. Per committee staff member D'Costa, Cusco representative Vic Villacrez has not yet seen the proposed change(s) nor does he know if it has passed in the local Cusco governing body.

Oyama-Miller moved to refer the Cusco discussion to the committee's next meeting on October 4, 2021. Alfano seconded. The motion was passed by voice vote/other.

This Resolution was Re-refer to the SISTER CITY COLLABORATION  
COMMITTEE due back on 10/4/2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Deslegne, to adjourn. The  
motion was passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:15PM.