

CITY OF MADISON
SISTER CITY PROGRAM APPLICATION
(PLEASE USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)

Proposed Sister City: Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Sponsoring Madison Organization: Safe Roads To Health

Is your organization a 501©3: Yes No If yes EIN: 46-1449217

If No: **Fiscal Agent/Sponsor:**

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Founding Committee Members:

1. Daniel Abebe, Madison, WI
2. Ato Ayenew Belay, Mayor of Bahir Dar
3. Yimer Degu, Bahir Dar Ethiopia
4. Rahel Desalegne, Madison, WI
5. Robel Kebede, Madison, WI
6. Bereket Lulseged, Madison, WI
7. Jonathan Path, Madison, WI
8. Abenezzer Sahle, Madison, WI
9. Molla Teshome, Madison, WI
10. Dawit Zenebe, Madison, WI

Mission Statement:

The sister city initiative, guided by the spirit of friendship and cooperation between Madison and Bahir Dar, aims to advance the mutual interests, benefits, and aspirations of residents of both cities. The partnership between the two cities strengthens the more than a century old international relationship between the United States and Ethiopia, and the friendship between their people.

Specific Program Goals:

The proposed sister city agreement between Madison and Bahir Dar will work towards promoting the development of various programs in the areas; including, but not limited to

culture, education, public health, economic development, government, and sustainable environment.

Program Activities:

We outline the following activities to accomplish the specific program goals that the planned sister city agreement aims to achieve.

Culture: We will promote the development of programs that enable a greater understanding of both cultures for the peoples. We will encourage cooperation between cultural organizations and cultural actors from the two cities. This includes, among other things, invitation of performers to each other cities for a cultural show.

Education: Madison is home to one of the top public research universities in the United States – University of Wisconsin-Madison. Bahir Dar also hosts a university that bears its name, and it is one of the largest and oldest universities in Ethiopia. We plan to develop a student exchange program that allows students to attend a semester abroad. This creates opportunity to extend the Wisconsin Idea beyond the borders of the state to this East African city.

Public Health: This sister initiative will promote the exchange of sound health policies and best practices to build the capacity and effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs; including, but not limited to infectious disease control, maternal and infant health, and noncommunicable diseases.

Economic Development: This potential sister city agreement also focuses on the growth and development of business investment, trade, tourism, and public private partnerships. We will promote the collaboration, exchange of information, and joint ventures between the government agencies, local businesses, chambers of commerce, and entrepreneurs.

Government: We will also work towards achieving the collaboration and exchange of ideas between the two cities in areas of government operations; including, but not limited to urban planning, housing construction, infrastructure development, and public transport.

Sustainable Environment: Madison is home to several lakes. Bahir Dar also has the biggest lake in Ethiopia which is the source of the Blue Nile. We will promote programs that allow the exchange of best practices and environmental policies in lake conservation. We will also promote information sharing in the general areas of creating a sustainable environment, such as energy conservation and eliminating pollution. This

information may include issues pertaining to transportation, water use, environmental protection, and building green economy.

Projected Annual Budget:

The projected annual budget covers expenses for activities aimed to achieve short term goals that are part of the overall program activities.

No.	Item description	Amount	Unit Cost	Total
1	Travel Cost for Bahir Dar City Admin. Official (air ticket, accommodation, meal)	1	5,000	5,000
2	Travel Cost for Bahir Dar University Academic Staff (air ticket, accommodation, meal)	1	5,000	5,000
3	Travel Cost for Chamber of Commerce Representative (air ticket, accommodation, meal)	1	5,000	5,000
4	Organization Cost (Web design and 501(c) application)		1,000	1,000
5	Student Exchange (Sponsor UW students)	1	3,000	3,000
6	Miscellaneous		1,000	1,000
	Grand Total			20,000

Similarities between Madison and proposed Sister City:

Madison and Bahir Dar cities are both graced by the presence of fresh water lakes in their cities. Madison has four lakes while Bahir Dar owns only lake Tana. However, lake Tana’s surface area (1,200 sq.mi) is many times bigger than the largest lake in Madison, Lake Mendota (~16 sq.mi). Aquatic invasive species were very rare in lake Tana until recently. Water hyacinth is now expanding at an alarming rate becoming a threat to the lake. The experience of Madison city or Dane county in cleaning up nearby lakes will be a very important lesson that can be shared with Bahir Dar city in their cleaning up effort.

Madison and Bahir Dar are the capital cities of their States or regions - Wisconsin and Amhara, respectively. They are also home to big public universities that accommodate several thousand students. UW - Madison has an estimated 42, 000 students while Bahir Dar University has around 58,000. The UW-Madison and Bahir Dar have been fostering partnership for several years, that will enhance the sister city friendship between Bahir Dar and Madison.

The City of Bahir Dar was historically pedestrian and biking friendly city. With rapid urbanization and vehicle centered growth in the past decade, the city has lost its pedestrian and biking friendly environment. During the past two years the University of Wisconsin Madison Global Health Institute, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has been working in partnership with Bahir Dar University and the City of Bahir Dar to promote bike friendly Bahir Dar. The Bike Bahir Dar project that is piloting the first protected bike lanes on a 2 mile stretch of existing roadways connecting the city's commercial center, the regional government administrative office, and the two main Bahir Dar University (BDU) campuses was made possible with an incubator grant from UW Madison. As part of this projects we had the privilege and the opportunity to host the Mayor of the City of Bahir Dar Mayor Ayenew and our project collaborator from BDU Associate Professor Yimer. The mayor and regional leaders are committed to develop Bahir Dar into a model city for urban development by embracing multi-modal transport that includes bicycle and pedestrian transport.

Mayor Ayenew, was very impressed how the City of Madison transformed itself into a Platinum level bike city. The mayor is keenly interested to learn from the Madison experience and bring the bike culture back to Bahir Dar, and develop safer road network system for its residents.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/blog/?Id=14496>

Describe local organization in proposed Sister City: Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA). One of the core mission of ORDA is healthy community development and promoting the region's economic development and growth. As such ORDA is committed in supporting the sister city initiative between Madison and Bahir Dar.

<http://www.ordaethiopia.org/>

Comments:

Especial Thank you to Mayor Soglin, Alderman Samba for hosting Mayor Ayenew during his recent visit to Madison. The committee along with the Mayor Ayenew and leaders in Bahir Dar are looking forward to this historic opportunity to forge sisterhood relationship between these two great cities.

Authorized Signature:

Date: July 24, 2018

Sent via-email to mayor@cityofmadison.com