



# 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, March 6, 2023

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Salvador A. Carranza; Nasra Wehelie and Jennifer C. Johnson
- Excused:** 3 - Jon F. Heinrich; Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

Meeting called to order by Chair, James, at 5:33 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Gantner, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [70299](#) Public Comment

This Discussion Item was Refer to the SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE due back on 4/3/2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair James announced that a candidate recommended by Carranza and Alder Wehelie will be applying for the vacant position of Community Member on the SCC.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

2. [76453](#) Sister City Program Reports - March 2023

Tepatitlan - Carranza reported that a group of artists will leave for Tapa on March 11th to create a Mosaic on the Façade of the Elementary School where they had previously painted a Mural. They will be there for two weeks.

During their trip they will meet with the Mayor and Regents to discuss the possibility of identifying 6 businesses that can come to Madison to receive training by the Latino Chamber of Commerce on how to do business in

Wisconsin.

They will also continue conversations with our partner high school to send students from East High School to Tepa to explore postsecondary education opportunities at University of Guadalajara campuses as part of our reciprocity exchange agreement.

Mantova - Alfano reported that the Madison-Mantova Sister City Project has recently been discussing with their counterparts in Mantova the possibility of arranging a visiting delegation either from Mantova to Madison, or from Madison to Mantova.

Arcatao - Gantner reported that MASCP participated in the Latino Art Fair held 3 March at the Overture Center.

They were involved in outreach to the community and the sale of items from the Arcatao Women's Embroidery Co-op and other artisans.

On February 28, Gantner attended the interesting and informative report to the Common Council by the Mayor and others who were on the fall delegation to Kanifing.

The MASCP core group continues to meet on a monthly basis with occasional virtual communication with Arcatao.

The group's interviews for the Oral History Project will be released by the library system within the next few months for public viewing.

Plans are moving forward for a June 10-17 delegation to Arcatao, with more participants signing up.

MASCP is looking forward to participating again in the International Fair on April 1, along with other members of the SCCC.

Obihiro - Oyama-Miller reported that Madison-Obihiro did not meet this past month, but the following concerns and issues were discussed virtually among the committee and community:

Oyama-Miller attended the Emperor's Birthday celebration at the Consul General of Japan-Chicago office on Feb 17th.

Oyama-Miller has been in discussion with a person from the Madison Country Day School (middle school) who would like to organize and bring students from there to Obihiro in 2024. Jo has asked Obihiro City as well as Obihiro Koryu Committee to inquire if there is any interest among the middle schools to initiate such an activity. This activity would be in addition to past school exchanges with Nansho High School. More to come.

Obihiro City and the Obihiro Koryu Association are beginning to plan out proposed projects for 2023 and 2024 and will be in touch with MOCS.

A researcher from the Obihiro Potato Research Institute arrived in Madison on Feb 15th and will be doing joint/collaborative work with the UW-Dept. of Horticulture for one year. Jo has assisted this researcher to move into Eagle

Height Apartments. His wife will join him in May.

Cusco - Johnson reported that Victor Villacrez traveled to Cusco, December 28, 2023. He was invited to meet the new mayor, Luis Pantoja, who took over for Victor Boluarte on Jan 1st. They had a great conversation about the land fill initiative, other projects and cultural exchanges.

The Madison-Cusco group discussed the upcoming trip this June during the Inti Raymi 2023 festival, a traditional celebration that dates back to the Inca Empire

The group intends to bring six to seven tribal members of the Ho Chuk Nation to Cusco to sit with elders of the Quechua indigenous peoples of the Andes. This is a Cultural Restoration Exchange between the Condor and the Eagle intended to inspire the Ho Chuk elders by seeing the richness of traditional indigenous cultural in the modern Cusquean community.

The group went to Cusco to facilitate an agreement between the UW-Madison and the University of Andina Del Cusco.

The Madison Cusco Sister City Sister Alliance along with Mundo Esperanza is planning an Earth Day event at the Aldo Lepold Center. The theme will be: local and global sustainable initiatives, land healing, and cultural exchange along with some entertainment. They invite the other sister cities to attend and highlight any sustainable/environment projects. They have the Center reserved from 8am to 5pm. The program is still developing, there is a coordinating meeting Wednesday February 8th.

Johnson met with the Mayor of Madison and presented her and the City with two gifts, a book from the new mayor and the actual Quipo from the Into Raymi ceremony last June. The Inca gave it to the mayor, and he gave it to Vic Villacrez as a message of WORLD HOPE from the sun god. The Mayor talked about opening up the first 100 block of States street during farmers market to sister city vendors and native peoples to vend and recreate the "trade lines" that used to exist throughout the Americas. They are hoping to pursue this further in the months to come.

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities celebrated the anniversary of the restoration of independence of Lithuania. They also discussed with their counterparts in Vilnius the possibility of a delegation to or from Vilnius after the upcoming April Madison mayoral elections.

Freiburg - James reported that the Annual Meeting of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee would meet on Sunday, March 19, 2023, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Old Madison Room of Memorial Union on the UW-Madison campus. The representatives of the other nine sister cities are cordially invited to attend for free.

#### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [76455](#) Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities Event

There was discussion of doing an exhibition of photos from all ten sister cities,

to be displayed in the hallway of the Overture Center in early 2024, to coincide with the International Festival.

Gantner reported she met with the exhibit coordinator at the Overture Center to discuss the possibility of the exhibit. They agreed that the Overture Center's Rotunda Gallery would have fabulous visibility. The rotunda space would provide enough area for a few photos from each sister city that would like to participate in the exhibit. Guidelines and suggestions for content of photos and accompanying signage will be provided later on.

A reception would follow, perhaps in the Concourse Hotel. James, Gantner, and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius volunteered to serve as a committee to work out details such as how long the exhibit should be in place and how many images each sister would have. They will report back to the SCCC at its next meeting.

4. [76456](#) Farmers' Market

Gantner reported that she had obtained a permit from the Capitol Police for the SCCC to set up an information table on Saturdays during the Farmers Market from early June to late October. It would be located at location #12 at the end of the King Street exit of the Capitol across from the Col. Heg statue, and next to location #13, where the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee is planning to set up its table this coming summer.

5. [76454](#) Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Gantner moved, Carranza seconded, that Zemliauskas-Juozevicius should be confirmed as the next Chair of the SCCC. The motion carried unanimously.

Oyama-Miler moved, Jennifer seconded, that Heinrich should be elected as the next Vice Chair of the SCCC. The motion carried unanimously.

Former James then addressed the committee:

"Before I step down as Chair of the SCCC, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past five years. First to Jennifer, Lamin, and Rahel, representatives of our newest sister cities, welcome to the club! You haven't been here long, but you have already contributed a great deal to the city and to this committee. To Sal, whose good humor and collegiality I have always appreciated. To my three musketeers, Jo, Frank, and Carolyn, who have been here from the beginning and have guided me and the committee through many changes and new projects. To Jon, through whom I have learned so much about Cuba; I've been there twice and would enjoy going there again. And, of course, Daina, who as Vice Chair has been a valuable ally and confidant. She has introduced me to the Lithuanian community in ways that I hope the City of Madison appreciates.

Nasra, I don't want to forget you. You are the fourth member of the Madison Common Council to serve as our liaison to the Council. We are especially grateful for your support of our collective mission to make the City of Madison truly international.

Finally, I don't think any of us would be able to operate in a spirit of comradery and enthusiasm without Laila. You think you just set up our agenda and provide us with a ZOOM link every month, but you are the one we turn to when we need advice and feedback. I hope your boss down the hall knows how much you mean to us.

Thank you all very much! See you at our next meeting!"

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Carranza, to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.