



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

## Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

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Monday, September 25, 2017

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 120 (City County Building)

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair, Carolyn Gantner, at 5:35 PM.

**Present:** 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Samba Baldeh and Diane L. Farsetta

**Absent:** 2 - Salvador A. Carranza and Musa Jallow

### OTHERS PRESENT

Lori DiPrete Brown, UW Global Health Institute and Michael Ross, Executive Director, Madison Youth Choirs .

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 28, 2017 approved unanimously on a motion by Alfano, seconded by James. Daina requested that the minutes be amended to include the date of the Vilnius picnic that was held on September 16th.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

## REGULAR BUSINESS

[48957](#)

### Sister City Program Reports

**Arcatao** - El Salvador community organizers, Cintia Gonzalez and Zulma Tobar will be in Madison October 2 and 3 as guest of the Madison Arcatao Sister City Project. A number of events are planned that the public are invited to, including the following:

**October 2** - noon presentation in Ingram Hall on the UW campus sponsored by LACIS (Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program) and an evening panel discussion at the Madison Central Library with food and socializing from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

**October 3** - 5:00 PM dinner and 6:00 to 8:30 PM workshop at the Catholic Multicultural Center.

Cintia and Zulma will be interviewed on WORT and will participate in other activities during their stay in Madison.

**Mantova** - In September a delegation of 10 people travelled to Italy to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Madison-Mantova sister city program. The visit began with two days in Venice touring the Jewish ghetto, taking a gondola ride and seeing Rialto Bridge, San Marco and visiting several ancient churches. After Venice the group went to Verona to tour the arena, Juliet's house from Romeo and Juliet and the Ponte Pietra Bridge. The following day the group went to Mantova with an early morning visit to Mantova's weekly market followed by a meeting with city officials at city hall for a ceremony and lunch. Future programs including internships, student exchanges, and the Celebrate Madison Sister Cities event in 2018 were discussed at this meeting. After lunch the group toured the Ducal Palace, home of the noble Gonzaga family. The following day included a visit to the Palazzo Te and observing the start of the Gran Premio Nuvolari Road Race, a vintage European car rally. The visit concluded the following day with a tour of the town of Sabbioneta, like Montova, a UNESCO world heritage site.

**Obihiro** - This is the 11th year of the student exchange that has involved all four of Madison's public high schools. This year five Obihiro students participated. The two week program just finished and included home stays in Madison and a multi-day visit to Chicago.

**Kanifing** - September 16th networking and fundraising event at eastside Comfort Inn was well attended and featured guest speaker Dr. Baba Jallow, Professor at LaSalle University and former editor of two Gambian newspapers. The organization has obtained their nonprofit status. They are working with the Wisconsin Medical Project to have a shipping container of medical supplies sent to The Gambia by the end of the year.

**Ainara** - Although we were not able to get print recruitment materials for international students from UW-Madison, we shared appropriate web links with our contacts at the US Embassy in Dili, Timor-Leste. We are registered to

participate in the Fair Trade Holiday Festival, Saturday, December 2, 2017, where we sell traditional Timorese cloth and basket weavings.

Vilnius - During a just completed visit Daina reported that their organization provided a \$1000 donation to a Vilnius orphanage that is closing which is beneficial because the residents will be moving to better accommodations, apartments, which will greatly improve their life's and futures.

They will be hosting two neurosurgeons from Lithuania for extended visits and are seeking housing during their stay. Jo offered assistance and said she is aware of accommodations that may meet their needs.

Camaguey - Hurricane Irma did cause extensive damage in Camaguey Province. Ricardo Gonzalez is currently in Cuba and will return to Madison in early October with his assessment of how we can direct our relief efforts. In addition to fund raising, we are considering a shipping container of goods to help in rebuilding like we had done in the past. A special exemption from the U.S. Commerce Department would be needed as we are limited to only medical supplies in our license.

[48958](#)

Welcome Lori DiPrete Brown of UW Global Health Initiative to SCCC's at-large seat

Lori talked about her interest in serving as the at-large member of the SCCC. She has had involvement with several of our organizations in her position as Associate Director for Education and Engagement, UW-Madison Global Health Institute. She believes the Institute can be a resource for the group and mentioned their summer Quality Improvement in Health Care, a week-long seminar that's open to participants from our sister cities, as an example.

[48959](#)

Conversation with Michael Ross ~ Artistic/Executive Director, Madison Youth Choirs

Michael talked about his organization, provided handouts and informed us that Madison sister cities is the working theme for their programs this season.

[48960](#)

Cook Book Update

Jo summarized the email she recently provided reviewing the format and content that had previously been established and requested that everyone review their prior submissions and make the necessary adjustments. Jo also indicated that some photographs provided do not meet the minimum image quality standards (300 dpi) and need to be improved to be considered for inclusion. We agreed on an October 15 deadline for updating our contributions. We discussed the issue of uniformity, whether we should follow one format or allow for differences. We also discussed whether both metric and U.S. measurements should be included for all recipes.

Lori suggested the use of Box.com as a possible tool to assist in sharing and editing.

[48961](#)

Celebrate Madison Sister Cities event

We are focused on Madison College as the venue with a tentative date of April 14th next spring. Costs for the event, catering and room rental, are still under discussion. The working group is also planning on getting the Mayor's advice on a guest speaker. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Frank advised a discussion at the next meeting about our financial ability to proceed with this event and the cookbook.

[48962](#)

Immigration Statement

The edited statement that Carolyn provided was approved for posting on the Madison sister city web page on a motion by Frank and second by Daina. Diane wished to abstain from the vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

[48963](#)

Logistics for Display Case joint display during Nov., Dec. and Jan.

Jon and Charles volunteered to assist Carolyn in setting up the joint display. It was recognized that we needed to coordinate a transition date with Frank who has the case for October.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn approved unanimously on a motion by Alfano, seconded by James. Meeting adjourned at 6:50.