



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 8, 2021
From: Cecilia Achiam **File:** 01-0100-20-SCIT1
 General Manager, Community Safety
Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee 2020 Year in Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Sister City Advisory Committee 2020 Year in Review”, dated March 8, 2021, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam
General Manager, Community Safety
(604-276-4122)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond's Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) was established on February 11, 1974 (formerly the Sister City Twinning Committee) and fosters mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of Richmond citizens for their common benefit.

In accordance with the SCAC Terms of Reference, this report updates Council on work completed by the SCAC, in 2020, towards the 2019-2022 Activity Plan (Attachment 1) endorsed by Council on January 14, 2019.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.

3.2 Enhance arts and cultural programs and activities.

3.4 Celebrate Richmond's unique and diverse history and heritage.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.

4.1 Robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.

Background

The role and purpose of the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) is to provide advice to and assist Council with promoting the City's culture and values. The SCAC is also responsible for delivering the Sister City Program and pursuing the City's goal to establish and sustain cultural, educational and sustainable ties with approved Sister/Friendship Cities. Additionally, the SCAC will advise the City of any economic development, international trade and business opportunities presented to the Committee or its subcommittees arising from SCAC activities.

The City of Richmond has had a Sister City relationship with Pierrefonds, Quebec since 1967; Wakayama, Japan since 1973; and Xiamen, China since 2012. The City formed a Friendship City relationship with Qingdao, China in 2008.

Findings of Fact

Summary of 2020 Year in Review

In 2019, Council approved the Sister City Advisory Committee Four Year Activity Plan (2019-2022) which outlines the SCAC's work plan for that period. The 2020 SCAC Program Activity budget was \$60,000 and the Program Administration budget was \$11,000. The SCAC activities and events during 2020 are outlined in Attachment 2.

Some of the highlights from 2020 include:

- **Photo Exhibition, January** – In celebration of the rich history of the Sister City Program and the SCAC's 46th anniversary, from January 13 to January 21 a photo exhibit titled "Past Influencing Present" was displayed in Richmond City Hall.
- **Skyline Bookmark Series Presentation, February** – On February 18, 2020, Lisa MacNeil, Allen Chan and Helen Quan (SCAC members) presented Mayor Malcolm Brodie and members of Council with a gift showcasing the City Skyline bookmark series.
- **2nd Annual Book Club, June** – SCAC and the Richmond Public Library partnered for the second annual "One Book, Three Cities" book club. This event featured residents from Richmond, Qingdao and Xiamen who read "Dear Life" by Alice Munro and participated throughout the summer in an online discussion forum.
- **Wakayama Sister City booklet, August** – The SCAC responded to a request from Wakayama, who is compiling a Sister City booklet which introduces Wakayama's Sister Cities to the residents of Wakayama City. The booklet is scheduled to be published in May 2021.

All planned inbound and outbound travel events were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking ahead to 2021

Work is well underway for Sister City Program activities in 2021. Highlights for this year, include:

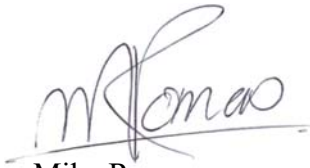
- Experimenting with virtual information exchanges:
 - City Staff info exchange on Sustainability & Climate Action;
 - Active Living info exchange on hockey & baseball; and
 - Virtual Student Exchange with Wakayama.
- Exploring Active Living and Connected Communities activities with other advisory bodies, Richmond Public Library, Richmond School Board & Gateway Theatre.
- Street Banner photo contest in Pierrefonds for 2022/23 City of Richmond Street Banner to recognize the 55th anniversary of Sister City relationship with Pierrefonds.
- Continuation of summer reading book club with One Book, up to FIVE Cities Book Club.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The SCAC 2019-2022 Four Year Activity Plan provides a structure to deliver events and activities to further strengthen the existing sister and friendship city relationships. Although, the COVID-19 pandemic caused disruption to the 2020 SCAC Activity Plan, momentum was not lost. Planned activities have shifted from in-person to virtual and new opportunities have been discovered for 2021 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Romas", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mike Romas
Manager, People Development
(604-276-4081)

MR:mr

- Att. 1: SCAC 4 Year Activity Plan (2019-2022)
- 2: SCAC Year in Review (2020)



Sister City Advisory Committee

Four Year Activity Plan Proposal

2019 - 2022

Update to Mayor & Council on plans for 2021 & 2022

2021 Sister City Advisory Committee Members:

Chair

Lisa MacNeil

Vice-Chairs

Allen Chan

Glenn Kishi

Helen Quan

Melissa Zhang

Members

Charan Gill

Joan Page

Karen Shigeno

Nick Sturtevant

School Board

Ken Hamaguchi

Heather Larson

Polly Tang

Sue Tian

Jenny Zhang

Victor Zhuo

Activity Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022
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Annual Base Program Activities (Visit)

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Education	Wakayama	Wakayama	Wakayama (Virtual)	Wakayama
		Pierrefonds (Pilet)		Pierrefonds
Sports	Steveston Judo Club	Xiamen Youth Rugby	Virtual - Hockey	Xiamen Youth Rugby
	Table Tennis	Steveston Kendo Club	Virtual - Baseball	TBC

Outbound Activity

Annual Base Program Activities (Non-Visit)

Annual "state of the city" letter	X	X	X	X
Exchanges of cities' annual reports and city plans	X	X	X	X
SCAC Annual Summary	X	X	X	X
Community Engagement	X	*	?	X
Art/Culture & Education	X	X	X	X

Relationship Activities

Annual City-to-City Recognition	X			
Anniversary Milestones				Pierrefonds (55 years) Xiamen (10 years)
City Council/Delegation Visits			to be scheduled	
Activity Plan Relationship Review				X

Future Twinnings

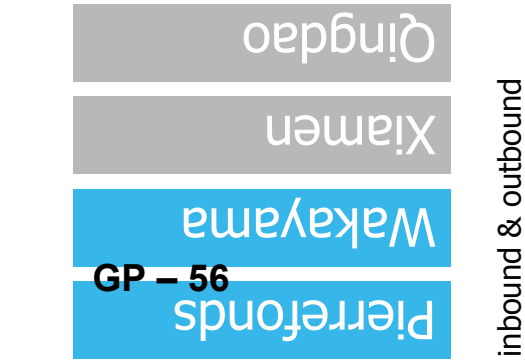
Explore new Sister City Relationship	X			
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Budget Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Annual Base Program Activities				
Education	\$12,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Sports	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
Art/Culture	\$19,000	\$20,000	\$17,000	\$12,000
Community Engagement	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Relationship Activities				
Annual City-to-City Recognition	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Anniversary Milestones				\$750
City Council/Delegation Visits				
Administration				
Administration Costs	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
SUBTOTAL (year total)	\$68,200	\$76,700	\$78,700	\$59,450
GRAND TOTAL			\$283,050	

Education

Student Exchanges



- ✓ Student exchanges include opportunities to inbound/outbound to sister/friendship cities
 - Continue annual exchanges with Wakayama, Japan
 - Virtual Student Exchange happening in 2021
 - Explore school exchanges to Montreal (Pierrefonds) & China (Qingdao & Xiamen)

Budget Breakdown:

- Outbound
 - **\$500** per student participant up to maximum **\$12,500** for each student exchange
- Inbound
 - Committee is working on funding formula

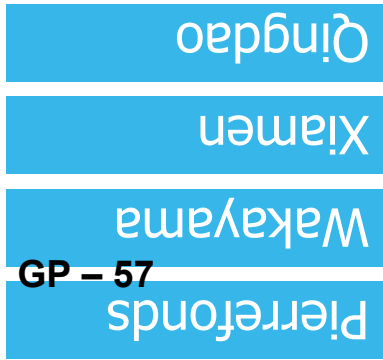
Education

Non-visit Activities



- Non-visit activities to engage students & teachers
 - Pilot sharing of lesson plans with educator in sister city
 - Pen Pal Exchanges
 - Information Exchanges
 - Student Artwork Bookmarks
 - Pierrefonds: Blackout Poetry Mail Art

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Budget Breakdown:

- \$2,000** per activity – cover costs of supplies and shipping costs

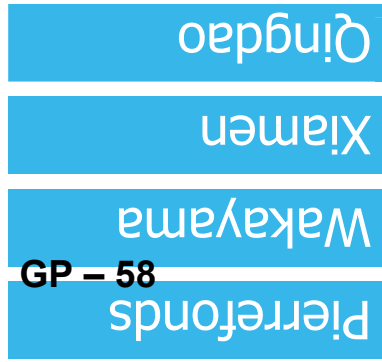
Sports

Sport Exchanges - Visit & Non-Visit

- ✓ Sport exchanges open to ALL age groups
- ✓ Competitions or Skills Clinics
- ✓ **NEW!** Virtual information exchanges
- ✓ Outbound activities:
 - July/August 2022: Xiamen Youth Rugby (TBC)

Budget Breakdown:

- Outbound
 - **\$500** per participant up to maximum **\$10,000** for each sport exchange
- Inbound
 - Committee is working on funding formula



up to
2 activities annually
 inbound & outbound &
 virtually

Art & Culture

Art Exchanges

- ✓ Art show exchanging a collection of works by local artists from Xiamen in **2022**
 - 3 - 30 pieces of art shown at City Hall
 - Art could be:
 - Traditional
 - Modern
 - Visual
 - Photography

Budget Breakdown:

- Shipping
- Opening Night activities

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up to **1 activity biannually** inbound

Art & Culture

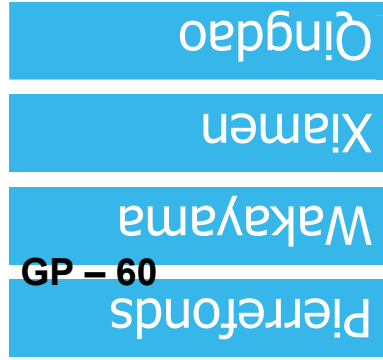
Richmond Public Library - Book Club

Launch various programs to coordinate sharing of information with sister city libraries. The activity plan would be to continue or expand on successful activities:

- ✓ 1 Book, up to 5 Cities book club (annually) with various audiences:
 - Adults / Seniors
 - Youth (TBC)
- ✓ Pierrefonds: Black Girls Gather Book Club (age 14-16)

Budget Breakdown:

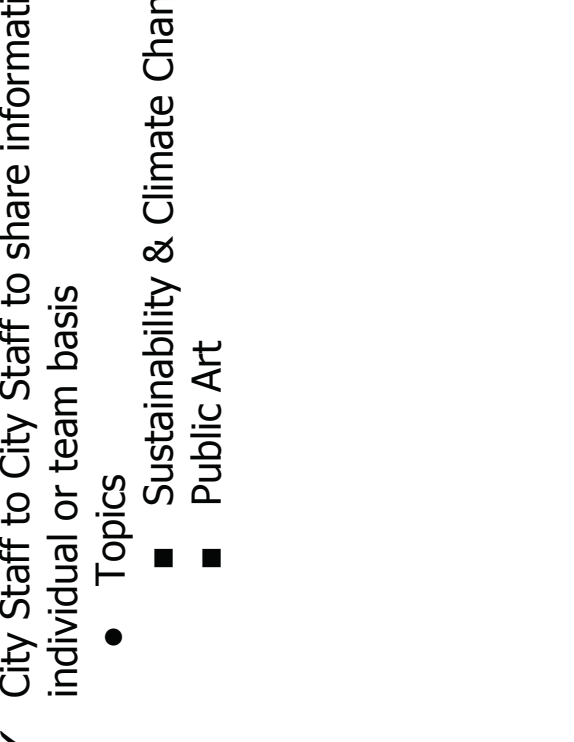
- Sister Cities to participate in Richmond Public Library book club program



1-2 book club program yearly
inbound & outbound

Art & Culture

NEW! City Staff Information Exchanges

 <p>2021 virtual information exchange</p> <p>2 exchanges annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Pilot in 2021✓ City Staff to City Staff to share information on an individual or team basis<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topics<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sustainability & Climate Change■ Public Art	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tbc - likely no cost
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Art & Culture

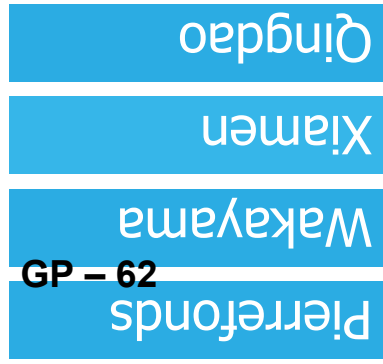
NEW! Information Exchanges

✓ Pilot in 2021

- ✓ Monthly sharing of information on happenings in Richmond
- make connections and encourage additional dialogue

Budget Breakdown:

- no cost



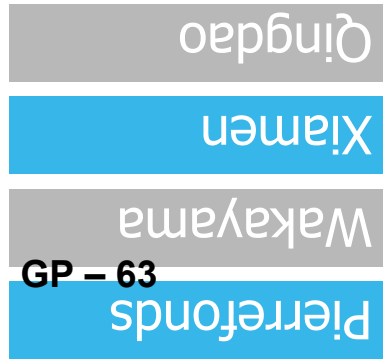
2021 virtual information exchange

Milestone Celebrations

Occurring in 2022

Budget Breakdown:

- ✓ Two major milestones will be celebrated in 2022
 - Pierrefonds: 55 year anniversary
 - Xiamen: 10 year anniversary
- ✓ Celebrations to be planned for delegate visit to Pierrefonds and community engagement activities pending current COVID orders



2 milestone celebrations

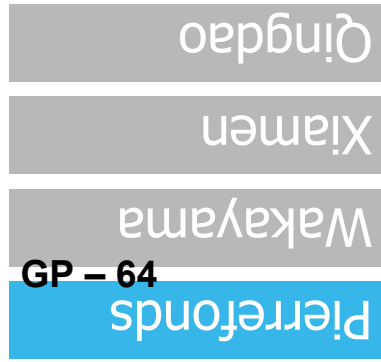
Milestone Celebrations

NEW! Street Banner Contest

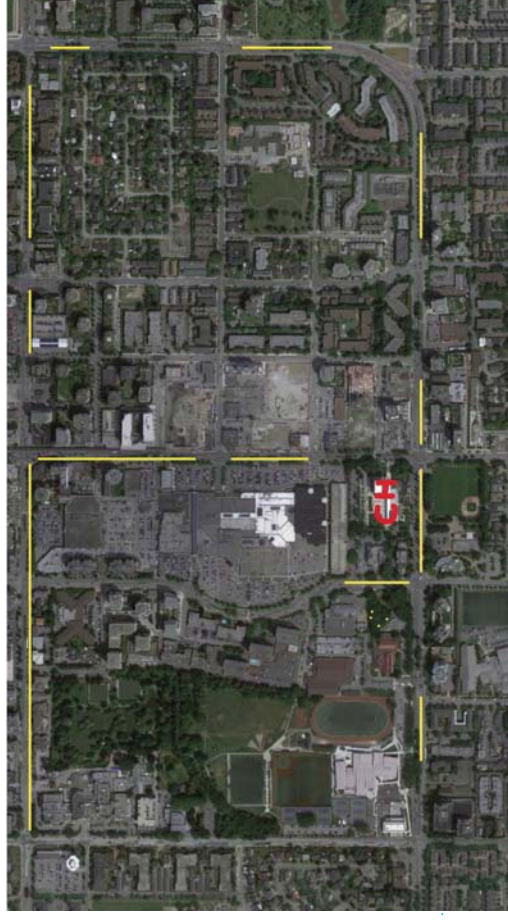
- ✓ 2022 Street Banner IN Richmond to be designed by individual IN Pierrefonds sharing a photo of a landmark in Pierrefonds
 - around City Hall

Budget Breakdown:

- estimate around ~\$1.5K



2022



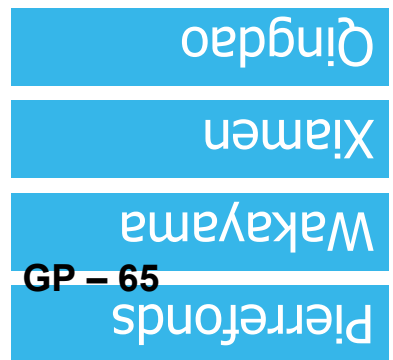
Community Engagement

Participation in City Events

- ✓ Sister City Advisory Committee members participate in City Events
 - Cherry Blossom Festival
 - Steveston Salmon Festival Canada Day parade
- Tentative pending COVID guidelines
- include Community Engagement participation

Budget Breakdown:

- T-shirts for parade participants
- Parade entry decorations
- Handouts to attendees
- Supplies for Booth



Administration

Operational & Relationship Activities

- ✓ Annual administrative costs
- ✓ Letters between Mayors - annual "state of the city" letter
- ✓ Exchanges of City Annual Reports

Budget Breakdown:

- **\$11,000** annually administrative costs

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Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

Administration

Operational Activities - Committee

- ✓ 2020 Year in Review
- ✓ 2022 Bookmark Series - to be confirmed
- ✓ City Greetings
 - Chinese New Year
 - Twinning Anniversary
 - APRIL: Xiamen & Quingdao
 - JULY: Pierrefonds & Wakayama
 - Year end greetings
- ✓ Social Media
- ✓ Website Redesign
- ✓ Letters between Mayors - annual "state of the city" letter
- ✓ Exchanges of City Annual Reports
- ✓ Wakayama Booklet - to be published in April
- ✓ Study Abroad - Wakayama - on hold

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Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2020 Year in Review

2020 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967), Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008). Information from various SCAC activities and events are outlined in the following pages.

2020 Committee Members:

Chair	Lisa MacNeil
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Allen Chan
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Glenn Kishi
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Melissa Zhang
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Helen Quan
Members	Seemah Aaron
	Charan Gill
	Bernard Loh
	Joan Page
	Sue Tian
	Polly Tang
	Jenny Zhang
	Victor Zhou
Council Liaison	Councillor Linda McPhail
School Board Liaison	Heather Larson
	Donna Sargent (Alternate)

2020 Sister City Relationship Highlights

January

- Newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.



Richmond's Sister and Friendship Cities: Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Xiamen, Qingdao

- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Qingdao and Xiamen sub-committees and selected members to the following sub-committees:
 - Pierrefonds Sub-Committee;
 - Wakayama Sub-Committee;
 - Qingdao Sub-Committee; and
 - Xiamen Sub-Committee.

- The City received New Years greetings from the City of Pierrefonds
“We would like to take this opportunity to wish to all City of Richmond employees, the Municipal Council and residents, a happy new year filled with meaningful relationships, health and successful realizations.”

- In celebration of the rich history of the Sister City Program and the SCAC’s 46th anniversary, from January 13 to January 21 a photo exhibit titled “Past Influencing Present” was displayed in Richmond City Hall. The display featured four themes:
 - Relationship moments from the signing of twinning agreements and milestone anniversary celebrations;
 - 45 years of student exchanges to Wakayama, Japan;
 - 2019 Sister City Program activity highlights; and
 - Scenery of Richmond’s sister/friendship cities.



Past Influencing Present Sister City / Friendship City Photo Exhibition

January 13–31, 2020

This photo exhibition is part of the City of Richmond’s Sister City Program, which fosters mutual understanding and meaningful connections with other cities and cultures in the interest of our citizens for their common benefit. Through the Sister City Advisory Committee, Richmond City Council supports a number of visit and non-visit activities with Richmond’s Sister and Friendship Cities including Pierrefonds, Canada (1967); Wakayama, Japan (1973); Xiamen, China (2012) and Qingdao, China (2008). The Sister City Advisory Committee is a Council appointed volunteer committee and has been supporting the Sister City Program since 1974.

The *Past Influencing Present*, Sister City/Friendship City Photo Exhibition features four themes:

- Key relationship moments between the City of Richmond and its Sister/Friendship relationships;
- 45 years of student exchanges to Wakayama, Japan;
- 2019 Sister City Program activity highlights; and
- Scenery from Richmond’s Sister and Friendship cities.

January 13–22, 2020

Features photos from Pierrefonds, Quebec and Wakayama, Japan

January 22–31, 2020

Features photos from Xiamen, China and Qingdao, China

For more information about the Sister City Program, please visit www.Richmond.ca/sistercity or contact richmondsistercity@gmail.com.



“Past Influencing Present” Photo Exhibit which ran from January 13-21, 2020

February

- The City received Chinese New Year greetings from Xiamen.
“We look forward to a fruitful new year of strengthened exchange and cooperation. May the New Year bring you every happiness and success!”
- The City received Chinese New Year greetings from Qingdao.
“We are confident that with your efforts, our friendship will be further deepened and cooperation enhanced. In 2020, we look forward to more cooperation with the city of Richmond in education, culture and youth exchange activities.”
- Mayor Malcolm Brodie sent messages of care to Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Xiamen and Qingdao at the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- On February 18, 2020, Lisa MacNeil, Allen Chan and Helen Quan presented Mayor Malcolm Brodie and members of Council with a gift showcasing the City Skyline bookmark series created in 2019.



Left to Right: Allen Chan, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Lisa MacNeil, Helen Quan


April

- Starting in April, the Sister City Advisory Committee paused formal meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of City Hall. Sister City members met informally to progress SCP initiatives and maintain contact with Richmond’s Sister and Friendship city contacts.

June

- As the pandemic lockdown continued, there was an increased interest in virtual activities with Richmond’s Sister Cities. Therefore, in partnership with the Richmond Public Library Board and staff, the “One Book, Three Cities” book club was able to launch with its feature book “Dear Life” by Alice Munro.

Residents in Richmond, Xiamen and Qingdao participated in an online discussion forum from June 24 to August 22. The program was a great success and there was not only participation from the three cities but all over the world.



WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

DEAR LIFE
by ALICE MUNRO

SUMMER READING 2020
ONE BOOK, THREE CITIES

RICHMOND

XIAMEN

QINGDAO

Teens and adults -
Join the conversation this summer!

Participate in the 2nd annual online book discussion with readers from Xiamen and Qingdao, China.

The forum is open from June 24 to August 28.

Visit <https://scp.yourlibrary.ca> to register.

For more information, call 604-231-6413.

Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee
Richmond
Richmond Public Library

Promotional Poster for “One book, Three Cities” book club

August

- The SCAC responded to a request from Wakayama, who is compiling a Sister City booklet which introduces Wakayama’s Sister Cities to the residents of Wakayama City. The booklet is scheduled to be published in May 2021.

September

- In September 2020, the Sister City Advisory Committee started meeting virtually. Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and the cancellation of public events, the SCAC turned focus to administrative work and future planning including preparing a social media plan, preparing for upcoming anniversary milestones in 2022 and 2023, and addressing referrals from Council.

November

- The SCAC had its final meeting where the Committee scored each of the Sister/Friendship cities participation over the past year. All cities achieved a highly engaged score on the Sister City Program’s annual relationship scorecard.

2020 Activities Planned

Due to the restrictions imposed from the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities that were planned in the Sister City Advisory Committee’s 4-year Activity Plan were unable to proceed. The table below outlines the activities that were planned (P) and those activities that occurred (Y) in 2020.

Table 1: 2020 Activity Plan Outcomes

	Pierrefonds	Wakayama	Xiamen	Qingdao
Visits				
Pierrefonds - Richmond Gardens Opening	P			
Wakayama Student Exchange		P		
Steveston Judo Club Exchange		P		
Womens Softball Visit		P		
Kendo Club Exchange		P		
Community Engagement				
Past Influencing Present Photo Show	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cherry Blossom Festival		P		
Canada Day Parade	P	P	P	P
WorldFest Community Event	P	P	P	P
One Book, Five Cities Book Club	P	P	Y	Y

Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao

Book Club - About Pierrefonds Chat	P			
Book Club - About Wakayama Chat		P		
Seniors Coffee Chat	P			
Release Past Influencing Future bookmarks	P	P	P	P

City to City Requests

Xiamen Business Development Site				Y
Wakayama Booklet Request		Y		

Activities

Pierrefonds - 2019/20 school year pen pals	Y			
Pierrefonds - 2020/21 school year pen pals (100 participants)	P			
Pierrefonds - class to class video conference	P			
Pierrefonds - social studies activity	P			
Wakayama - student bookmarks		P		
Info Sharing - sustainability	P			
Info Sharing - RPL Programs	Y	Y	Y	Y
RSB School Activities	P	P	P	P
Exploring Active Living & Connected Communities activities with other advisory bodies	P	P	P	P