



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee
From: Mike Romas
Manager, Customer Services
Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee 2018 Year in Review**

Date: March 14, 2019
File: 01-0100-30-SCIT1-01/2018-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Sister City Advisory Committee 2018 Year in Review", dated March 14, 2019, from the Manager, Customer Services be received for information.

Mike Romas
Manager, Customer Services
(604-204-8663)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond's Sister City Program was established on February 11, 1974 (as 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 Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) Terms of Reference, this report updates Council on work completed by the SCAC, in 2018, towards the 2017-2018 Activity Plan (Attachment 1) endorsed by Council on January 9, 2017.

Background

The role and purpose of the SCAC is to provide advice to and assist the City with promoting the City's culture and values, delivering the Sister City Program (SCP), and pursuing the City's goal to establish and sustain cultural and educational 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 sub-committees 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 of Richmond formed a Friendship City relationship with Qingdao, China in 2008.

Analysis

Summary of 2018 Year in Review

The SCAC activities and events during 2018 are outlined in Attachment 2. The 2018 SCAC Program Activity budget was \$33,000 and the Program Administration budget was \$11,000.

Some of the highlights for 2018 include:

- April 2018 – The Steveston Judo Club travelled to Wakayama, Japan. Supported by Council through the SCAC, 15 students and 12 coaches from the Steveston Judo Club participated in Judo training sessions and tournaments in Kobe, Osaka, Wakayama, Miomura Village and Tokai.
- May 2018 – Annual Richmond – Wakayama Student Exchange visit, organized by the Richmond School District and supported by Council through the SCAC. In 2018, 32 students and five teachers visited Richmond from Wakayama, Japan.
- June/July 2018 – In celebration of the 45th Anniversary of Wakayama and Richmond's Sister City relationship, a delegation from Wakayama's Sister City Affiliation Committee visited Richmond. Delegates participated in a tree planting ceremony and marched in the Steveston Salmon Festival Canada Day Parade.

- From August to December the SCAC completed work on the Four Year Activity Plan, which was presented to Council on December 17, 2018.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The SCAC 2019-2022 Four Year Activity Plan provides a structure events and activities provide a foundation to further strengthen the existing friendship and sister city relationships.



Mike Romas
Manager, Customer Services
(604-204-8663)

MR:ks

- Att. 1: Sister City Advisory Committee Two Year Activity Plan (2017-2018)
2: 2018 Year in Review

**Sister City Advisory Committee
Two year (2017 – 2018) Activity Plan Budget**

The Sister City Committee Advisory Committee (SCAC) completed a very active 2014-2016 program which was supported with an activity budget of \$220, 00. Some of the activities during this period included:

- (2014) SCAC members and Richmond Chamber of Commerce representatives hosted the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) delegation from Xiamen.
- (2014-2015)The SCAC partnered with the Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee on the production of book to commemorate 40th Anniversary
- (2015) Supported the Richmond Youth Honour Choir gala visit to Japan
- (2015) SCAC Electronic Information Display unveiled at City Hall, showcasing various SCAC activities and providing information on Richmond’s sister/friendship cities.
- (2016) Hosted the Wakayama Official Delegation visit to Richmond
- (2016) Organized the inaugural Sister City Youth Table Tennis Tournament
- (2016) SCAC and Richmond School Board hosted the Xiamen Sports Delegation visit to Richmond

The next two year (2017 – 2018) offers many opportunities to further develop and strengthen our Sister/Friendship City relationships through official visits, student, sport and cultural exchanges.

An activity budget allocation of \$56,500 is proposed for this period. The following sections provide budget information for engagement activities that the SCAC plans to carry out for 2017-2018.

**Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee
Two Year (2017 -2018) Program Activity Budget**

SUMMARY OF 2017 – 2018 SCAC PROGRAM ACTIVITY BUDGET

	<u>Pierrefonds</u>	<u>Wakayama</u>	<u>Xiamen</u>	<u>Qingdao</u>	
2017	\$500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
2018	\$500.00	\$14,500.00	\$7,000.00	\$4,500.00	
Subtotal	\$1,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$9,000.00	
TOTAL					<u>\$43,500.00</u>

SCAC SPECIAL ACTIVITY BUDGET:

Sister/Friendship City Anniversary Milestone Commemorations	\$10,000.00
SCAC Canada Day Parade Participation – (\$1,500 per year)	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$13,000.00</u>

TOTAL 2017 – 2018 SCAC PROGRAM ACITIVITY BUDGET \$56,500.00

SISTER CITY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

2 years @ \$11,000.00 per year

\$22,000.00**2017 – 2018 SCAC PROGRAM ACTIVITY BUDGET****PIERREFONDS, QUEBEC**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$500.00	\$500.00	
TOTAL (Pierrefonds 2017 to 2018)			\$1,000.00

WAKAYAMA, JAPAN

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Annual School Exchange Program	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
Steveston Judo Club Visit to Wakayama		\$7,000.00	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$ 500.00	\$500.00	
Subtotal	\$7,500.00	\$14,500.00	
TOTAL (Wakayama 2017 to 2018)			\$22,000.00

XIAMEN, CHINA

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Youth Table Tennis Tournament	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Summer Youth Art Competition		\$2,500.00	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Subtotal	\$4,500.00	\$7,000.00	
TOTAL (Xiamen 2017 to 2018)			\$11,500.00

QINGDAO, CHINA

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Youth Table Tennis Tournament	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Subtotal	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
TOTAL (Qingdao 2017 to 2018)			\$9,000.00

City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2018 Year in Review

2018 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee 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.

2018 Committee Members:

Chair	Lisa MacNeil
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Ed Gavsie
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Eden Jiang Zhang
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Glenn Kishi
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Helen Quan
Members	Allen Chan
	Charan Gill
	Ihsan Malik
	Kim Ng
	Razzak Paracha
	Melissa Zhang
Council Liaison	Councillor Ken Johnston
School Board Liaison	Donna Sargent
	Alice Wong(Alternate)

2018 Sister City Relationship Milestones

- Richmond celebrated the 45th anniversary with Wakayama, Japan
- Richmond celebrated the 10th anniversary with Qingdao, China

January

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



Left: Ed Gavsie, Allen Chan, Melissa Zhang, Razzak Paracha, Ihsan Malik, Lisa MacNeil, Glenn Kishi, Helen Quan, Donna Sargent, Charan Gill, Cllr. Ken Johnston, Kim Ng

- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Wakayama, Pierrefonds, Xiamen and Qingdao initiatives committees; and selected members to the following subcommittees:
 - Pierrefonds Initiatives;
 - Qingdao Initiatives;
 - Wakayama Initiatives;
 - Xiamen Initiatives; and
 - Public Relations Initiatives.

March

- From March 7-23, 2018, 15 students and 12 coaches from the Steveston Judo Club travelled to Wakayama, Japan. The City of Richmond is a financial sponsor of this trip. The Judo group participated in Judo training sessions and tournaments in Kobe, Osaka, Wakayama, Miomura Village, and Tokai.



Steveston Judo Club visit to Wakayama, Japan



Steveston Judo Club training session in Wakayama, Japan

May

- From May 14-20, 2018, 32 students and 5 teachers visited Richmond from Wakayama, Japan as part of the annual Wakayama-Richmond student exchange visit. Students met with Mayor Malcolm Brodie, visited three Richmond secondary schools, participated in tours of Richmond and Vancouver and visited the Richmond Night Market.



Students and teachers met with Mayor Malcolm Brodie at Richmond City Hall

June/July

- In celebration of the 45th anniversary of Wakayama and Richmond's Sister City relationship, a delegation from Wakayama's Sister City Affiliation Committee visited Richmond from June 28 to July 2, 2018. During this time, delegation members participated in a Cherry Tree Planting Ceremony and walked in the Richmond Sister City Canada Day float at the Steveston Salmon Festival. The Wakayama Delegation was extremely impressed with the warm reception they received from Richmond.



Wakayama Delegation Cherry Tree Planting Ceremony

- On July 1, 2018, the Sister City Advisory Committee participated in the Steveston Salmon Festival with the largest parade entry to date. Over 100 volunteers participated in the parade, including the Wakayama Delegation, the Taiko 55 Drummers, Xiamen Airlines and Richmond community volunteers.



Sister City Advisory Committee entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade

December

- The Sister City Advisory Committee completed work on the Four Year Activity Plan, which was presented to Council on December 17, 2018. This plan forms the basis of Sister City activities, both visit and non-visit, from 2019 to 2022.