



ALBUQUERQUE

Sister Cities Foundation

End of the year 2024

January 18th: Malanka Fest 4pm-7pm at *425 Towne Park NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123* by Ukrainian American of New Mexico organization

January 25th: Albuquerque Sister Cities International Tea, *Manzano Multigenerational Center* 12:00pm - 2:30pm

January - July: Ukraine Artist at Risk; ABQ Arts and Culture Department and Kharkiv

February: ABQ BioPark and Sasebo; Mochitsuki demonstration date TBD

March 7th-15th: Ukraine Resilience Community and Culture Preservation; COIL Project

April 30th: Ukraine International Investment Forum Prosperity 2.0; Zoom Conference if you are interested contact George Klapischak

June 1: Albuquerque Sister Cities Annual Meeting; time and place TBD

June 7 - 20th: Helmstedt, Germany Trip contact Nathan Young if you are interested at nathaneyoung@gmail.com

Thank You, Alma Solis for 23 years! By: Richard Buckler

A great big “THANK YOU” to Alma Solis who after 23 years on your Board, recently stepped down as Chair for the Albuquerque-Chihuahua Committee. A retirement party was held at the home of Alana McGrattan, attended by Albuquerque Sister Cities members, friends, and family—gathered to celebrate her milestone and wish her the best in her family’s business “Alma’s Salsa.”

Also in attendance was Alan Armijo, Senior Affairs Associate Director and Liaison for the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation President Pam Feather. Mr. Armijo presented Alma with an official proclamation signed by Mayor Keller, which read in part: “On behalf of the City of Albuquerque, do hereby proclaim September 29th as Alma Solis Day, in honor of her invaluable contributions to the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and the enduring Albuquerque-Chihuahua partnership.” Alma will be greatly missed, but at least all can continue to enjoy her wonderful gourmet salsa available at the Albuquerque Downtown Grower’s Market.



Alan Armijo, Alma Solis and Pam Feather

September Kansu Fellows Program by Yuri Morales-Mangone Chair

Yuri's fellowship journey in Lanzhou, China, was a life-changing experience that celebrated cultural exchange and global collaboration. After becoming a U.S. citizen, Yuri seized the opportunity to apply for the program, despite initial uncertainties about timing and visa challenges. Upon arrival, she joined 11 fellows from various countries, diving into Chinese history, traditions, and political systems through immersive activities like calligraphy, university visits, and interactions with local communities.

Highlights included exploring the Jiayuguan Fortress, riding camels in Dunhuang, and attending the Silk Road International Cultural Expo. The fellowship emphasized building relationships founded on mutual respect for diverse cultures and ideas. As the program concluded with heartfelt celebrations and a memorable performance, Yuri cherished the bonds formed and the transformative impact of this extraordinary journey.



Yuri enjoying Chinese Culture



Yuri with all Fellows



Yuri receiving reignition

Hualien Delegation Visited Albuquerque By: Yu-lin Shen Hualien Chair

A delegation from Hualien City, Taiwan, visited Albuquerque October 3-6, 2024. The group was supposed to be led by the Hualien Mayor Mr. Chia-yen Wei, but a typhoon was about to hit the island right before the group's departure for the trip, so Mayor Wei had to stay behind. The other 10 members of the delegation, led by Director Kuo-Cheng Hsu and including a Hualien TV news reporter, arrived safely. On October 4 the group visited Albuquerque City Hall and was warmly received by Mayor Tim Keller, mayor's international liaison Alan Armijo, Arts and Culture Director Shelle Sanchez, ASCF President Pam Feather, ASCF board member and mayor's international business coordinator Celeste Nuñez Salcido, and ASCF Hualien Committee Chair Yu-Lin Shen. Just six months ago Mayor Keller himself led an Albuquerque Sister Cities delegation to Hualien to celebrate the 40 th anniversary of the sister city relationship, and have actually met most of the Hualien delegation members back then. This meeting thus became a small reunion! ASCF held a dinner reception at Indian Pueblo Cultural Center on the same day. About 70 people attended. During their stay here the delegation also participated in the opening events of the Balloon Fiesta, visited the Balloon Museum, experienced Sandia Peak Tramway, took a "Breaking Bad" city tour, got together with representatives from the local Taiwanese community, and enjoyed all kinds of New Mexican hospitality.



Hualien delegation meeting with Mayor Keller and local City/Sister Cities representatives



Mayor Keller and Director Hsu

Helmstedt Delegation Visit Albuquerque By: Nathan Young Helmstedt Chair

A group of 25 members of Helmstedt Sister Cities visited Albuquerque between October 11th and the 16th. The group included a student that arrived on the September 26th. During their short time in Albuquerque we took them to the Balloon Fiesta, the Sandia Tram, Santa Fe, the Bio Park to see our Sasebo Gardens, Old Town, and to City Hall for an official meeting with Mayor Keller.

We provided a wonderful welcome reception at the private residence of Reinhard and Hedy Heidfeld on the 12th and a farewell reception at the Red Horse BnB on the 15th. The farewell reception was open to and well attended by our membership.

The Helmstedt group was lead by the new Albuquerque Chair Carsten Flohr. He did a wonderful job at organizing and coordinating their visit with our Helmstedt Chair Nathan Young and Co Chair Reinhard Heidfeld.

Our relationship was officially established on May 29th, 1983 and our last official visit to Helmstedt was in 2023 to celebrate our 40th anniversary. We are excited to announce that next official visit is scheduled for early June of 2025. More exact details and info will be presented at the next international Tea in January.



Nathan and Delegation



Delegation at Balloon Fiesta



Delegation exploring a New Mexico Pueblo



Delegation in front of San Felipe de Neri Church

Ukraine Culture Force by George Klapischak Chair

Cultural Forces, an ensemble of wounded Ukrainian warrior singers/ musicians pulled from the front lines of the war in Ukraine stopped in ABQ on their coast to coast tour of gratitude for the generous support given the Ukrainian Armed Forces by the American people. All of them were accomplished performers before the war but they volunteered for service and each was badly injured in battle. Our ASCF partnered with Ukrainian Americans of New Mexico and booked a free admission two hour concert performance at the Kimo Theater. The show and their accompanying message was well received, the musicianship was on a world class professional level and the audience left knowing so much more about what the Ukrainians are fighting for. The ensemble also performed at the NM Museum of Art in Santa Fe and at the renowned Crossed Arrows Ranch, an equine therapy facility dedicated to the treatment of PTSD in our own returning American warriors.



Cultural Forces



Ukrainian Armed Forces



Ukrainian Armed Forces

Highlights from the 2024 Zambia and Africa Nations Business Resources Match-making Summit by Richard Buckler, Zambia's Country Representative to Zambia

The December 4 – 6 Economic/Humanitarian Summit, held in Albuquerque and Los Angeles' Sister city of Lusaka, Zambia, had the overall theme of "Zambia Arise." Over 100+ delegates attended from both the public and private sectors: including Zambian and Chinese (non-governmental) businessmen, Ministers/Members of Parliament, Kings, Mayors, other non-profit groups, and Citizen Diplomats. Day 1 featured opening speeches by the organizers, in which I had a chance to speak about the goal of more sister cities in Africa and Zambia, emphasizing the need to focus on "investing in people." Since the Summit was touted as a business match-making opportunity, the key businesses represented were given five minutes or so to describe how Zambia could benefit. Presentations to name a few included:

- Road treatment products that could fill potholes and seal roads making them safe to drive.
- Medical services
- Microfinance projects
- Business incubators
- Agricultural development support
- Women and Children Health initiative
- Environment protection and green energy
- Tourism partnerships (including with neighbor Tanzania)
- Cultural networking to showcase music, art, cuisine, and film

Day 2 dug down deeper into the specifics. Two snack/tea/coffee times and lunch allowed some significant networking to be done by those looking for project matches.



Chief/King Ishima Mwata of the Lunda People with Richard.



King Tafuna Speaking on Day 1



From Right to left: Richard, Mayor Kolala (Kasama), Mayor Munyeke (Kapiri).

Continued...

Day 3 first featured Her Worship Lusaka Mayor Chilando Chitangala speaking to the delegates at the conference hotel. She thanked everyone for coming to her city and looked forward to future engagement. After her opening remarks, a letter from Albuquerque Mayor Keller was presented thanking her and Lusaka for 10 years of “sister city relationships.” After she was presented with some representative gifts, the delegates were free to choose from two different site-visits:

- Business, including a tour of “Zamseed,” one of the important corn industry companies
- Cultural, including a tour of a community development center, and considerations for Microloans

However, from my perspective, an important trip was taken after the Summit was officially over. On Day 4 three vehicles were used to take about a dozen businessmen and organizers up to visit two cities north of Lusaka in the Central Province, namely, Kabwe and Kipiri Ngoshi. Both mayors had attended the Summit and Day 4 gave an opportunity to potential infrastructure investors to see land. What they discovered at Kipiri (hosted by His Worship Mayor Brilliant Munyeke and his key officials) was a strategic centrally located area that could become an important economic development zone. If such investment does happen, the Central Province will never be the same, which will help “Zambia Arise.” Also, from a personal perspective the opportunities to network at dinner built those bridges of friendship that strengthened existing sister city relationships, as well as paved the way for new ones. For example, evening dinners at the hotel sharing dishes Chinese style brought together Deidre Gordon (our Albuquerque-Lusaka Sister City (SC) Chair), Grace Foh Amoaning (on the ground in Lusaka serving as Deidre and Dr. Bailey’s counterpart), Florence Chalwelwa (Lusaka-Los Angeles’ SC committee president) , Her Worship Kasama Mayor Theresa Kola-la, His Worship Kabwe Mayor Patrick Chishala, His Worship Kipiri Ngoshi Mayor Brilliant Munyeke, Andrew Chapuma (Royal Emissary for King Chitimukula), other friends of the above delegates, and myself—SCI Country Representative for Zambia. The memories will be life-long!



Mayor Brilliant Munyeke (in yellow) at the railway station in Kapiri.

ABQ BioPark and Sasebo; Bamboo Light Displays in the Sasebo Garden for the River of Lights by Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman Chair

Every holiday season Albuquerque Bio Park holds a beautiful light show called "River of Lights." This year we opened the Sasebo Japanese Garden in honor of the sister city for the first time during the River of Light event. The beautiful Ookawa Bamboo Lights made by the Bio Park craftsmen which were originally created by the Ookawa Bamboo Lights Non-profit Group in Ishinomaki-city, Miyagi-Prefecture where the Tsunami hit and killed 75% of the students at the Ookawa Elementary School in March, 11, 2011. Three years ago they started making the bamboo lights by the people in the community to commemorate those children who were lost by the 2011 Tsunami.

I was so touched by the story and recently visited the zero ground of Ookawa Elementary School and met the main representative Mr Sato of this non-profit group. He was so pleased to hear that we made the bamboo lights to be displayed at the Sasebo Japanese Garden.



Bamboo Light Display in the Sasebo Garden



*Kazumi Todman Chair and Mr. Sato Ishinomaki-city,
Miyagi-Prefecture, Japan*

STEMarts Space [AR]T in Guadalajara, Mexico by: Fabiola Melendez

As part of the dedication to community engagement and fostering intercultural exchange, three talented STEMarts Ambassadors from New Mexico—Shaylee Mirabal, Feliciano Mitchell-Gonzales and Claire LeGate were selected as international travel award winners. They met with the Guadalajara STEMarts Ambassadors, who previously traveled to New Mexico for our *Space Messengers* installation at the Balloon Museum. Bettina Sandoval, Director of Taos Pueblo Education and Training, joined as the Taos Pueblo Liaison, and Dr. Shelle Sanchez CABQ Arts and Culture Director. together the STEMarts team represented New Mexico in Guadalajara, showcasing Augmented Reality [AR].

51 individuals were also recognized for their hard work on their participation in the STEMarts International Space for Earth- Space for All Design Challenge. 16 students from San Jose del Valle, 11 Professors from San Jose del Valle, 19 students from Escuela Preparatoria Regional de Huejuquilla el Alto, Modulo Mezquitic, 2 Teachers from Escuela Preparatoria Regional de Huejuquilla el Alto, Modulo Mezquitic, Marcela, Jesus Santiago Valadez Garcia and Lizbeth Carolina Estrella Spiller at Preparatoria San José del Valle.



Dr. Shelle Sanchez trying Shaylee's design with her



City of Albuquerque trying Space [AR]T



Group pictures of winners

Continued...

STEMarts team were also able to present in front of 130 students and faculty at Preparatoria Jalisco. The Ambassadors were individually able to speak about what their design meant to them.

STEMarts Lab brought an interactive Augmented Reality [AR] pop-up installation called SPACE[AR]T to Plaza Guadalajara on November 22, 2024. Participants pointed their phones to the sky and discovered our Space[AR]T—six animated models created by artists and students that appear in the sky and land right in front of them. A huge thank you to the City of Guadalajara, Escuela Preparatoria Regional de Huejuquilla el Alto, Modulo Mezquitic, San Jose del Valle, Universidad de Guadalajara and Merlyn Schultz, Public Affairs Officer U.S. Consulate General Guadalajara



Modulo Mezquitic Students



Group picture

The City of Albuquerque participate in FEINJAL at Guadalajara, Mexico by: Celeste Nuñez Salcido

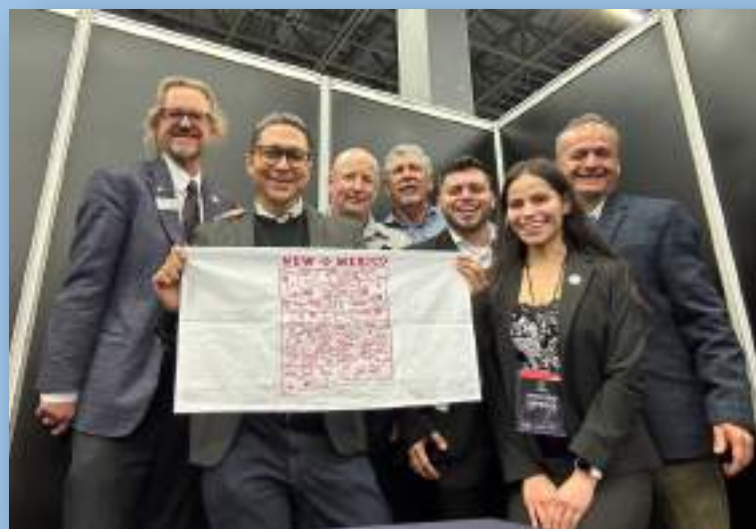
The City of Albuquerque, led by Economic Development Director Max Gruner and joined by leadership at the New Mexico Trade Alliance and Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, visited Guadalajara to participate in FEINJAL, the State of Jalisco's Industrial Trade Show November 18-23, 2024. The Albuquerque delegation met with Jalisco's private industry and the newest city administration in Guadalajara, in order to assess areas of collaboration in the deep tech and energy transition sectors. In addition, the delegation participated in the New Mexico-based STEMART's augmented reality Space [AR]t installation at the heart of Guadalajara's historic downtown center. This installation, an effort supported by the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara, the University of Guadalajara, the City of Guadalajara, and the ABQ Sister Cities Foundation, united students from New Mexico and Jalisco through technology, science, and art.



City of Albuquerque Delegation



Celeste Nuñez Salcido, Max Gruner, and Dominic Baca



City of Albuquerque Delegation

Meet & Mingle with Santa

On December 15th Sister Cities and SAFE co-sponsored a Meet & Mingle with Santa at the Red Horse Bed and Breakfast. It was an opportunity to enjoy crafts and food in a charming environment. We are hoping to collaborate on some video projects with SAFE in the future. The SAFE program trains teens with video skills and gives others the opportunity to create video projects at a modest cost.

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Sister Cities and SAFE with Santa

Welcome to the Board, Yuriria Morales-Mangone

Please welcome Yuriria (Yuri) Morales-Mangone, the new Albuquerque Sister Cities Chair for Chihuahua, Mexico as of October 1, 2024, taking over from Alma Solis, who retired from the Board. Yuriria Morales-Mangone, originally from Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, has called Albuquerque home since 2006. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs from Universidad Internacional (UNINTER) in Cuernavaca and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico, graduating with honors. Since her move, Yuri has been a driving force in advancing economic development and tourism both locally and globally.

Currently, she serves as an active board member for several organizations, demonstrating her commitment to community and educational advancement. She contributes significantly to enhancing global tourism through the Albuquerque Balloon Museum Foundation and focuses heavily on educational initiatives through her service on the Voz Collegiate Preparatory Charter School Board, where she supports the development of innovative academic programs. Her work on the Enchantment Land Certified Development Company Board also aligns with her passion for fostering economic and educational growth in the community.

Recognized as one of New Mexico's Top 40 Under Forty by Albuquerque Business First in 2021, Yuri brings expertise in operational management, economic development, marketing, strategic planning, international exchange programs, trade, and community outreach. She is known for developing and implementing innovative strategies to expand networks and drive growth. Her most recent achievement is her participation in the prestigious 2024 Gansu International Fellowship Program in Lanzhou, China, through Albuquerque Sister Cities, further broadening her global perspective and strengthening her ability to engage with international counterparts.



Yuriria Morales-Mangone

Welcome Aimeé González Estrada, the new Albuquerque Sister Cities Co-Chair for Chihuahua, Mexico.

Aimeé is a seasoned real estate attorney and General Counsel at Titan Development in Albuquerque, NM contributing to the company's vision for impactful development across the region. With over 13 years of legal expertise, she manages complex real estate and corporate legal matters, specializing in business and commercial real property law. Holding dual bar admissions in New Mexico and Texas, Aimeé provides strategic legal counsel on diverse issues including commercial real estate transactions, land use and municipal government matters, private equity fund management, and international investor relations.

Originally from Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua Mexico, Aimeé was raised in Farmington, NM and has since continued to make New Mexico her home. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2008, graduated with honors with a BA in International Business and Economics from New Mexico State University in 2004, and attended the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey – Chihuahua Campus in 2002 as part of her BA curriculum. Community well-being is a priority for Aimeé. She is actively engaged in community leadership as a board member of WESST, a non-profit organization supporting entrepreneurs in New Mexico, particularly women, people of color, and low-wealth individuals. Additionally, Aimeé is a distinguished alumna of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network, where she participated in a fellowship focused on fostering transformative community change. She is also a proud member of Vistage New Mexico, a leadership development group that supports key executives in maximizing their professional and community impact. Aimeé is also a member of the NM Hispanic Bar Association having served on its board of directors for 4 years, the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Program and of Women in Construction New Mexico.



Aimeé González Estrada

Albuquerque, Spain

Alberto Solís Chair for Albuquerque, Spain, and Joyce Solís Co-Chair for Albuquerque, Spain resigned from their positions on November 21, 2024. We appreciate their time serving as Chair and Co-Chair for Albuquerque, Spain. We will miss them and wish them the best in their future endeavors.



Alberto Solís and Joyce Solís

We would like to introduce Fabiola Melendez former Guadalajara, Mexico Cochair as our new Chair for Albuquerque, Spain Chair

Congratulations to Fabiola Melendez in her new role as of November 21,2024. We look forward to a new beginning



Fabiola Melendez

Artists At Risk Ukraine

Albuquerque Arts and Culture Department and Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation welcomes Viktoriia Solova from Kharkiv Ukraine. She arrived January 6th, 2025.



Nataliya Edelman, Pam Feather, Viktoriia Solova, and Alana McGrattan



Connecting People to People since 1956

January 25
Noon - 2:30

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
501 Elizabeth SE
Albuquerque 87123

Tea Time
Annual




OUR CITIES:

- Alburquerque, Spain
- Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- Chihuahua, Mexico
- Guadalajara, Mexico
- Helmstedt, Germany
- Hualien, Taiwan
- Kharkiv, Ukraine
- Lanzhou, China
- Lusaka, Zambia
- Rehovot, Israel
- Sasebo, Japan


ABOUT US:

Sister Cities International is an organization that connects cities, counties, provinces, and other subnational entities across the world. The organization recognizes, registers, and coordinates relationships between these jurisdictions.

Join Us!

 www.abqsistercities.org

 311

 501 Elizabeth Street SE 87123

MALANKA

FEST

- live traditional show;
- food (potluck);
- craft sale.



**18 JANUARY
4-7 PM**

425 Towne Park NE,
Albuquerque, NM,
87123

Admission fee: \$10

(to cover building rent
expense)



POTLUCK



By Ukrainian
Americans of New
Mexico