



International Sister Cities OF ROCHESTER, NY, INC. **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



Bringing the
World
a little
Closer



Malik D. Evans, Mayor



City of Rochester, NY
Rochester City Council

The ISCOR 2022/23 program year featured the revival of exchanges and the launch of new activities, renewing the life of our international friendships. Here are highlights reported by the committee chairs.

– ISCOR Executive Committee

Alytus, Lithuania

The Committee was asked by Alytus to host Rochester visit by Alytus Youth Orchestra and escorts in Fall 2024, possibly 40 members plus 20 escorts. Committee exploring details and financing with other Lithuanian community organizations across North America.

Bamako, Mali

The committee met with the Rector of the University of Science Technology and Techniques of Bamako, along with the Dean of the Medical School and arranged meetings with leadership of the Department of International Medicine at the University of Rochester and of Engineering, Communications & Information Technology at Rochester Institute of Technology. They met briefly a local communications entrepreneur Robert Scott. The InterVol medical supplies delivered to the Office of the Mayor of Bamako by the nine Malian students who participated in the American Leadership Experience (ALEX) visit to Rochester in October 2022 were transferred to the Regional Director of Health and Medical Materials Director. In February 2023 BRSSC Founder Dr. Walter Cooper and Ms. Jean Cappellino, Committee Educational Liaison and ISCOR Board Member-at-Large, were honored as “Elders and Ancestors” during the SCI US-Africa Sister Cities Summit held in Cape Town, South Africa. Summer 2023 the committee collected 200 pairs of eyeglasses donated by members/patrons of the committee were delivered to the Office of Bamako Mayor Adama Sangaré with the help of Washington, DC based non-profit Operation Mali, Inc.

Caltanissetta, Italy

The Caltanissetta municipality and sister cities organization produced a new edition of the “Bridges 2022” online art exhibit involving both Caltanissetta and Rochester artists at Palazzo Moncada. It was with deep sadness that we mourned the passing of committee chair Rosalba Ferace Pisaturo. We welcomed Sharon Garofanello, current president of the Association for Teen-Aged Diplomats, as Rosalba’s successor. Messages of condolence were sent to the committee and her family by members of AGERICA, the Caltanissetta counterpart to ISCOR.

Hamamatsu, Japan

The committee gave the community a wonderful experience of Japanese culture and language at the May 2023 Memorial Art Gallery Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Day. Visitors delighted in folding origami crafts, and in games challenging their chopstick skills and learning Japanese phrases and customs. It initiated planning for cooperative projects with Buffalo-Kanazawa committee and participation in 2024 dedication of reconstructed Children’s Pavilion, Highland Park.

Kraków, Poland

In May 2023 the Nazareth University choir, under the leadership of Professor Zbigniew Granat, toured Poland and visited Kraków. In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Kraków relationship, they performed a public concert at which they were welcomed by the mayor and diplomats from the US Consulate. They also performed at the dedication of lilacs planted in honor of the anniversary in the Ronald Reagan Park in the Nowa Huta district. The committee is working with the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and the City of Rochester to plant a Northern European oak

in Maplewood Park near the rose collection (Spring 2024) and another in the Sister Cities Garden as part of the 2025 Crossroads Park renovations. The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester's 2023 Wigilia Dinner, a public celebration of Polish Christmas Eve traditions, will feature traditions specific to Kraków.

Velikiy Novgorod, Russia

Although formal activities remain in suspension due to the Russian war in Ukraine, Linkages of Rochester sent New Year and other holiday greetings to the mayor of Velikiy Novgorod, to contacts in the city administration, and to friends in Novgorod via e-mail. Members of Linkages also remain in touch with friends and colleagues in Novgorod by e-mail.

Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

The committee has initiated a youth baseball exchange project between a Rochester City Recreation team and Puerto Plata youth baseball training program. The initial exchange team of 14 boys, 12-15 years old, have begun practice and plan to travel in June 2024.

Rehovot, Israel

Current and past chairs of the Rehovot committee, Dan Karin, Joanne Prives, Sheila Weinbach, and Sarah Liebschutz, took active roles in community events recognizing the 75th anniversary of the independence of Israel to represent the Rehovot-Rochester connection. The Committee is participating in ongoing discussions about developing a University of Rochester/Weizmann Institute connection, as well furthering business investments between the two cities.

Rennes, France

The committee observed the 65th anniversary of the Rennes-Rochester sister cities connection, Rochester's first, with several activities. We hosted 11 delegates from Rennes in May, the visit culminating with the Lilac Festival parade. We welcomed five students from INSA and two from ENSAI for the spring semester at RIT. The committee hosted our annual Bastille Day picnic at Mendon Ponds with about 40 people in attendance. Fall brought four Rennes students to RIT, two to the University of Rochester, and four at Nazareth University. A delegation of 10 visited Rennes in October, led by Mayor Evans; it included representatives of the University of Rochester, Greater Rochester Enterprise, and Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives. The group participated in the inauguration of Frederick Douglass Square.

Waterford, Ireland

A small official delegation from Waterford visited Rochester to meet with Mayor Evans and Bausch & Lomb officials in May.

Würzburg, Germany

In April a Rochester team of six adult runners took part in the annual *Würzburger Residenzlauf* with its traditional events for runners of all ages. Mayor Evans led a delegation of six to attend the 2023 Mozart Festival. Among the delegates was attorney Bryan Pelkey who, 50 years before, had been an ATAD Rochester exchange student in Würzburg and youth representative on the ISCOR Board. The delegation enjoyed Saturday morning breakfast at the home of Lord Mayor Christian Schuchardt.

Xianyang, China

The committee hosted a day-long visit by Xianyang Mayor Leng Jinsong and a delegation of five other Xianyang leaders in August. We lunched with the delegation and discussed ways to reconnect post-COVID. The afternoon included a meeting with Mayor Evans and professors from the University of Rochester. The day finished with a tour of Rochester.

CONTACT US:

For more information about ISCOR:

Call (585) 428-7045 or visit CityofRochester.gov/SisterCities

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Malik D. Evans, Mayor

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