



FAST FACTS

- ✔ Lansing Regional Sister Cities (LRSCC) was incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit Corporation on August 15, 1994 although the first Sister Cities Agreement was signed between the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and the City of Lansing, Michigan, USA on June 13, 1990 by Mayor Terry McKane and Presidente Municipal Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra.
- ✔ On September 14, 2024, the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission celebrated its 30th Anniversary.
- ✔ During the Sister Cities International/African Summit of 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, five LRSCC Commissioners were honored during an “Honoring Our Elders’ Ceremony” at the renowned Gold’s Restaurant; they were President Emerita Barbara Roberts Mason, Dr. Sung Lee, Dr. Willie Davis, Dr. Maxine Hankins Cain, and Commissioner Bill Brewer.
- ✔ This same group collected 7000+ books and distributed these books among 5 schools in Langa Township, the oldest township in South Africa and the heart of the Apartheid Movement. The initiative was called *Libraries and Literacy*.
- ✔ Barbara Roberts Mason (President Emerita 23 years) and President Maxine Hankins were both named “Sister Cities International Volunteers of the Year” in 2017, and 2019, respectively.
- ✔ Two Commissioners, Barbara Mason and Dr. Maxine Hankins Cain, were enstooled as Queen Mothers in Ghana. Commissioner Bill Brewer was enstooled as Chief.
- ✔ One of our other newer sister cities is Merida, Yucatan Mexico, established in May of 2023 with a signing ceremony with Mayor Andy Schor, Dr. Ruben Martinez, and President Maxine Hankins Cain.
- ✔ Our newest Sister City is Eskischir, Turkey established in November, 2024 during a signing ceremony with Mayor Andy Schor, Commissioner Keith Lambert, and President Maxine Hankins Cain.
- ✔ The agreement between Asan, Republic of Korea was signed by President Emerita Barbara Roberts Mason and Former Mayor Virg Bernero in Asan.

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Lansing Regional

SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

- ✓ Pianezza, Italy and Lansing are ready to host a student exchange program.
- ✓ Students from Eastern International Baccalaureate High School, Holt High School and LRSCC's Youth Action Committee (YAC) participated in a Youth Camp in July, 2024 in Asan, Korea, and we have an additional exchange planned for 2025.
- ✓ Students from Tanzania and Eastern International Baccalaureate High School hosted four international zoom experiences where students from both schools participated in exciting and interactive "Getting to Know You" activities.
- ✓ LRSCC built a health clinic in the traditional village of Nsakyé, Akuapem South Municipality and facilitated water, sanitation, health, hygiene, economic development, and education projects in our two sister cities in the Eastern region.
- ✓ The Biwako Kisen Steamship Company under the direction of its president, Mr. Megumi Shigamatsu, built Michigan Cruise boats that sail on Lake Biwa in Otsu.
- ✓ Lillian Kumata led several delegations to Otsu, Japan and also hosted several delegations from Otsu, Japan. She led our Lansing-Otsu programs with excellence for many years. Now, Commissioner Marilyn Schlieff carries on those strong traditions and we are planning future student exchange programs with Japan.
- ✓ Mexico had an active program with the fire department of Guadalajara, Mexico. Mexico has a strong community base led by Dr. Ruben Martinez.
- ✓ South Korea-LRSCC programs have been under the leadership of Commissioner Chris Hodshire, Commissioner Sung Lee, and Dr. Won Song.
- ✓ Our Sister City of Hohhot, China has scheduled the 2025 Hohhot International Youth Friendly Exchange Camp and invited 10 students and 2 teachers to attend.
- ✓ Mayor Terry McKane, Mayor Tony Benevides, Mayor David Hollister, Mayor Virg Bernero, and Mayor Andy Schor are mayors who have signed Sister Cities Agreements.
- ✓ The Honorable David Hollister was the founder of the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission.
- ✓ LRSCC and our Youth Action Committee are excited about our Endowment Initiative, our international youth travels to our sister cities and our "Painting Peace around the City" proposal!

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