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**HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290**  
**200 TEXAS STREET, FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

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**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290**  
**200 TEXAS STREET, FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

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1. Report of the City Manager - **David Cooke, City Manager**
  - a. Changes to the City Council Agenda
  - b. Upcoming and Recent Events
  - c. Organizational Updates and Employee Recognition(s)
  - d. Informal Reports
    - [IR 10194](#): Federal Preemption Regarding the Regulation of Railroads and Trains
    - [IR 10195](#): Recent Anti-Immigrant Activity
    - [IR 10196](#): Police Initiated or Police Purpose Towing Services Update
    - [IR 10197](#): Upcoming Changes to Public Improvement District Management Contracts
2. Current Agenda Items - **City Council Members**
3. Responses to Items Continued from a Previous Week
  - a. [ZC-18-128](#) - (COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 – Dennis Shingleton) - Licurgus S. Mahan III, 1200 block Meandering Road; From: "B" Two-Family To: "FR" General Commercial Restricted 4.46 acres (Recommended for Approval by the Zoning Commission) **(Continued from October 23, 2018 by Mayor Pro Tem Shingleton)**
4. Briefing on Blue Zones Project - **Matt Dufrene, Blue Zones Project**
5. Update on TCU and UNTHSC Medical School - **Stuart Flynn and Judy Bernas, TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine**
6. Presentation on Fort Worth Botanic Garden Task Force Recommendations - **Susan Alanis, City Manager's Office, Sal Espino, Botanic Garden Task Force Chair and Bob Byers, Fort Worth Botanic Garden**
7. Review of City Council Calendar for January - December 2019 - **Mary Kayser, City Secretary**

8. City Council Requests for Future Agenda Items and/or Reports
  9. Executive Session (CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290) -  
**SEE ATTACHMENT A**
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***The specified location of the Work Session, Executive Session and City Council Meeting is the location at which the presiding officer will be physically present and presiding over the meeting and at which a quorum of the City Council will be present. Council Member Bivens may individually participate remotely by videoconference in accordance with state law and the City Council Rules of Procedure.***

Attachment(s):

[Executive Session Agenda - Attachment A.pdf](#)

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***CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290, is wheelchair accessible. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services such as interpreters, readers, or large print are requested to contact the City's ADA Coordinator at (817) 392-8552 or e-mail [ADA@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:ADA@FortWorthTexas.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If the City does not receive notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, the City will make a reasonable attempt to provide the necessary accommodations.***

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**CITY HALL, ROOM 290**  
**Tuesday, October 30, 2018**

- A. The City Council will conduct a closed meeting in order to discuss matters permitted by the following sections of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code:

**CITY ATTORNEY**

1. Section 551.071, CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

To seek the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.071]:

- a. Legal issues related to Outside Counsel for Debt Financing;
- b. Legal Issues related to City Charter Elections; and
- c. Legal issues regarding any item listed on today's City Council meeting agenda.

**CITY MANAGER**

1. Section 551.072, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Deliberate the purchase, sale, lease or value of real property where deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third party.

2. Section 551.087, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Deliberate the commercial or financial information or the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect.

- B. The City Council may reconvene in open session in the City Council Conference Room and act on any item listed on the Executive Session Agenda in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

The specified location of the Work Session, Executive Session and City Council Meeting is the location at which the presiding officer will be physically present and presiding over the meeting and at which a quorum of the City Council of the City Council will be present. Council Member Bivens may individually participate remotely by videoconference in accordance with state law and the City Council Rules of Procedure.

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
FOR THE MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL  
200 TEXAS STREET, FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INVOCATION** - Pastor Chris Freeland, Doxology Bible Church

**III. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF TEXAS**  
(State of Texas Pledge: "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.")

**IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2018**

**V. ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**VI. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN BY STAFF**

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Items on the Consent Agenda require little or no deliberation by the City Council. Approval of the Consent Agenda authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to implement each item in accordance with staff recommendations.

**A. General - Consent Items**

1. [M&C G-19407](#) - Ratify Application for and Authorize Acceptance of a Grant from the Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency Under the Fiscal Year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, in the Amount of Up to \$70,477.00, Authorize Transfer in the Amount of \$3,523.00, as Required, for the City's Cost Match from the General Fund and Grants Operating Other Fund to the Grants Operating Federal Fund, Authorize Transfer of Certain Funds and Eligible Grant Costs and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)
2. [M&C G-19408](#) - Adopt Ordinance to Establish the Sewer Per Acre Charge in the Amount of \$705.13 Per Acre for a Twenty Four-Inch and a Thirty-Inch Sanitary Sewer Main Beginning at 4101 Lost Creek Blvd to Serve 4,080.82 acres (Walsh Ranch Sanitary Sewer Extension, Phase IVA) and to Establish the Basin Boundaries, Pursuant to Chapter 35, Article III, Division 3, Sections 35-81 Through 35-86 of the City Code (ETJ and COUNCIL DISTRICT 3)
3. [M&C G-19409](#) - Adopt Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance Increasing Estimated Receipts and Appropriations in the Water and Sewer Capital Projects Fund in the Amount of \$3,158,819.00 for Fiscal Year 2019 (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)

**B. Purchase of Equipment, Materials, and Services - Consent Items - None**

**C. Land - Consent Items - None**

**D. Planning & Zoning - Consent Items - None**

**E. Award of Contract - Consent Items**

1. [M&C C-28907](#) - Authorize Execution of a Communications System Agreement with the City of Benbrook for Participation in the City of Fort Worth's Two-Way Public Safety Radio System at No Cost to the City of Fort Worth (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)
2. [M&C C-28908](#) - Authorize Rejection of Bids for the Miscellaneous Traffic Signal Improvements Task Order Construction Services Contract at Various Locations (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)
3. [M&C C-28909](#) - Ratify Application and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Fiscal Year 2018 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program Grant in the Amount of \$286,634.00 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, Authorize Execution of Related Agreement, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)
4. [M&C C-28910](#) - Authorize Execution of a New Ground Lease Agreement with Mandatory Improvements and a Consent to Leasehold Deed of Trust with Texas Jet Inc., for Lease Sites 1C and 2C, at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport to Facilitate the Construction of Two New Hangar Facilities by Texas Jet Inc., on Lease Sites 1C and 2C, at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport (COUNCIL DISTRICT 2)

**VIII. PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY SECRETARY - CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Notice of Claims for Alleged Damages and/or Injuries

**IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, ETC.**

1. Presentation by the Fort Worth Police Department Reserve Police Unit
2. Recognize and Present the Como/Sunset Heights Neighborhood Association with the 2018 Planning Project Award from American Planning Association (APA) - Texas Chapter

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF**

1. Upcoming and Recent Events
2. Recognition of Citizens
3. Approval of Ceremonial Travel

**XI. PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

1. Changes in Membership on Boards and Commissions

**XII. PRESENTATIONS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND/OR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**XIII. RESOLUTIONS**

1. A Resolution Appointing the Chief Financial Officer to the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Fort Worth
2. A Resolution Adopting Confluence: The Trinity River Strategic Plan as a Guide for Future Development Along the Trinity River and its Major Tributaries and Amending the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to Incorporate this Strategic Plan

#### **XIV. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

##### **A. Benefit Hearing - None**

##### **B. General**

1. [M&C G-19410](#) - Authorize Application for and Acceptance of, if Awarded, Federal Grant Funds for the Following Transportation Projects: CentrePort Trail Phase 2 to Grand Prairie Segment, Horne Street Complete Streets Project, University Drive Complete Streets Project, Heritage Trace Parkway Railroad Crossing, and Meacham Airport Turn Lanes Project, for a Total of \$60,000,001.00 in Federal Grant Requests, and Authorize Transportation Development Credits Allocations Totaling \$12,000,000.00 to Serve as Local Match for the Grant Requests (COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9)

##### **C. Purchase of Equipment, Materials, and Services**

1. [M&C P-12270](#) - Authorize Purchase Agreements with Grapevine DCJ, LLC and Jacksboro FM, LLC d/b/a Four Stars Ford for Pickup Trucks for a Combined Annual Amount Up to \$1,500,000.00 for One Two-Year Term for the Property Management Department (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)

##### **D. Land - None**

##### **E. Planning & Zoning - None**

##### **F. Award of Contract**

1. [M&C C-28911](#) - Authorize Execution of a Contract with the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Inc., in the Amount of \$1,377,500.00 from the General Fund to Support the Competitive Arts Grant Program, Operation of the Community Arts Center and Management Funding for the Rose Marine Theater for Fiscal Year 2019 (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)
2. [M&C C-28912](#) - Authorize Execution of an Artwork Commission Agreement with Christopher Blay in an Amount of \$226,281.42 for Technical Drawings, Fabrication, Delivery, Installation, and Contingencies for a Sculpture Located in the 900 block of East Rosedale Street (near Short Street), Fort Worth, TX, 76104 (COUNCIL DISTRICT 8)
3. [M&C C-28913](#) - Authorize Execution of Economic Development Program Agreement with Development Services Group, Inc., or an Affiliate for the Development of a Full Service Hotel to be Located at 714 Main Street, Accept Dedication of Property at 714 Main Street to the City, and Authorize Execution of a Ground Lease of Property at 714 Main Street by the City to Development Services Group, Inc., or an Affiliate, and Authorize Execution of a Related Room Block Agreement (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9)
4. [M&C C-28914](#) - Authorize Execution of an Economic Development Program

Agreement with McLane Company, Inc., or an Affiliate for the Development and Operation of a Wholesale Grocery Distribution Center on Property Located at 7550 Oak Grove Road and Adopt Resolution Nominating this Project as an Enterprise Project Pursuant to Chapter 2303, Texas Government Code (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9)

5. [M&C C-28915](#) - Authorize Execution of a Five-Year Tax Abatement Agreement with Alvaro Munoz for the Construction of a Single-Family Dwelling Located at 520 W. Kellis Street in the Hemphill/Berry Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9)
6. [M&C C-28916](#) - Authorize Execution of Amendment No. 1 to City Secretary Contract No. 44934, an Engineering Agreement with Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc., and Amendment No. 1 to City Secretary Contract No. 48610, an Engineering Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., each for Design and Construction Phase Services for the Overton Woods Drainage/Bellaire Drive South Improvements Project and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance (COUNCIL DISTRICT 3)
7. [M&C C-28917](#) - Accept a Donation in the Amount of \$341,500.00 from the Hazel Vaughn Leigh Trust for Restricted Purposes, Authorize the Use of \$341,500.00 in Community Partnership Funds, Authorize an Agreement with NewsBank, Inc., in the Amount of \$683,000.00 for the Purpose of Purchasing the 1923-1990 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Web-Based Databases, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinances in the General Capital Project Fund and the Special Donations Fund (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)

## XV. ZONING HEARING

1. [ZC-18-128](#) - (CD 7) - Licurgus S. Mahan III, 1200 block Meandering Road; From: "B" Two-Family To: "FR" General Commercial Restricted 4.46 acres (**Recommended for Approval by the Zoning Commission**) (Continued from a Previous Meeting)

## XVI. CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS

## XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290) - SEE ATTACHMENT B

## XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

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According to the City Council Rules of Procedures, individual citizen presentations shall be limited to three minutes, and group presentations shall be limited to six minutes. At the Mayor's discretion, time limits may be reasonably extended.

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***Fort Worth Council Chamber is wheelchair accessible. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services such as interpreters, readers, or large print are requested to contact the City's ADA Coordinator at (817) 392-8552 or e-mail [ADA@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:ADA@FortWorthTexas.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If the City does not receive notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, the City will make a reasonable attempt to provide the necessary accommodations.***

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**CITY HALL, ROOM 290**  
**Tuesday, October 30, 2018**

- A. The City Council will conduct a closed meeting in order to discuss matters permitted by the following sections of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code:

**CITY ATTORNEY**

1. Section 551.071, CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

To seek the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.071]:

- a. Legal issues related to Outside Counsel for Debt Financing;
- b. Legal Issues related to City Charter Elections; and
- c. Legal issues regarding any item listed on today's City Council meeting agenda.

**CITY MANAGER**

1. Section 551.072, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Deliberate the purchase, sale, lease or value of real property where deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third party.

2. Section 551.087, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Deliberate the commercial or financial information or the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect.

- B. The City Council may reconvene in open session in the City Council Conference Room and act on any item listed on the Executive Session Agenda in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

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## HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 30, 2018  
2:00 pm  
City Council Conference Room, City Hall, Room 290  
200 Texas Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

### Committee Members

Kelly Allen Gray, Chair  
Cary Moon, Vice Chair

Gyna M. Bivens, Council Member  
Carlos Flores, Council Member

### City Staff

Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager - Staff Liaison  
Vicki S. Ganske, Senior Assistant City Attorney

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1. **Call to Order** – Kelly Allen Gray, Chair
2. **Approval of Minutes from the Meeting Held on August 7, 2018** – Kelly Allen Gray, Chair
3. **Presentation on Proposed 2019 City of Fort Worth Housing Tax Credit Policy** – Aubrey Thagard, Director, Neighborhood Services Department
4. **Briefing on Proposed Revisions to the Priority Repair and Homebuyer Assistance Programs** – Barbara Asbury, Compliance and Planning Manager, Neighborhood Services Department
5. **Presentation on Use of \$53,000 in UDAG Funds for Storefront and Parking Lot Improvements to Mama E's B-B-Q and Home Cooking Located at 818 East Rosedale Street in the Historic Southside Area** – Sydnee Freeman, Assistant Director, Neighborhood Services Department
6. **Executive Session** - The Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee will conduct a closed meeting to:
  - A. Seek the advice of its attorneys about any matter regarding the following in which the duty of the attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act [Tex. Govt. Code §551.071]: (i) legal issues related to any current agenda items; and

- B. Discuss the purchase, sale, lease or value of real property, as authorized by Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code. Deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third party; and
- C. Discuss or deliberate negotiations relating to any economic development negotiations, as authorized by Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

**7. Request for Future Agenda Items** – Kelly Allen Gray, Chair

**8. Adjourn** – Kelly Allen Gray, Chair

**Please Note: Additional members of the Fort Worth City Council may be attending the meeting for information-gathering purposes. Any members of the Council who are not on the Committee will not be deliberating or voting on any Committee agenda items.**

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**CITY OF FORT WORTH  
HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2018**

**Committee Members Present:**

Kelly Allen Gray, Chair

Carlos Flores, Councilmember

Gyna M. Bivens, Councilmember

Cary Moon, Vice Chair

**Committee Members Absent:**

None

**City Staff Present:**

Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager

Aubrey Thagard, Director, Neighborhood Services Department

Vicki Ganske, Senior Assistant City Attorney

**1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair, Councilmember Gray, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting Held on June 5, 2018**

Motion was made by Councilmember Flores to approve the June 5, 2018 minutes as presented. Councilmember Bivens seconded the motion and it passed.

**3. Presentation on the Fort Worth Healthy Food Financing Initiative – Matt Dufrene, Vice President, Blue Zones Project; Erika Hersch, Senior Loan Officer, PeopleFund**

Mr. Dufrene provided a PowerPoint Presentation titled, “The Healthy Food Financing Initiative”. The presentation provided an overview of how the healthy food financing initiative increases the number of grocery stores, healthy corner stores, and other fresh food markets in low-income, underserved communities throughout the City. Erika Hersch also discussed the programs that are a proven, effective, and economically sustainable solution to bring food and jobs into communities lacking access to affordable, healthy food. Ms. Herch stated that PeopleFund has an easy, online loan application, there was no application fee, and education workshops are available to assist borrowers.

**Questions and Discussion**

Councilmember Moon asked what percentage of that grant would go to this program. Mr. Thagard explained the different percentage of the grants that will help get funded. Mr. Costa gave a brief explanation of the history of the different grants and the funding it would pull from.

**4. Update on Katy Station Lofts Transit Oriented Development—Mary-Margaret Lemons, President, Fort Worth Housing Solutions**

The purpose of the presentation was to provide update on the Katy Lofts Station, a Transit-Oriented Development in the Central City. Ms. Lemons explain the partnership between Fort Worth Housing Solutions and Trinity Metro and that the mixed development will offer workforce and market-rate housing, retail space and daycare facility, a hotel, and a new parking garage for residents, customers and transit riders.

**Questions and Discussion**

Councilmember Moon asked whether the residential or the hotel piece would pay property taxes. Ms. Lemons replied that the resident portion of the development would not; but the hotel would. She concluded by giving a timeline for the development in the upcoming months.

**5. Executive Session**

There were no items for an Executive Session.

**6. Future Agenda Items**

Councilmember Bivens asked to receive an update on Cavile Place.

**7. Adjournment**

With no further presentations or discussions, Chairwoman Gray adjourned the regular meeting of the Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee at 2:33 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, 2018

These minutes approved by the Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

**PREPARED BY and ATTESTED:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constance Williams, Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Allen Gray, Chair



Updated October 26, 2018

**City of Fort Worth**  
**City Council Work Session Agenda Calendar**

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**October 30, 2018**

**2:00 p.m. Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee**  
**3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session**

**Continued Items:**

- **ZC-18-128** - (COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 – Dennis Shingleton) - Licurgus S. Mahan III, 1200 block Meandering Road; From: "B" Two-Family To: "FR" General Commercial Restricted 4.46 acres (Recommended for Approval by the Zoning Commission) **(Continued from October 23, 2018 by Mayor Pro Tem Shingleton)**
- o Briefing on Blue Zones Project [*Matt Dufrene, Blue Zones Project*]
- o Update on TCU and UNTHSC Medical School [*Stuart Flynn and Judy Bernas, TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine*]
- o Presentation on Fort Worth Botanic Garden Task Force Recommendations [*Susan Alanis, City Manager's Office, Sal Espino, Botanic Garden Task Force Chair and Bob Byers, Botanic Gardens*]
- o Review of City Council Calendar for January - December 2019 [*Mary Kayser, City Secretary*]

**November 6, 2018** **(National Election Day)**

**8:30 a.m. City Council Work Session (NOTE: Time Change)**

- o Update on Court Case Management System [*Valerie Washington, City Manager's Office*]
- o Briefing on Proposed 2019 Affordable Housing Tax Credit Policy [*Aubrey Thagard, Neighborhood Services Department*]
- o Pension Update [*David Cooke, City Manager's Office*]



*Updated October 26, 2018*

***City of Fort Worth  
City Council Work Session Agenda Calendar***

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**November 13, 2018 Monthly Zoning Meeting**

*Audit Committee (cancelled)*

*11:00 a.m. Ad Hoc Municipal Court Advisory Committee  
(CMO Conference Room 380)*

*1:00 p.m. Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee*

*2:00 p.m. Infrastructure & Transportation Committee*

*Fort Worth Crime Control and Prevention District Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting (TBD)*

*3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session*

**Continued Items:**

- **M&C L-16154** - (COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 – Dennis Shingleton) - Authorize Joint Ordinance and Boundary Agreement with the City of Haslet to Adjust the City Limit Boundaries between the Cities of Fort Worth and Haslet for Existing Rights-of-Way (**Continued from October 16, 2018 by Staff**)
- **ZC-18-141** - (COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 – Jungus Jordan) - Pate Ranch Retail LP & Pate Ranch Commercial LP, 7200 - 7400 blocks of Chisholm Trail Parkway; From: "PD 1064" Planned Development for all uses in "MU-2" High Intensity Mixed-Use excluding: community home, group home I & II, probation or parole office, electric power substation, telecommunications tower (allow stealth towers & antennas on buildings), baseball/softball facility (commercial), massage parlor (allow massage therapy), mortuary or funeral home, newspaper distribution center, pawn shop, tattoo parlor, taxidermist shop, automotive repair, paint & body shop, recreational vehicle (RV) sales/service, assaying, assembly of pre-manufactured parts, except for vehicle, trailers, airplanes or mobile homes, bottling works, milk or soft drinks, food processing (no slaughtering), manufacture of artificial flowers, ornaments, awning, tents, bags, cleaning/polishing preparations, boats under 28 ft. in length, brooms or brushes, buttons and novelties, canvas products, clothing, suits, coats, or dresses for wholesale trade, monument/marble works, finishing and carving only, monument works, stone, paper box manufacturing, pattern shop, printing, lithographing, book-binding, newspaper or publishing, rubber stamping, shearing/punching, sheet metal shop, welding shop, custom work (not structural), airport, aviation field, or landing area (allow helistop), railroad roundhouse or railroad car repair shop, recycling collection facility, storage outside (display outside allowed), trailer, portable, sales, construction or storage, site plan required To: "PD/D" Planned Development for all uses in "D" High Density Multifamily with waivers to allow a maximum height of 41 ft., a maximum density of 30 units/acre, and a minimum of 232 parking spaces; site plan included 6.98 acres (Recommended for Approval as Amended by the Zoning Commission to clarify 4 stories) (**Continued from October 16, 2018 by Council Member Jordan**)
  - o Overview of Significant Zoning Cases [*Dana Burghdoff, Planning and Development*]
  - o Briefing on Tree Fund Overview [*Randle Harwood, Planning and Development*]



Updated October 26, 2018

**City of Fort Worth**  
**City Council Work Session Agenda Calendar**

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**November 20, 2018**

**2:00 p.m. Fort Worth Local Development Corporation (cancelled)**  
**Central City Local Government Corporation (cancelled)**  
**Alliance Airport Authority (cancelled)**  
**Lone Star Local Government Corporation (cancelled)**  
**3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session (cancelled)**

**November 22, 2018 (Thursday)**

**City Hall Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday**

**November 23, 2018 (Friday)**

**City Hall Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday**

**November 27, 2018**

**3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session (cancelled)**

**December 4, 2018 Monthly Zoning Meeting**

**11:00 a.m. Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee**

**1:00 p.m. Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee**

**2:00 p.m. Fort Worth Housing Finance Corporation**

**3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session**

- o Overview of Significant Zoning Cases [*Dana Burghdoff, Planning and Development*]
- o Final Report of the Task Force on Race and Culture [*Rosa Navejar, Lillie Biggins, Rabbi Andrew Bloom, and Bob Ray Sanders, Task Force Co-Chairs*]
- o Briefing on Options for Civilian Oversight of the Police Department [*Jay Chapa, City Manager’s Office and Richard Brady, Matrix Consulting Group*]
- o Briefing on Staffing Study for the Police and Code Compliance Departments [*Lynda Johnson, Performance and Budget Department and Richard Brady, Matrix Consulting Group*]
- o Briefing on the Neighborhood & Community Park Dedication Policy Update [*Richard Zavala, Park & Recreation Department*]



*Updated October 26, 2018*

***City of Fort Worth  
City Council Work Session Agenda Calendar***

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***December 11, 2018***

***1:00 p.m. Audit Committee  
2:00 p.m. Infrastructure & Transportation Committee  
3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session***

- o Briefing on Selection of 2019 Neighborhood Improvement Target Area [*Aubrey Thagard, Neighborhood Services*]
- o Briefing on Performance and Budget Department [*Lynda Johnson, Performance and Budget Department*]
- o Update on Stormwater [*Greg Simmons, Transportation and Public Works*]

***December 18, 2018***

***3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session***

***December 25, 2018***

***3:00 p.m. City Council Work Session (cancelled)***



**CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 23, 2018**

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**Present:**

Mayor Betsy Price  
Mayor Pro tem Dennis Shingleton, District 7  
Council Member Carlos Flores, District 2  
Council Member Brian Byrd, District 3  
Council Member Cary Moon, District 4  
Council Member Jungus Jordan, District 6  
Council Member Kelly Allen Gray, District 8  
Council Member Ann Zadeh, District 9

**Absent:**

Council Member Gyna Bivens, District 5

**Staff Present:**

David Cooke, City Manager  
Sarah Fullenwider, City Attorney  
Mary J. Kayser, City Secretary

With a quorum of the City Council Members present, Mayor Price called the Fort Worth City Council Work Session to order at 3:03 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in City Council Conference Room 290 of the Fort Worth City Hall, 200 Texas Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

**1. Report of the City Manager – David Cooke, City Manager**

**a. Changes to the City Council Agenda**

There are no changes to the agenda.

**b. Upcoming and Recent Events**

Groundbreaking for the new Como Community Center will be held on October 29, 2018, at 10:30am at Chamberlin Field.

Assistant City Manager Jay Chapa informed the Council that the City of Fort Worth has sent a tanker truck, supervisor and operators to Austin to assist with their water supply issues from the recent flooding issues related to the Colorado River.

**c. Organizational Updates and Employee Recognition(s)**

City Manager David Cooke announced that Chief Financial Officer Aaron Bovos will be leaving the City for the American Quarter Horse Association.

**d. Informal Reports**

1. IR 10188: Accept Proceeds from the Sale of 250 West Lancaster and Establish an Economic Development Incentive Fund
2. IR 10189: Texas Enterprise Zone Nomination for Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC
3. IR 10190: History of Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector Costs
4. IR 10191: Lane Configuration Change on Sylvania Avenue
5. IR 10192: Monthly Development Activity Report
6. IR 10193: Residential Solid Waste Collection Services Update

**2. Current Agenda Items - City Council Members**

M&C G-19405 – Council Member Moon had questions about the attendance of the members of the Construction and Fire Prevention Board of Appeals.

**3. Responses to Items Continued from a Previous Week**

- a. **ZC-18-128 - (COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 – Dennis Shingleton) - Licurgus S. Mahan III, 1200 block Meandering Road; From: " B" Two-Family To: " FR" General Commercial Restricted 4.46 acres (Recommended for Approval by the Zoning Commission) (Continued from October 16, 2018 by Mayor Pro Tem Shingleton) Will be continued until October 30, 2018.**

**4. Update on Catholic Charities Services Related to Ending Poverty - Heather Reynolds, Catholic Charities**

Ms. Heather Reynolds with Catholic Charities and Bishop Michael Olson, Catholic Diocese, presented their mission to end poverty in Fort Worth. They discussed several of their poverty solutions. They highlighted their client's issues with payday lending and asked that Council consider enacting a payday lending ordinance.

Council Member Moon out 3:40 – 4:10 p.m.

**5. Presentation on Payday Lending Regulations - Melinda Ramos, Law Development**

Ms. Melinda Ramos, Law Department, presented federal, state and municipal regulations related to pay day lenders. She covered municipal regulations including business regulations and land use/zoning regulations.

**6. Presentation on an Economic Development Program Agreement and Enterprise Project Designation with McLane Company, Inc., for the Development and Operation of a Wholesale Grocery Distribution Center at 7550 Oak Grove Road - Robert Sturns, Economic Development Department**

Mr. Robert Sturns, Economic Development Department, provided information on a five year Economic Development Program and Enterprise Project Designation for McLane Company, Inc. for the development and operation of a wholesale grocery distribution center.

**7. Presentation on an Economic Development Program Agreement with Development Services Group, Inc., for the Development of a Full Service Hotel to be Located at 714 Main Street - Robert Sturns, Economic Development Department**

Mr. Robert Sturns, Economic Development Department, provided information on a ten year Economic Development Program Agreement with Development Services Group, Inc., for the Development of a Full Service Hotel.

**8. City Council Requests for Future Agenda Items and/or Reports**

Council Member Bivens - Measureable criteria for determining how locations for community centers are identified and information on operations and/or procedures where drones would be helpful.

Council Member Moon and Jordan – Enforcing ordinances on private property (related to camping on private property and parking of 18 wheelers)

**9. Executive Session (CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290)**

Mayor Price adjourned the City Council Work Session at 4:24 p. m.

With a quorum of the City Council Members present, the Fort Worth City Council convened into closed Executive Session at 4:33 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in the City Council Conference Room 290 of the Fort Worth Municipal Building to discuss matters pertaining to the following:

A. The City Council will conduct a closed meeting in order to discuss matters permitted by the following sections of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code:

**CITY ATTORNEY**

**1. Section 551.071, CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY**

To seek the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.071]:

- a. Legal issues related to proposed amendments to the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Fort Worth;
- b. *Stephannie Lynn Rylie, et al. v. The City of Fort Worth and David Cooke, in his official capacity as City Manager*, Cause No. 17-276483-15;
- c. Legal issues related to funding for Trinity River Vision Project; and
- d. Legal issues concerning any item listed on today's City Council meeting agendas.

**CITY MANAGER**

**1. Section 551.072, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY**

Deliberate the purchase, sale, lease or value of real property where deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third party.

**2. Section 551.087, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

Deliberate the commercial or financial information or the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect.

The Council reconvened into open session at 6:27 p.m.

The Mayor and Council stated their support of the Panther Island Project and its flood control for the Central City and for an independent review of project.

There being no further business, Mayor Price adjourned the City Council Work Session at 6:34 p. m.

**CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2018**

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**Present:**

Mayor Betsy Price  
Mayor Pro tem Dennis Shingleton, District 7  
Council Member Carlos Flores, District 2  
Council Member Brian Byrd, District 3  
Council Member Cary Moon, District 4  
Council Member Jungus Jordan, District 6  
Council Member Kelly Allen Gray, District 8  
Council Member Ann Zadeh, District 9

**Absent:**

Council Member Gyna Bivens, District 5

**Staff Present:**

David Cooke, City Manager  
Sarah Fullenwider, City Attorney  
Mary J. Kayser, City Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum of the City Council Members present, Mayor Price called the regular session of the Fort Worth City Council to order at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in the City Council Chamber of the Fort Worth City Hall, 200 Texas Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

**II. INVOCATION – Reverend Shari Woodbury, Westside Unitarian Universalist Church**

The invocation was provided by Reverend Shari Woodbury, Westside Unitarian Universalist Church.

**III. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF TEXAS**

The Pledges of Allegiance to the United States of America and the State of Texas were recited.

**IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF AND REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 2018**

Motion: Council Member Jordan made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Shingleton, that the minutes of the City Council Work Session and Regular meeting of October 16, 2018, be approved. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

**V. ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no items to be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

**VI. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN BY STAFF**

There were no items to be continued or withdrawn by staff.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion: Mayor Pro tem Shingleton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Flores, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

**A. General - Consent Items**

1. **M&C G-19403 - Authorize Temporary Closure of Brennan Avenue from Guenther Avenue to Peak Street from October 24, 2018 Through February 24, 2019 for Construction Activities (COUNCIL DISTRICT 2)**

**B. Purchase of Equipment, Materials, and Services - Consent Items**

1. **M&C P-12266 - Authorize Execution of a Revenue Generating Agreement with Contemporary Services Corporation to Provide Exclusive Event Staffing Services for Various Public Events, to Serve the Fort Worth Convention Center and Will Rogers Memorial Center with an Initial Two-Year Term and Authorize Three One-Year Renewal Options (COUNCIL DISTRICTS 7 and 9)**
2. **M&C P-12267 - Authorize Purchase of Four 2019 Ford F350 Pickup Trucks from Jacksboro FM LLC., d/b/a Four Stars Ford in a Total Amount Up to \$136,956.00, for the Police Department Through the Property Management Department (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)**
3. **M&C P-12268 - Authorize Purchase of 17 RamProMaster Vans from Grapevine DCJ, LLC and 1 Ford Transit Connect Van from Sam Pack's Five Star Ford, LTD, in a Total Amount Up to \$415,619.00, for the IT and Police Departments Through the Property Management Department (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)**
4. **M&C P-12269 - Authorize Purchase of a Hydro Excavator from Austin Truck & Equipment Ltd dba Freightliner of Austin in an Amount Up to \$300,306.00, for the Transportation and Public Works Department Through the Property Management Department (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)**

**D. Planning & Zoning - Consent Items**

1. **M&C PZ-3174 - Adopt Ordinance No. 23449-10-2018 Vacating the Remainder of an Alley in Block B, Wray's Subdivision of Block 18-B, Fields Welch Addition, Between West Rosedale Street and Oleander Street to be Replatted with the Adjoining Property for a Multi-Family Development in the Near Southside (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9)**
  
2. **M&C PZ-3175 - Adopt Ordinance No. 23450-10-2018 Vacating a Public Access Easement within the Chapel Creek Subdivision and a Portion of Old Weatherford Road between Proposed Academy Boulevard and the Frontage Road for West Freeway to be Platted with the Adjoining Property for Phase 3 of the Chapel Creek Single-Family Detached Subdivision (COUNCIL DISTRICT 3)**

**E. Award of Contract - Consent Items**

1. **M&C C-28904 - Adopt Appropriation Ordinance No. 23451-10-2018 to Continue Funding Temporary Railroad Crossing Maintenance for the N. Henderson Street and N. Commerce Street Fort Worth and Western Railroad Crossings as Authorized Under City Secretary Contract No. 49230-A1 (COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2 and 9)**

**VIII. PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY SECRETARY - CONSENT ITEMS**

1. **Notice of Claims for Alleged Damages and/or Injuries**

End of Consent Agenda.

**IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, ETC.**

1. **Presentation of Certificate of Recognition for the Texas Trail of Fame**

Mayor Price presented a Certificate of Recognition for the Texas Trail of Fame to Mr. George Westby.

2. **Recognition of Lake Como Cleanup Participants**

Council Member Byrd recognized the volunteers and staff who supported a litter cleanup at Lake Como.

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**1. Upcoming and Recent Events**

Mayor Price and Council Members Flores, Jordan, Allen Gray, and Zadeh announced upcoming and recent events within the City and various Council districts.

**2. Recognition of Citizens**

There were no recognition of citizens.

**3. Approval of Ceremonial Travel**

There was no ceremonial travel.

**XI. PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. Changes in Membership on Boards and Commissions**

Motion: Council Member Allen Gray made a motion, seconded by Council Member Zadeh, that the following be appointed/reappointed to Place 8 on various boards and commissions, effective October 23, 2018, and with a terms expiring October 1, 2020:

Appointment:

Mr. Monnie Gilliam – Board of Adjustment Commercial and the Alliance Airport Board of Adjustment

Reappointments:

Mr. Steven Epstein – Board of Adjustment - Residential  
Mr. Jeffery Postell – Building Standards Commission  
Mr. Billy Ray Daniels, Jr. – Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission  
Ms. Andrea Rogers-Henry – Library Advisory Board  
Ms. LaShanda Davis – Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
Mr. John Tandy – Urban Design Commission

Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

**XII. PRESENTATIONS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND/OR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

There were no presentations and/or communication from boards, commissions, and/or City Council committees.

**XIII. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**B. General**

1. **M&C G-19404 - Adopt Ordinances Appropriating a Total of \$10,000,000.00 in the Government Community Facilities Agreement Fund and the Water & Sewer Community Facilities Agreement Fund for Fiscal Year 2019 Community Facilities Agreement Projects and Delegating Authority to the City Manager, or His Designee, on Receipt of Payments, to Effect Transfers within each Fund Up to its Budgeted Total (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)**

Motion: Council Member Jordan made a motion, seconded by Council Member Flores, that Mayor and Council Communication G-19404 be approved and Appropriation Ordinance Nos. 23452-10-2018 and 23453-10-2018 be adopted. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

2. **M&C G-19405 - Authorize Appointment and Reappointments to the City's Construction and Fire Prevention Board of Appeals, Places 2, 4, and 6 (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)**

Motion: Council Member Byrd made a motion, seconded by Council Member Moon, that Mayor and Council Communication G-19405 be approved. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

3. **M&C G-19406 - Adopt Resolution Revising the Schedule of Standard Fines and Late Fees for Parking Offenses (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)**

Motion: Council Member Moon made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Shingleton, that Mayor and Council Communication G-19406 be approved and Resolution No. 4996-10-2018 be adopted. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

**F. Award of Contract**

1. **M&C C-28905 - Authorize Execution of an Inter-local Agreement with Fort Worth Housing Solutions to Provide \$4.5 Million in 2014 CIP Funds to Construct a Shared Parking Structure, Pedestrian Streetscape Improvements and Other Associated Public Infrastructure Related to the Transit Oriented Development of Katy Station Lofts Located at West Vickery Boulevard and South Main Street and the Fort Worth T&P Rail Station and Rescind the Authorization Granted in M&C C-27938 to the Prior Public Partner, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, n/k/a Trinity Metro (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9)**

Motion: Council Member Zadeh made a motion, seconded by Council Member Byrd, that Mayor and Council Communication C-28905 be approved. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

- 2. M&C C-28906 - Authorize Execution of a Construction Contract with McClendon Construction Company, Inc., in the Amount of \$7,215,420.75 for Roadway Construction for Blue Mound Road and Willow Springs Road and Authorize Execution of Amendment No. 1 to Interlocal Agreement with Northwest Independent School District for an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,000,000.00 for the Construction of Willow Springs Road and Blue Mound Road and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance (COUNCIL DISTRICT 7)**

Motion: Mayor Pro tem Shingleton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Flores, that Mayor and Council Communication C-28906 be approved and Appropriation Ordinance No. 23454-10-2018 be adopted. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

#### **XIV. ZONING HEARING**

It appeared that the City Council continued Zoning Docket ZC-18-128 at the October 16, 2018, Council meeting:

- 1. ZC-18-128 - (CD 7) - Licurgus S. Mahan III, 1200 block Meandering Road; From: "B" Two-Family To: "FR" General Commercial Restricted 4.46 acres (Recommended for Approval by the Zoning Commission) (Continued from a Previous Meeting)**

Mayor Price opened the public hearing.

Motion: Mayor Pro tem Shingleton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jordan, that Zoning Docket ZC-18-128 be continued to the October 30, 2018, Council meeting. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

There being no one present desiring to be heard in connection with the recommended changes and amendments pertaining Zoning Ordinance No. 21653-02-2015 for the above-listed case, Mayor Pro tem Shingleton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jordan, that the hearing be closed. Motion passed 8-0, Council Member Bivens absent.

#### **XV. CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS**

The following individuals appeared before Council relative to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden:

Ms. Karin Cagle, 2618 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ms. Kit Jones, 2308 Ryan Place Drive

Mr. Charles Dreyfus, 2416 Park Place, completed a Citizen Presentation card relative to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and was recognized by Mayor Price but was not present in the Council Chamber.

The following individuals appeared before Council relative to Police Chief Joel Fitzgerald:

Mr. Tommy Brandon, 1200 Southern Oaks Court  
Mr. Charles Hodges, 7301 Monterrey Drive  
Ms. Charmion Polk, 4717 Garfield Drive #2312  
Ms. Joycia “Sunshyne” Johnson, 6731 Bridge Street  
Pastor Kenneth Jones, Jr., 5228 Goodman Avenue

Mr. Robert Boures, 4328 Segura Court South, appeared before Council relative to the Panther Island project.

Mr. Lon Burnam, 2103 Sixth Avenue, appeared before Council relative to race and culture.

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ROOM 290)**

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Price adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**No Documents for this Section**

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 30, 2018**

Page 1 of 2

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL PREEMPTION REGARDING THE REGULATION OF RAILROADS AND TRAINS**

The purpose of this report is to provide information concerning the City's ability to address trains blocking intersections within the city limits.

**Federal Law**

The United States Congress has enacted two laws that specifically address the ability of cities and states to regulate trains and railroads – The Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA) and The Federal Railroad Safety Act (FRSA). These acts appear to express the intent of Congress to preempt state law in the regulation of trains and railroads.

The ICCTA, which became effective on January 1, 1996, contains a provision that states, "Except as otherwise provided in this part, the remedies provided under this part with respect to regulation of rail transportation are exclusive and preempt the remedies provided under Federal or State law."

The FRSA, adopted by Congress in 1970 gives the Secretary of Transportation the power to "prescribe regulations and issue orders for every area of railroad safety" and also includes an preemption provision that allows state regulation related to railroad safety only if:

1. The Secretary of Transportation has not yet regulated the subject matter of the state regulation, or
2. The regulation is necessary to eliminate **an essentially local hazard**, does not conflict with federal law, and does not unreasonably burden interstate commerce.

**State Law**

Prior to 2015, Texas had an Anti-Blocking Statute that made it a Class C misdemeanor for trains to block roadways. Initially the law prohibited railroads willfully allowing a standing train to obstruct a crossing for more than five minutes. The Texas Legislature amended Sec. 471.007 of the Transportation Code in 1999 to provide that "a railway company commits an offense if a train of the railway company obstructs for more than 10 minutes a street, railroad crossing, or public highway." The amended statute also provided a defense to prosecution if the obstruction was due to an act of God or breakdown of the train.

The Texas Anti-Blocking Statute was challenged in federal court, and in 2001 the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the statute was preempted under the ITCA because regulating the time a train can occupy rail crossings impacts the economic regulation of railroads, an area of regulation expressly preempted by Federal law. The Anti-Blocking statute was repealed by the State Legislature in 2015.

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

October 30, 2018

Page 2 of 2

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL PREEMPTION REGARDING THE REGULATION OF RAILROADS AND TRAINS**

In 2005, the Texas Attorney General issued an opinion finding that the Anti-Blocking Statute was preempted by both the ICCTA and FRSA. The AG opinion did acknowledge the **possibility** that a statute could be crafted so that it would not be preempted **if it was narrowly tailored to only address instances when the obstruction from the train interferes with state and local law enforcement or emergency response.**

**City Ordinance**

Since 1964 the City has had an ordinance prohibiting an officer/agent of a railway corporation from "willfully obstructing" a street. The City's ordinance was structured after the now repealed state law. Citations issued under this ordinance would be subject to the same preemption arguments successfully made against the state statute, therefore substantially limiting the ability of law enforcement to address the blocking of streets by train by issuing criminal citations.

**Conclusion**

Federal law has severely limited the ability of cities to enforce and prosecute citations regarding trains obstructing or blocking a street. In order to successfully prosecute a citation City officials would have to identify the essentially local hazard and demonstrate why the hazard is beyond the normal inconvenience of traffic being blocked.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this issue, please contact Gerald Pruitt, Law at (817) 392-7616.

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 30, 2018**

Page 1 of 2

**SUBJECT: RECENT ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTIVITY**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to respond to a request for information on recent anti-immigrant activities in our community, including the placement of defamatory banners and flyers on public property.

On October 2, 2018, unknown person(s) placed a cloth banner with the words, "Deport Them All," on the pedestrian bridge near Morningside Drive at Interstate 35. Concerned onlookers noticed the banner and removed it from the bridge.

On October 4, 2018, community members discovered four flyers from the **PATRIOTFRONT.us** in the downtown section of the city attached via adhesive in the following locations:

- Main at Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street on a City fire hydrant
- 220 E 3rd Street at the AMC Palace Theatre on a movie poster
- 500 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on a lamp post across from the Central Library
- 501 Houston Street on a newsstand near Jos A. Bank

Two of the four flyers highlighted the phrase, "Reclaim America," while the last two were entitled, "Better Dead than Red," and "Not Stolen, Conquered." The persons who located the flyers shared them on social media as well as with news outlets, but no one reported the literature to the Fort Worth Police Department.

After the FWPD received notification regarding the banner and the flyers, the Department conferred with the City Attorney's Office and determined that neither the speech on the banner nor the flyers constituted hate crimes, but were a form of free speech allowed under the First Amendment.

However, the placement of the flyers on City property violated City Ordinance 23-14 and 23-15 which is a Class C Misdemeanor. The City Code provisions prohibit a person, firm or corporation, other than the owner of the property, to post, fasten erect or display, or cause to be posted, fastened, erected or displayed any type of handbill, sign, poster or advertisement on or upon any structure, tree, pole, curb or elsewhere within the right-of-way of any public street, or upon any public property within the City of Fort Worth, without the express permission of the Fort Worth City Council.

The placement of the flyers on the lamp posts and the fire hydrants, which are City property, violated the City Code. If the flyers were placed on the movie poster and the newsstand without the permission of the owner, this would also violate the City Code. The overpass where the banner was placed is owned by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) so permission from TxDot to hang the banner would be required. The Fort Worth Police Department will work closely with TxDOT to ensure the prompt removal of any unauthorized signage in the future.

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 30, 2018**

Page 2 of 2

**SUBJECT: RECENT ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTIVITY**

In addition, FWPD created a police information report to address the City Ordinance violations for posting the flyers on city/public property. The FWPD will continue to work closely with City Center Security and other local stakeholders to review camera footage to determine if any viable leads or suspects exist. The Homeland Security Unit receives all related information on these incidents and actively monitors social media forums for potential involved groups. They communicate any actionable information gleaned to the appropriate investigative division.

The Fort Worth Police Department Public Relations Office (PRO Team) proactively provided information to local news media partners, and used social media to guide stakeholders who encounter these type incidents in the future, advising the public to contact the police for a report and to refrain from removing any posted flyer, banner, or sticker placed on public or City property.

On Monday October 15, 2018, Deputy Chief Alldredge attended the Race and Culture Task Force and Human Relations Commission meetings and provided information on reporting similar incidents as well as the a synopsis of the FWPD response to this incident.

As of the creation of this report, there have been no suspects identified and no citations issued for these incidents. If you have any questions are would like additional information, please contact Police Chief Fitzgerald at [joel.fitzgerald@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:joel.fitzgerald@fortworthtexas.gov) or 817-392-0140.

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 30, 2018**

Page 1 of 1

**SUBJECT: POLICE INITIATED OR POLICE PURPOSE TOWING SERVICES UPDATE**

The purpose of this informal report is to inform the City Council that Police Purpose towing services will be transitioning to the contract with Tegsco, LLC (AutoReturn) on November 1, 2018.

Currently, the City of Fort Worth Police Department has been operating under amended agreements between individual wrecker companies for police initiated and police-purpose towing services through November 30, 2018 or until \$50,000 in towing services was reached, whichever occurred first. As a result of the volume of police initiated and police purpose towing services this month, funds will be depleted before end of the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> extension period.

All towing company operators that had amended contracts with the City have been notified of the termination of the agreements as required under contract terms. AutoReturn will begin providing police initiated and police purpose towing utilizing those towing companies that chose to sign a contract to provide those services.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Jay Chapa, Assistant City Manager at 817-392-5804 or at [Jesus.Chapa@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Jesus.Chapa@fortworthtexas.gov).

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 30, 2018**

Page 1 of 2

**SUBJECT: UPCOMING CHANGES TO PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS**

The purpose of this informal report is to update the Mayor and City Council on proposed changes associated with the FY19 Public Improvement Districts (hereinafter referred to as "PID" or "PIDs") management contracts. The changes will standardize the financial management practices of all PIDs and increase the oversight, accountability, and responsibility of each of the external PID management companies. The changes reflect that PIDs are not separate entities from the City.

Staff identified several operational challenges since the Department of Financial Management Services (hereinafter referred to as "FMS") assumed the role of PID administration in October of 2017. Further, the Internal Audit Department identified substantial deficiencies and provided recommendations for improvement through the completion of audit engagements conducted this year. FMS requested an additional staff position in the FY19 budget to assist with the efforts in making improvements which was denied in favor of requiring additional oversight, accountability, and responsibility from the management companies. The proposed PID management contract renewals formalize the new requirement.

The management contract changes expand the level of service currently being provided by the management companies. Staff anticipates management companies will increase fees. Under currently policy, administrative costs for PID management services cannot exceed 20% of the current year's budgeted assessment. Staff estimates the new expenses will exceed the 20% cap and an amendment to the FY19 Service and Assessment Plans will be required.

**Management Contract Change Summary**

- Management companies shall be accountable for deliverables under the existing contracts with the City, including:
  - Compliance with the City's Purchasing rules & regulation
  - Management companies shall not hold cash funds on the City's behalf.
  - The contract will be expanded to include:
    - Additional substantiation documentation on expenditures (to ensure compliance with the Service and Assessment Plan, state law, and the City's PID Policy and Purchasing Regulations)
    - Completion of an annual budget with detailed plans for programs
    - Development of a funding plan for capital related activities, including maintenance of facilities / amenities
    - Verification of the billing process on assessed properties
- Communication enhancements to include a requirement to provide:
  - A dedicated PID website
  - Quarterly property owner meetings
  - Newsletters
  - Customer service staff to respond to inquiries

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**October 30, 2018**

Page 2 of 2



**SUBJECT: UPCOMING CHANGES TO PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS**

- Completion of an annual external audit by the City's auditor to include:
  - Financial statement opinion (income statement and balance sheets) and compliance with generally accepted government accounting principles
  - Opinion of management company's delivery of the improvements and Services outlined within the Budget and Service Plan
  - Confirmation annual expenditures are compliant with the Service and Assessment plan, budget, state laws, and City PID Policy and Purchasing Regulations
  - Confirmation the PID management company completed the required procurement process
  - Opinion on management company's compliance with City contract and the City's PID policy
  - All costs for the audit will be included in the annual budget of the PID

**Next Steps to Implement**

- Finalize management contracts
- Meet with existing management companies and discuss changes
- Review revised costs for expanded services
- Execute agreements
- Present a revised policy to the City Council to reflect an increased cap for administrative costs and revise contracts accordingly
- Complete a competitive procurement process and issue a Request for Proposal during fiscal year 2019 to ensure costs are reasonable based upon services being provided
- Execute engagement letters with City's external auditor for auditing services

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Angela Estrada, Sr. Contract Compliance Specialist/PID Administrator at 817-392-8511 or Kevin Gunn, acting Chief Financial Officer at 817-392-2015.

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**

**No Documents for this Section**

# A Resolution

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## APPOINTING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Fort Worth has established the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Fort Worth, and

**WHEREAS**, Article 6243i of the Texas Revised Civil Statutes, which applies to the City of Fort Worth, requires the City Council to designate the Chief Financial Officer of the City to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Fort Worth, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.5-5 of the City of Fort Worth Retirement Ordinance specifies the terms of office for the trustees appointed to the Board of Trustees, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.5-5(a)(3) of the Fort Worth Retirement Ordinance states that the Trustee for Place 13 shall be the Chief Financial Officer for the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Chief Financial Officer, Aaron Bovos, gave his notice of resignation, effective October 26, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Kevin Gunn has been designated as the interim Chief Financial Officer for the City of Fort Worth by the City Manager.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS:** that **Kevin Gunn** is appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Fort Worth as the Trustee for Place 13.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Kayser, City Secretary



# A Resolution

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING CONFLUENCE: THE TRINITY RIVER STRATEGIC PLAN AS A GUIDE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE TRINITY RIVER AND ITS MAJOR TRIBUTARIES AND AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN TO INCORPORATE THIS STRATEGIC PLAN**

**WHEREAS** celebrating the Trinity River is one of the five themes of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS** the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan incorporate the 2003 Trinity River Vision Master Plan by reference and recommend policies and strategies to preserve and enhance the Trinity River and its corridors; and

**WHEREAS** Streams and Valleys, Inc., in association with the Tarrant Regional Water District and the City of Fort Worth, has undertaken a comprehensive update of the Trinity River Master Plan known as Confluence: The Trinity River Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS** due to the size of the report, a copy of Confluence is available in the Planning and Development Department rather than attached as an exhibit to this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS** Confluence has been reviewed and endorsed by various local organizations, including Streams and Valleys, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, the Fort Worth Public Art Commission, the Tarrant Regional Water District, and the City Plan Commission; and

**WHEREAS** the staff of Streams and Valleys briefed the City Council about Confluence on October 16, 2018;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TO:**

1. Adopt Confluence: The Trinity River Strategic Plan as a guide for future development along the Trinity River and its major tributaries;
2. Amend the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate Confluence: The Trinity River Strategic Plan; and
3. Amend the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to incorporate Confluence: The Trinity River Strategic Plan.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Kayser, City Secretary



**No Documents for this Section**

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

## RISK MANAGEMENT REPORTING PERIOD 10/17/2018 – 10/23/2018

Claims listed on this report have been received in the Risk Management Division claims office and either have been or will be thoroughly investigated. The decision whether or not to accept liability is predicated on applicable provisions of the Texas Tort Claims Act. If any claimant contacts you, please refer them to Mark Barta ext. 7790 or Sophia Gatewood ext. 7784. Thank you.

CLAIMANT	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF INCIDENT	LOCATION	INCIDENT TYPE	ALLEGATION	DEPT	ESTIMATE	INJURY
Tucker, Jaylon	10/11/2018	10/11/2018	West Freeway	Auto	Collision - Driving	Water	No	No
Castro, Camilo	10/17/2018	10/9/2018	Beverly Ave	General Liability	Foreign Object	PACS	No	No
Lopez, Eva	10/18/2018	10/16/2018	Longhorn Rd	General Liability	Pot Hole	TPW	No	No
Johnson, Bobby	10/18/2018	10/16/2018	Vickery Blvd	General Liability	Manhole	TPW	No	No
Guerra, Eliasar	10/18/2018	9/21/2018	May Street	General Liability	Damaged Property	PACS	No	No
Rodriguez, Dora	10/18/2018	8/29/2018	Calvert St	General Liability	Civil Rights Violation	Police	No	No
Mares, Rodulfo	10/18/2018	8/29/2018	Calvert St	General Liability	Civil Rights Violation	Police	No	No
Rose, Alexandria	10/19/2018	8/11/2018	Pinson St	General Liability	Damaged Trees	PACS	No	No

Elliott, Billy obo Veda Nes	10/19/2018	2/5/2018	S Freeway Service Road	General Liability	Wrongful Death	Police	No	No
Block, Daniel	10/19/2018	9/29/2018	Bellaire Dr	General Liability	Water Leak	Water	No	No
Mares, Francisco	10/18/2018	8/29/2018	Calvert St	General Liability	Civil Rights Violation	Not CFW	No	No
Farmers	10/22/2018	9/22/2018	Watercress Dr	General Liability	Damaged Trees	TPW	No	No
Allstate	10/22/2018	3/20/2018	Texas Street	Auto	Collision- Driving	Fire	Yes	No
Edwards, Allen	10/22/2018	5/21/2018	Unknown	Auto	Collision- Driving	Not CFW	No	Yes
Bain, Miriam	10/23/2018	10/10/2018	Will Rodgers	General Liability	Water Leak	Public Events	No	No

**No Documents for this Section**

**No Documents for this Section**

Zoning Docket items are linked on the Council Meeting Agenda.



# POST EXCHANGE IMPACT REPORTS JANUARY-OCTOBER 2018

Questions? Mae Ferguson, President/CEO  
[mae@fwsistercities.org](mailto:mae@fwsistercities.org) or 817-632-7104

Fort Worth Sister Cities is the only organization dedicated solely to promoting Fort Worth globally and enriching our community through international education, exchange and commerce.

[www.fwsistercities.org](http://www.fwsistercities.org)



NAGAOKA OSHOGATSU, “YEAR OF THE DOG” 2018  
Post Exchange Report  
Prepared by Libby Watson, Nagaoka Chair

Location of Exchange: UNT Health Science Center, Multi-Purpose Room

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Local Event

Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult

Number of Participants: 61 people attended event

Participants : FW Sister Cities volunteers, member circle members, interested community members, current and previous Harashin scholar high school students, FW Sister Cities staff and interns

Goal: To hold an event, open to the public, which offers a chance to learn about and enjoy Japanese culture. Oshogatsu is one of the most important celebrations of the year in Japan. Family and friends gather together and celebrate the new year with food and activities symbolic of new beginnings and good luck for the new year.

This event is intended to not only pay for itself, but also to raise a modest amount of money for Sister Cities’ student exchange program scholarships. An additional goal is to raise awareness of the benefits of Sister Cities membership, resulting in new members to the organization.

Report:

Attendees enjoy a lovely evening!

- Buffet dinner including wine and a variety of Japanese foods from Sushi Tao restaurant in Fort Worth.
- Raffle and silent auction. Items donated by committee and board members, individuals, area businesses and the City of Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Center.
- Entertainment consisting of a wonderful presentation about a recent student exchange to Nagaoka with two student testimonials about the importance of their experience and a Japanese dance by Yukata clad students; a Tai Chi and Martial Arts demonstration by Master Instructor Makio Nishida of Genjikai Karate & Tai Chi; and a closing send off by the Fort Worth Japanese Society’s Taiko Drummers.

Post Exchange Evaluation:

The Nagaoka Committee will meet in March to debrief this event. Concerns of the Chair are the low number of attendees, especially those new to Sister Cities and the time commitment and out of pocket expense needed from committee members and volunteers. We were very fortunate that UNTHSC was able to host us this year, so we had no expense for the venue. This may not be the case in the future.

Impact:

Financially we netted \$1677. We did not succeed in educating and engaging the community as our attendees were all part of the Sister Cities family.



## NÎMES, FRANCE INBOUND EXCHANGE Post Exchange Report By Rachel Malone, Exchange Coordinator

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth  
Date: January 29 – February 1, 2018  
Number of Participants: 7  
Local Participants: 125

**Goal:** The purpose of the delegation's visit to Fort Worth was via invitation from board chair Johnny Campbell, to further the discussion surrounding a possible sister city partnership between Fort Worth and Nîmes. Fort Worth wanted to build on the friendship established by a FW search team to Nîmes in May 2017.

The Nîmes delegation requested meetings focused on education, economic development and culture.

**Strategies:** Conversations were had throughout the visit which gave us greater understanding of the group's goals for a partnership, as well as a myriad of similarities and opportunities for exchanges including economic development, educational and cultural.

The first evening the delegation was hosted for a private reception of Members Circle donors and the Nîmes organizing committee at the home of Brent Hyder. TCU provided some funding and the Chef's Association prepared the food and served. A connection was made at the reception for the development of youth and adult culinary exchanges between the two cities.

Mayor Fournier and his wife Liliane, met with Mayor Price in a private setting to get acquainted and discuss the feasibility of partnering. Both mayors seemed eager to further the relationship.

The entire delegation was hosted by TCU for a luncheon and discussion with faculty members, the Consul General of France in Houston and other dignitaries. The group was then given a private tour of the Will Rogers Coliseum and dinner at the Backstage Club before enjoying the rest of the evening at the Rodeo all hosted by the Stock Show and Rodeo.

The last day was filled with meetings with the FW Sister Cities leadership discussing each other's goals pertaining to a formal relationship and the process.

A luncheon was hosted by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Shingleton to further introduce the delegation to other interested connectors including educators, business owners, tourism opportunities, etc. Mr. Shingleton presented each guest with a gift from the City and encouraged continued conversations toward a partnership.

After lunch the group split up and visited other universities including Texas Wesleyan and UNT Health Science Center, as well as a two-hour meeting at the Chamber of Commerce focusing on economic relations with Robert Sturns, Brandon Gengelbach, Erica Estrada, Michael Henning, Laurent Feral (Coldwell Bankers), Anon Suarez (Dannon), Bertrand Pelletier, Sylvia Rouscherre (French-American Chamber) and Mae Ferguson. These visits were arranged because of a request from the delegation.

Nîmes delegation:

1. Mr. Jean-Paul FOURNIER Mayor
2. Mrs. Liliane FOURNIER
3. Mrs. Chantal BARBUSSE Deputy Mayor in charge of social affairs and twinnings
4. Mr. Pascal GOURDEL Deputy Mayor in charge of finances, Trade and Markets
5. Mr. Emmanuel ROUX, President of Nîmes University
6. Mr. Eric GIRAUDIER, President of Nîmes Chamber of Commerce
7. Mrs. Marie GERVAIS Assistant Director of the Mayor Cabinet

Next steps:

Regarding the possibility of partnering as official sister cities, members of the FW organizing group presented their findings to the Long Range Planning committee who voted to recommend to the board that Nîmes be invited to partner as sister cities with Fort Worth. The LRP group will make their formal recommendation to the executive committee on Feb. 21, 2018. If approved to move forward, the board will then vote on a final recommendation on March 21 to be presented to the Mayor and City Council. If approved by the City Council, an invitation to become Fort Worth's ninth sister city will be sent to Mayor Fournier for consideration.

Regarding exchanges, twenty FW students will travel to Nîmes in June 2018 on our first exchange. Culinary teachers will also participate on this exchange to research the feasibility of culinary exchanges for students and adults in the future.

Twenty Nîmes students have been invited to attend Fort Worth's Leadership Academy in July 2018. This exchange is being coordinated by the Nîmes Chamber of Commerce who has a high school within their organization.



## YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

### Post Exchange Report

Prepared by Andréanne Annis, Delegation Leader

Location of Exchange: Budapest, Hungary

Date: March 10-18, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Outbound

Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult

Number of Participants: 9

#### Participants:

Andréanne Annis, Fort Worth Country Day, Delegation Leader

Arian Martinez, Tarrant County Community College, Associate Delegation Leader

Kenneth McClelland, Penn State University, Associate Delegation Leader

Samantha Cruz, Mansfield High School

Vanessa Garcia, TABS (Texas Academy of Biomedical Science High School)

Gabriela Gomez, Nolan Catholic

Rafael Gomez, Nolan Catholic

Alana Hawkins, Cedar Hill Collegiate High School

Mario Terrell II, Young Men's Leadership Academy

Goal: To promote grassroots diplomacy between Fort Worth and Budapest by promoting mutual understanding and appreciation between the people.

Plan: We met regularly prior to our departure to prepare our students for the trip to Hungary. We had seven meetings where we learned about the Hungary and its culture and language through culturegrams, PowerPoints, worksheets, skits and video clips in my classroom at Fort Worth Country Day. We started by having a lesson on protocol with Beth Wiebel, we went to Cistercian's Abbey in Irving and attended Magyar Mise / Hungarian Mass and be blessed by a Hungarian priest. That powerful experience was followed by a luncheon in a Venezuelan restaurant nearby where Vanessa's parents, owners of the restaurant, treated us. During this gathering, we worked hard to create a team and positive relationship. We had students and parents notice and appreciate the diversity in the room and in their lives. Delegation youth ambassadors and their parents also attended Fort Worth Sister Cities' lecture on Budapest held the next month at the Public Library Downtown and enjoyed goulash. Promotion of another mass in Hungarian as well as of a Mardi Gras party in the metroplexes' Hungarian Community was highlighted as well.

Throughout, we had our students work on language, culture and history on Hungary while reading the Hungarian novel: Paul Street Boys. Our students also practiced dances for a cultural performance in Budapest but didn't work enough on a presentation on Fort Worth due to colds and inclement weather. We made something work yet I promise to do better on that front in the future. Everyone did communicate quite a bit with their host via social media and friendship were created prior to arrival. Overall, these preparations paid off as our students did well on cultural presentations and they were engaged in the Paul Street Boys' scavenger hunt. We were all profoundly moved, many to tears, by the Paul Street Boys' Musical and touched by our host's farewell present (a Paul Street Boys' necklace) that we all chose to wear at the airport the next day without talking amongst ourselves about it. There were lots of emotions at the airport as we were sad to leave.

Execute: As we arrived in Budapest Airport, we were met by Timea and Lászlò and our host families who warmly welcomed us. This level of caring and consideration was consistent throughout the trip. During this

exchange our host families gave us a warm bed, good meals, and a welcoming heart. During the day, we were shown the amazing city and people of Budapest. We visited a both of their high schools where we were welcomed with gifts and sweet people. We attended some of their classes (even an interactive one on Shakespeare conducted in English) and shared our culture. We were generously welcomed at city hall with a reception and presentation by the vice mayor who is clearly proud of the long relationship between Fort Worth and Budapest.

Throughout our stay, our hosts stayed with us, became our personal guides as they had prepared historical and comments in English about every landmark in our beautiful itinerary. I realize that it doesn't happen like that in all of our Sister Cities and it should be acknowledged as our hosts even spent a holiday with us! Our students conducted themselves well and particularly enjoyed their visit at the zoo, the Turkish baths, the guided tour of the parliament and the "cruise" on the Danube. The musical was so impactful and awesome that it should be mentioned again.

#### Post Exchange Evaluation:

It was a great program with a thoroughly planned itinerary. The credit goes to Timea and her contacts who worked long hours to create our itinerary and saw to it that we had fun and meaningful activities every day. Through our activities, we came to learn a great deal about Budapest's history and culture. Our Hungarian hosts went an extraordinary length to make us feel welcome and we are truly grateful. We all became enamored of Hungarian people's hospitality and the depth of Hungarian culture. I think the experience was truly an eye opener for many of us. I suspect our stay has radically transformed the perception towards the country among many of us. I didn't realize how lucky I am to have grown up in a society where I could dream and know that my dreams could come true and my biggest take away is an understanding our the socialist regime and the impact on recent wars that still affect Hungarians. All delegation participants discovered a greater generosity associated with politeness thanks to our kind hosts. I believe that more people must participate in exchange programs like ours to foster a friendship between the US and Hungary. As for the itinerary prepared by Timea, I told her that I would not change any aspect of it.

#### Impact:

Our stay in Budapest beautified students' perception towards Hungary and its people and culture. It was good for our students to experience what Budapest has to offer. What our students saw there is different from a kind of narrative or silence that has been perpetuated in this country. The most difficult day for our group was when it was time for us to return to Fort Worth. We really hated to go back because we had to leave behind our new friends and a beautiful country. Now that we are home, we will have a chance to offer a different narrative about Budapest in Fort Worth. The delegates have developed relationships which have extended beyond the trip. During ILA, I will make sure that the group will give a surprise party for Timea.

On a personal note, it was an honor to lead this delegation and I am grateful to Fort Worth Sister City for this culturally enriching opportunity!



YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO REGGIO, EMILIA  
Post Exchange Report  
Prepared by Angelia Ross, Delegation Leader

Location of Exchange: Reggio, Emilia Italy  
Date: March 10-18, 2018  
Inbound/Outbound: Outbound  
Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult  
Number of Participants: 10

Participants:

Angelia Ross, Delegation Leader  
Edward Ayala, Associate Delegation Leader  
Karen Arreguin  
Karen Ayala  
Liliana Bermudez  
DJ Carter  
Leticia Garcia  
Randito Howard  
John Nolan  
Jamil Okada  
Aman Patel  
Hilary Fillmore

Goal: To continue promoting cultural, educational and grassroots diplomacy between Fort Worth and Reggio Emilia by encouraging mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultures.

Plan: We met regularly prior to our departure to prepare our students for the trip to Reggio, Emilia. During our meetings, we studied the history, the culture, current events, the language, and the social cultural norms of Reggio, Emilia. We also incorporated college and career skills such as communication, leadership, global awareness and goal setting skills.

Execute:

The Reggio Emilia, counterpart was well organized and attentive to our group. Activities were well planned and executed and was relevant to the exposure of the Italian people, culture and history. From visiting Verona, Florence, and Bologna, to the open and warm welcome from Serena Foracchia, Deputy Mayor for International Affairs Municipality of Reggio Emilia, to the cultural exchange and tour at the Istituto d'Arte Chierici. Each exposure and interaction opened up a wealth of knowledge and understating not only for our ambassadors, but to the wonderful people that we encountered in Reggio, Emilia. It would be remiss to add the host families was the highlight of many of our students lives hand with this experience has had an impact that will last through their college and career.

Post Exchange Evaluation:

We all agree that this particular exchange was life changing for both the FWSCI and Reggio Emilia participants. The level of professionalism, and planning that went into this exchange should be recognized by both the FWSCI and Reggio Emilia counterpart.

Impact:

When a program like the FWSCI Ambassador can profoundly have positive impact a child's life then that program is worth continuing. I saw youth ambassadors who were stand out leaders, become inclusive, collaborators, and mentors to the other participants. I saw those who were shy before we left, bloom and became sure of themselves by time we returned, and I saw global leaders develop before my eyes who were excited to come back to Texas and share their experience with their friends, families and school community.



## YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO TOLUCA, MEXICO

### Post Exchange Report

Prepared by Joe Ayala, Delegation Leader

Location of Exchange: Toluca, Mexico

Date: March 10-18, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Inbound

Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult

Number of Participants: 7

#### Participants:

Joe Ayala, Delegation Leader

Nancy Martinez, Associate Delegation Leader

Roberto Aguilar

Evelyn Tapia

Benjamin Orr

Brett Crumbie

Asheria Hart

Goal: To continue promoting cultural, educational and grassroots diplomacy between Fort Worth and Toluca by encouraging mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultures.

Plan: We met regularly prior to our departure to prepare our students for the trip to Toluca, Mexico. During our meeting, we worked hard to create a cohesive team. We highlighted and learned to appreciate the diversity in our group and in their lives. Correspondingly, our students worked on language, culture and history presentations about our city, while conducting research on the city of Toluca. Our students created a presentation, highlighting architecture, gastronomy, art and our love for sports. Overall, these preparations paid off as our students learned more about their own city, but more so, they were open minded to learn about other places, they did quite well on their cultural presentations.

#### Execute:

As we arrived in Mexico City's International Airport, we were met by Mauricio and Alejandra who warmly welcomed us. They escorted us to ITSEM Toluca, Mexico. Their level of caring was consistent throughout the trip and our stay. We met our host families when we arrived ITSEM, Toluca. Students and teachers interacted with our host families. During this exchange our host families gave us a comfortable bed, exceptional meals, and a welcoming heart, overall made for a fun exchange. During the day, we were shown the amazing city and people of Toluca and its surroundings. We visited a high school, ITSEM and a childcare center, where our students had the opportunity to volunteer with children from 3 months to 3 years of age.

#### Post Exchange Evaluation:

It was a great exchange with a thoroughly planned itinerary. The credit goes to Lucia Torres-Moncado and her staff who worked long hours to create our itinerary and saw to it that we had fun and meaningful activities every day. Through our activities, we came to learn a great deal about Toluca's history and culture. Our hosts made us feel welcome and we are truly grateful. Honestly, the experience was really an eye opener for all of us. I suspect our stay in Toluca has fundamentally transformed the perception towards the country among all of us. More people should take the opportunity to participate in

exchange programs like Sister Cities International to foster a friendship between the US and Mexico as well as other sister cities. As for the itinerary prepared by Lucia and staff, I would not change any aspect of it, it was invigorating and educational.

Impact:

I must admit, our visit to Toluca had a significant impact on our students' perception towards Mexico, its people and culture. It was good for our students to experience firsthand what this part of Mexico has to offer. What our students saw there is very different from what they had read or heard from family or school. I must say, the most difficult day for our group was when we had to return to Fort Worth. We hesitated coming back as we had to leave behind our new friends, their hospitality and a beautiful country. Now that we are home, we will have a chance to offer a different narrative about Mexico in Fort Worth. The delegates have developed relationships which will extend past their exchange, perhaps for a lifetime.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO TRIER, GERMANY  
Post Exchange Report  
Prepared by Christian Gehman, Delegation Leader

Location of Exchange: Trier, Germany  
Date: March 10-18, 2018  
Inbound/Outbound: Outbound  
Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult  
Number of Participants: 9

Participants:

Christian Gehman, Delegation Leader  
Shannon Owings, Associate Delegation Leader  
Abigail Dillon  
Beckett Frijs  
Jacobi Reddix  
Melany Rodriguez  
Sarah Morton  
Sebastian Archibald  
Trinity Crockett

Goal: To continue promoting cultural, educational and grassroots diplomacy between Fort Worth and Trier by encouraging mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultures.

Plan: We met regularly prior to our departure to prepare our students for the trip to Trier, Germany. During our meeting, we worked hard to create a cohesive team by participating in introductory and team-building activities. We arranged for a training conducted by Dr. Michael Roemer, who led us to prepare for our trip by verbalizing expectations and developing skills useful in not only in cultural exchanges like ours, but whenever we travel and find ourselves in new cultures and countries. Students practiced elementary aspects of speaking German, created their own Germany maps marked with aspects of the country of their choosing, and reported to the group on various aspects on German history, culture, and geography.

Execute:

We were treated amazingly well by our German hosts. We were able to experience the varied and rich itinerary they had planned for us, from interacting with students at our host school to various outings such as a museum of German post-WWII history, to an American cemetery in Luxemburg, to the famous Gothic cathedral in Cologne. Students stayed in the homes of host families, ate meals with them, and commuted daily to the school in Trier for the resumption of group activities. Students also had the opportunity for some community service through a Catholic service organization, though these plans were somewhat hampered by staff sickness due to the flu.

Post Exchange Evaluation:

It was a great exchange with a thoroughly planned itinerary. The credit goes to Doris Reuter and Anne Schaaf, who worked tirelessly to plan our activities, make sure that we were well taken care of, and respond to needs and wishes of our teams. Doris worked hard to allow me to sit in on multiple classes of classroom instruction with some nifty last-minute planning on her part. They also reached out in building

personal relationships, taking me and the associate delegation leader (Shannon Owings) to coffee, movies, and outings. Our students got along extremely with their host brothers and sisters; although upon meeting up during the day, most student would drift back together with their in-country friends, one pair developed so much chemistry that they continued to stay together throughout the day of itinerary activities—so fun to witness!

Impact:

It is difficult to measure any long-term impacts on our students. As is the case with short-term trips of this nature, most of the observable positive impact and growth occurs within the team. Videographers following our team would have noticed a marked difference in our team traveling to and from Germany: there was so much positive chemistry, inside joking, and goodwill amongst our group on the return trip compared to the outbound trip. I'm hopeful that students on the trip were positively impacted in their world view, specific impressions of Germany, and interactions with people of another culture, though these impacts are difficult to observe from this vantage point.

Our German hosts appeared to enjoy the exchange and were eager to lay the groundwork for a return visit as soon as possible. Through their proactive outreach in the weeks following the exchange, they have managed to secure a reciprocal exchange to Forth Worth in October of 2018. Though it will not be possible for the same students to host one another, we will make attempts for the Germany and Forth Worth students from this trip to reunite.



## TOLUCA, MEXICO BIOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING MENTORSHIP

### Post Exchange Report

By Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth

Date: March 23-30, 2018

Number of Participants: 12

Local Participants: 50

**Goal:** The purpose of this exchange is to give biotechnology engineering students at Toluca's premier Tec de Monterrey University an opportunity to have a mentorship in their field of study. The students are on their Easter holiday break and are using their time away from school to further their educations and make connections with professionals who can assist in guiding them in their chosen career paths. This exchange began in 2007. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> time we have conducted this exchange with Toluca.

**Strategies:** FW Sister Cities staff and volunteers communicated months in advance with Toluca professors Lucia Torres Moncayo and Ana Mutio to collect goals and objectives for the students. The professors provided suggestions of what organizations and businesses the students would most want to visit. FW Sister Cities staff and volunteers gathered information from previous exchanges and set appointments with universities and organizations/businesses where biotechnological and biomedical engineering are common practice.

The students visited the following places:

- UNT Health Science Center human movement lab, and they visited the professor who teaches impedance threshold device research and demonstration. They also had lunch with the international students.
- Tarrant County College Arlington Campus – the students and professors participated in a hands-on activity involving a 3-D printer.
- Fort Worth Police Department Crime lab & property evidence room
- University of Texas at Arlington department of biomedical engineering
- Texas Health Resources Simulation lab, ER, Sterile Processing and Bio Medical dept.
- AT&T Stadium – tour from director of stadium engineering
- Dannon Yogurt – tour of the production plant
- BRIT (Botanical Research Institute of Texas) tour and Q and A

The students and professors were all home hosted by Fort Worth Sister Cities volunteers, and several day hosts (including many from the FW Police Department) drove them and day hosted them for each daily outing.

Toluca chair Anette Soto organized a welcome pot-luck picnic for them in Trinity Park, where they all enjoyed each other's company, and flew kites.

Next steps:

So far, general feedback has been the students enjoyed the mentorship experience. Evaluations were sent to them the week after they departed Fort Worth asking them to rank their favorite to least favorite experience and to explain why. We have not yet received the evaluations. It is challenging to find businesses and universities focusing on this area of engineering. The students researched local companies they were interested in visiting, but the companies either were not able to host them, OR they explained there was not really anything of educational value for them to see (for example, it would just be an office building, no lab).

The exchange will be advertised for next year, and staff and volunteers will consider reaching out to companies like Alcon Novartis and Texas Christian University, plus the U.S. Mint.

An engineering exchange usually is planned (for a separate but concurrent exchange) for an additional 10 students and one professor, but this year not enough students registered for the engineering exchange. Professors Torres and Mutio will continue to recruit for the following year.

The engineering mentorship exchange for 2019 is proposed for April 13-20, 2019.



## RUSSIAN WOMEN MEET AMERICAN WOMEN

By Ann Rice, Exchange Co-Chair, FW Sister Cities International  
Karen Meyers, Exchange Co-Chair, Women's Policy Forum

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth, TX

Date: March 25-27, 2018

Number of Russian Participants: 4

Local Participants: (recept 35 ppl, Cliburn 1, City Hall 2, TCC 6)

Goal: Facilitated discussions with community leaders, educators and government officials to provide multiple points of view and allow for honesty in a world that is controlled by social media.

The philosophy behind the discussions were:

- To identify similarities and differences between cultures
- To explore the sources of conflict that divide us
- To highlight issues that are most important
- To define ways to promote better understanding and respect for differences

Strategies: Conversations were held throughout the visit which provided a greater understanding of each other, as well as a myriad of similarities and opportunities for future conversations.

The delegation was hosted in private homes to give them a true Texas welcome and understanding of how we live in the United States.

The first day five opportunities for discussions with local citizens occurred at:

The Cliburn, hosted by Jacques Marquis, President/CEO

The Sid Richardson Museum, hosted by Leslie Thompson

Tarrant County College, hosted by Elva LeBlanc, PhD., Exec. Vice Chancellor and Provost

Fort Worth City Hall, hosted by Councilwoman Ann Zadeh and Assistant City Manager, Susan Alanis.

Reception and guided conversation at a private home with thirty-five guests from both the Women's Policy Forum and Fort Worth Sister Cities International.

Russian delegation:

Elena (Lena) Ivanova, St. Petersburg

[ivlenn@gmail.com](mailto:ivlenn@gmail.com)

Natalie (Natasha) Ivanova, Krasnodar in southern Russia

[natasha.ivanova@mail.ru](mailto:natasha.ivanova@mail.ru)

Elena Novomeyskaya, Yekateringburg in the Ural Mountains

[bsiural@mail.ru](mailto:bsiural@mail.ru)

Tatyana Bukharina, Yalta in the Crimea

Impact: Could you fill in our thoughts here?

The one-on-one interaction among participants was positive and participants gained greater insight into one another's values, interests, and motivations.

The more structured presentations gave Russian women insight into cultural life, health care, education, and government structure and processes in Fort Worth and, by extension, other U.S. cities. They also gave Russian women the opportunity to state their viewpoints and concerns.

Members of the Russian delegation were engaging, professional, and did a good job of presenting their viewpoints on the factors underlying the tensions between the United States and Russia. It was very easy to like and respect them.

However, there was insufficient opportunity for U.S. participants to present alternative views even when the information presented by the Russians appeared to be incomplete or ill informed. It is very difficult to have a dialogue among people who have just met and may share common values but have access to information that may make their counterparts uncomfortable. The Russian women lost an opportunity to learn why Americans have difficulty trusting Russian leadership even when they like Russian people.



TRIER, GERMANY ENGINEERING LOGISTICS INTERNSHIP  
Post Exchange Impact Report  
By Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth, TX  
Date: April 1-June,30, 2018  
Inbound/Outbound: Inbound  
Adult/Youth: 1 Adult, Mr. Philipp Loos

Goal:

Fort Worth Sister Cities and Volker Klassen, the Executive Director for the Port of Trier, have worked together to plan for an internship for one of his employees/students to learn more about logistics engineering. Volker wanted his employee/student to gain practical and professional knowledge in logistical engineering and supply chain management in Fort Worth. Volker himself came to Fort Worth over 20 years ago and interned with Meacham Airport. Student Philip Loos was selected, and the goal was for him to have an internship with a logistics company for three months, stay with a Fort Worth host family, further improve his English skills, and become more immersed in American culture.

Strategies:

- We reached out to some logistics companies. The one which was most receptive was Tinsley Global, whose CEO, Phillip Tinsley, is a long-time volunteer with Fort Worth Sister Cities. All three of his children participated in the program when they were in middle and high school
- Find a host family for Philipp for three months

Planning:

- We coordinated with Phillip Tinsley and his associate, Sean Sarmiento, on planning the dates, schedules and responsibilities for Philip. Both men met with Philipp at a trade show in Frankfurt before his internship to interview him in person.
- We sent a message out to the Trier committee asking for host families. Two families ended up volunteering to host Philipp.

Execution:

- We confirmed the internship with Tinsley Global and secured the two host families. Philip stayed with Teresa and Tommy Owings for the month of April, and Barry Schlater for May and June.
- The scope of his work revolved around doing 3<sup>rd</sup> party logistics for gift and housewares companies.
- His duties mostly included: pre-canvassing trade-shows, coordinating trade-show logistics, performing cost analysis and comparisons for clients, quoting and comparing freight, and client database management

Information gathered along the way:

Tinsley Global was very pleased with the work Philipp contributed to the company, and they believe he learned more about the logistics industry.

Contacts made:

- Mr. Phillip Tinsley, CEO of Tinsley Global
- Mr. Sean Sarmiento, Logistics Coordinator, Tinsley Global
- Philipp Loos, University student at the University for Applied Sciences at Ludwigshafen in Rhein and employee of the Port of Trier (Trier Hafengesellschaft)

Impact:

Tinsley Global benefited greatly from having an intern work with them on important projects. Two Fort Worth host families also had the pleasure of having some German culture brought into their homes as they were able to learn more about Philipp, his family and about Trier.

Next steps:

Fort Worth continues to remain in contact with Philipp and with Volker Klassen and the Port of Trier. Additional exchanges with logistics engineers and his employees are definitely possible, as we think they can learn from the city of Fort Worth.



## DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Post Exchange Report  
By Mary Palko, Mission Chair

Location of Exchange: Washington, D.C.

Date: April 15-18, 2018

Number of Participants: 10

### Delegation:

Mary Palko, *Director Emerita and Mission Chair*

Michael S. Hyatt, *Director Emeritus*

Veronica Chavez Law, *Chair-Elect*

Carlo Capua, *Advisory Board Member*

Kelley Eubanks, *Board Member*

Robert Fitzgerald, *Guiyang, China Chair*

David Gu, *Ex-Officio Board Member*

Rae Hyatt, *Board Member*

Tom Law, Jr., *Reggio Emilia, Italy Chair*

Mae Ferguson, *President/CEO*

Goal: To introduce the leadership to the international, diplomatic and government activities in and around Fort Worth's sister cities. Our Sister Cities and Fort Worth are important to the success of:

1. International Embassies in enhancing meaningful relationships within the USA;
2. The US Dept of State's outreach, programs and exchanges; and
3. Congressional Foreign Ops initiatives providing valuable examples of Citizen Diplomat soft power global peace efforts. This portion of the program is coordinated by Congresswoman Kay Granger, Chairwoman of the powerful Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. She also served as Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

Strategies: The visit was coordinated in part by U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger and Sister Cities International Washington, DC office.

The group assembled in Washington, DC for an in-depth look at key international issues affecting Fort Worth and the nation. The visit included an international perspective given by four Embassies of Fort Worth's sister cities, including China, Italy, Japan and Mexico; a foreign policy perspective by the U.S. Dept. of State presented by Irina Karmanova, Public Affairs Officer; briefings by Congresswoman Kay Granger,; Rep. Ted Poe, House Judiciary Committee, and the Foreign Affairs Committee as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade; Rep. Henry Cuellar; Rep. Roger Williams; and Cesar Flores, staffer for Mario Diaz-Balart.

(RJF) The Briefings at the Home Office in DC emphasized the purpose of Sister Cities since its founding by President Eisenhower, personal connections. Adam discussed the progress that Sister Cities has made with personal connections and highlighted the upcoming national conference in Aurora, Colorado. The State Department Rep discussed how they are now actively seeking citizen diplomatic organizations to help with strengthening and repairing connections. She also discussed how the State Department has founded an

award three years ago that awards citizen diplomacy and that a sister city in the US has won every year so far.

Briefings were also given by Adam Kaplan, Vice President of Sister Cities International on SCI's mission and resources available to Fort Worth; William Pomeranz of the Wilson Center, a non-partisan think-tank who discussed Russia past and present; and Scott Korley, Korley & Pipies, Fort Worth lobbyist on current issues affecting Fort Worth.

One participant mentioned that we were told a very interesting story about the national mayors gathering and how the Trump administration has emphasized rural versus urban investment. Fort Worth as the largest republican leaning city in the US has become the soundboard between the left leaning cities throughout the country and the Trump administration. It has placed Fort Worth in a very unique situation of having to balance its interests with those of the cities and the administration policies.

#### Embassy Visits:

China - Met with Counselor Xu Min is the Deputy Director of Congressional and Subnational Affairs at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, DC. Born in Nanjing, she has over 20 years of experience in foreign affairs and protocol and has served abroad in Turkey.

The Chinese officials stated that China is seeking more high level municipal exchanges. They suggested that we send the Mayor/City Council to our sister city to encourage growth. We discussed the encouragement of understanding between our two cities. They suggested that we go through the Consulate in Houston to organize a cultural exchange where musicians could be brought to Fort Worth to perform. It appears from our discussion that the Chinese government is seeking more governmental exchanges than youth/adult exchanges.

Italy - Counselor Andrea Cascone is the Head of the Office for Economic, Trade and Scientific Affairs at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, DC. Cascone has 20 years experience in foreign relations, government affairs and diplomacy, and has served in several embassies abroad including in Turkey, France and Syria.

Counselor Cascone was eager to hear about FW and Reggio Emilia exchanges and specifically the business connections between the two cities. He stated that the Consulate in Houston is where most of the exchanges between Italy and Texas are funneled through. He provided connections with the regional government of Reggio Emilia, Governor of Regione Emilia Romagna, Camilla Bosi. He stated that Italy was actively encouraging greater economic exchange with Texas due to the size of the Texan economy.

#### Additional comments included:

1. Will connect us with Governor of Regione Emilia Romagna, Camilla Bosi (connection made and leadership will visit with them in July 2018 when attending the Tricolore youth games. [Camilla.bosi@regione.emilia-romagna.it](mailto:Camilla.bosi@regione.emilia-romagna.it)).
2. Interested in working to strengthen industry and business.
3. Would like to connect with a research institution on aging. (The Italian majority of the population is older).
4. Would like to create authentic experiences for Italians to visit Fort Worth.

5. Will connect us with the Secretary General of the Italian/American Chamber in Houston. (Mrs. Alessia Paolicchi <[a.paolicchi@iacctexas.com](mailto:a.paolicchi@iacctexas.com) will visit Fort Worth in June to discuss economic relations between Fort Worth and Italy).

RESULTS of visit to date (6/18/18):

1. A meeting with the Governor of the Regione Emilia Romagna has been set for the leaderships who will be in Reggio July 4 – 14 for the Tricolore Games. The meeting will also include the Reggio Emilia Mayor Vecchi and Vice Mayor Serene Forchaccio.
2. Alessia Paolicchi, President of the Italian America Chamber in Houston, traveled to Fort Worth and met with Robert Sturns, City Economic Development Director and Rebekka Montgomery from the Chamber of Commerce. Productive discussions were held on funneling Italian companies interested in doing business in North Texas through Fort Worth. Alessia will also join the discussions in Reggio in July to forward a proposal through the Emilia Romagna region that might entail funding economic missions to Fort Worth.

Japan - Minister Takuya Sasayama is the Head of the Chancery at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C. Sasayama has 30 years experience in foreign relations and economic affairs and has served in several embassies abroad including in Mexico, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

Mexico - Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, DC and former Consul General of Mexico in Miami. Born in Mexico City, he joined Mexico's foreign service in 1988, where he reached the rank of Ambassador in 2009. His major fields of expertise are: Latin America, press and communication, and US-Mexico relations.

The Ambassador discussed why we chose Toluca as our Sister City and how it was a very interesting fit. He also discussed the connections that the two cities have fostered together. He also presented a history of the Mexican-US relationship with special emphasis on NAFTA and how it has changed Mexico in regard to business. He discussed the importance of understanding between our two countries.

From one delegate: The Mexican Ambassador's presentation impacted me the most. Understanding from their perspective of history with USA was enlightening. We should consider our relationships with all countries in that light. We need to continue telling our story to spread awareness of global connections.

Wilson Center Briefing: Provided by William Pomeranz

Mr. Pomeranz discussed the current and previous twenty-year state of affairs for Russia. He discussed the current political climate within Russia since the election. He discussed how Russia is trying to find where it fits in the modern international scene with closer ties being explored with China, Iran, and elsewhere. He talked about the distinctness of the Russian individual and how the country is perceived on the outside versus what it actually is. Roger-Mark de Souza, President/CEO of Sister Cities International asked about the request from the State Dept for Sister Cities to take over the US spaces that they used to provide before the Russians expelled them. Mr. Pomeranz said to be very careful with this and talk it over with all parties before entering into an arrangement like that. Mr. Pomeranz also stated that Russia approves of Sister Cities and has actively sought out US sister cities in the past.

## CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS:

Quote from Secretary of Defense Mattis, “If you don’t fund diplomacy then give me more bullets.”

At the Congressional briefings the overall theme of the presentations was that organizations such as FW Sister Cities make personal diplomacy happen and that is often overlooked in DC. The various Reps spoke to different topics affecting the international stage: Regime Change/Support, Wildlife Protection, International Borders/Migration, and US Debt. In each of these topics there is availability of citizen diplomats to provide an avenue for better understanding and support on both sides. Every Representative expressed their support for Sister Cities and said that they would help with the funding through the State Department.

Rep Granger discussed our relationships in the Middle East and in particular our relationship to the different regimes in Egypt. She also discussed the importance of civic service that organizations such as FW Sister Cities provide to the City.

Rep Poe discussed the impact citizen diplomats can have in the protection of wildlife. He discussed the dire straits that many of Africa’s largest mammals face due to holistic medicines in China and Southeast Asia.

Rep Cuellar discussed the importance that all of Texas work together to promote better understanding concerning the realities of the US-Mexican border. He discussed the need for bipartisanship and the importance that Sister Cities has in his district with regard to the multiple Mexican cities they have partnered with to establish a large market every year.

Cesar Flores discussed the importance of the debate concerning immigration reform. He talked about when DACA was signed the appetite for true immigration reform faded and has not been tried since. He discussed how organizations such as Sister Cities allow for better understanding between citizens of countries, with his district emphasizing South American connections.

Rep Williams discussed the important work that FW Sister Cities has provided over its existence. He discussed how the civic nature of Fort Worth is what separates it and makes it a truly great city. He discussed the business connections that citizen diplomats can foster. Upon questioning concerning the cut to the State Department funding he discussed the need to face the debt issue in the US. He discussed the lack of acknowledgement by Congress of the debt issue. He discussed how the military is particularly distressed by our national debt. He also promised that if funding for Sister Cities was ever impacted he would do his best to rectify that.

## OVERALL IMPACT OF THE MISSION

Cities and SCL chapters don’t do these types of courtesy visits often. Reps and Embassy staff need to hear a consistent voice promoting what we do and asking for continued support and funding. It’s important that our international partners know that regardless of who is in the White House, we will forever be focused on the spirit of President Eisenhower’s initial vision of developing friendships, promoting goodwill and building bridges with our global friends.

We have a better understanding of what Congress is doing to support these efforts, and we know who our allies are. And they know who we are.

This trip showed that Fort Worth is a global city and has become a serious player in national spotlight. Everyone met along the way discussed the importance of North Texas and Texas in general and the importance of the citizen diplomat and personal exchanges to provide better understanding of the international stage. Commercial and cultural exchanges were emphasized at every stop. It was encouraging to hear that every party we talked with was receptive to the mission of Sister Cities.

#### NEXT STEPS: WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT BECAUSE OF THIS MISSION?

1. Ramp up the PR and external relations efforts of what we're doing and why.
2. Follow up with the contacts we met, especially at Embassies and Congress Reps, to see how we can support their efforts moving forward.
3. Make sure that the connections made or were provided are followed up on. This means contacting the officials at the embassies and in the different countries.
4. Heed the advice received concerning what is needed to strengthen our relationships.
5. Make contacts. Make a trip to Houston to visit the consulates of our sister cities. (Each Embassy emphasized the importance of the Consulates in organizing exchanges so get a personal connection to the sister city's respective government.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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CITY OF FORT WORTH GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP  
Post Exchange Impact Report  
By Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth, TX

Date: May 1-July 30, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Inbound

Adult/Youth: 1 Adult, Mr. Florian Papberg

Goal: Wolfram Leibe, the Mayor of the City of Trier, requested one of his city employees have an internship arranged with the City of Fort Worth. The purpose of the internship is to have exposure to how the City of Fort Worth conducts day-to-day operations of the city and to learn best practices of what our city does well. The idea is to apply those best practices to the city of Trier, Germany.

Strategies:

- We coordinated with David Cooke, Fort Worth City Manager, and his office to coordinate the dates and schedule for Mr. Papberg's internship. Linda Hirlinger, Lynda Johnson, and JoAnn Brown were the city staff who oversaw his internship and organized the various city department meetings for him.
- Find a host family for Florian for two months.

Planning:

- We communicated with Christian Millen, the sister cities liaison in Trier, Germany, and Florian Papberg on the expectations for his internship in Fort Worth to plan his experience here

Execution:

- Mr. Papberg worked with the city manager's office from May 1-July 30 of 2018. His duties were attending city manager staff meetings, agenda preparation meetings, department head meetings, and city council work sessions.
- Karla Hammit, an accountant in the Department of Financial Management for the City of Fort Worth, home hosted Florian for the duration of his internship. Since they worked in the same building, she was able to provide transportation for him as well

Information gathered along the way:

Florian visited many city departments and learned about how what Fort Worth does and what Trier does can have some commonalities, but we have differences as well. For example, he was impressed with how we work with waste management and recycling. He appreciated the efficiency of how the city of Fort Worth manages its waste and recycling.

Contacts made:

- David Cooke, Fort Worth City Manager
- Linda Hirlinger, personal assistant to the City Manager
- Lynda Johnson, City of Fort Worth
- JoAnn Brown, City of Fort Worth
- Karla Hammit, Account, City of Fort Worth

Impact:

Our City of Fort Worth staff received exposure and gained familiarity with another culture, and developed a better understanding of the German culture, and learned more about our relationship with our sister city in Trier.

Next steps:

Fort Worth continues a dialogue with the Mayor Leibe, Christian Millen and Florian Papberg. The city of Fort Worth city manager's office staff is working on a report outlining the results and overview of Mr. Papberg's internship.



NAGAOKA, JAPAN & FORT WORTH, TX USA  
30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EXCHANGE  
Post Exchange Impact Report  
By Libby Watson, Nagaoka Chair

Location of Exchange: Nagaoka, Japan

Date: May 7-10, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Outbound

Adult/Youth: Adults

Number of Participants: 18

Councilman Cary Moon

Libby Watson, Nagaoka Chair

Carlo Capua, Business Exchange Lead & FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Geisel, FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Jay Horn, University Exchange Lead, FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Jane Bass

Noah Bass

Brian Dalton

Robin Fulton

Michael Guyton

Phyllis Guyton

Troy Robertson

Barbara Ryon

Julie Wilson

Reagan Wilson

Harvey Yamagata

Mary Yamagata

This report provides an overview of the entire exchange, which really ran on three tracks: Education, Business and Culture. Please see the reports submitted by Jay Horn and Carlo Capua which provide more detailed information on the Education and Business tracks.

Goal:

To celebrate and strengthen the 30-year Sister Cities relationship between Nagaoka, Japan and Fort Worth

Strategies:

- Create opportunities for research collaboration and student exchanges between universities in Nagaoka and the University of Texas at Arlington.
- Share Fort Worth-based businesses and products with the Japanese market.
- Develop key contacts in Japan for future potential partnership.
- Study the business climate and norms for working with Japanese businesses.
- Provide a cultural exchange that will foster understanding and friendship between citizens of Fort Worth and Nagaoka.

#### Planning:

Our planning began immediately following the October 27-30, 2017 inbound exchange lead by Nagaoka Mayor Tatsunobu Isoda. Topics of mutual interest that stood out over the course of that exchange were the University and Business partnerships, fostering entrepreneurship, and the potential for international business ventures between Nagaoka and Fort Worth businesses. We asked Nagaoka staff if there would be interest in building on these conversations with a sharing of ideas and best practices. The response was a resounding “yes!”.

The planning effort received a big boost from the visit to Fort Worth by Yuki Minemasa, President of Yoshinogawa sake brewery in Nagaoka in February 2018. A tasting of Yoshinogawa sake was held at the TX Whiskey facility in Fort Worth. Local bar owners, restaurateurs and members of the Nagaoka Committee were invited. After the sake tasting Mr. Minemasa was given a tour of the facility and TX Whiskey was sampled. This was a great opportunity for Mr. Minemasa and Troy Robertson to begin establishing the personal relationship that is so important in the Japanese business culture.

In addition to our usual cultural exchange activities, we also proposed an exchange with Nagaoka Girl Scout Leaders and staff. In 2016 a delegation of adult Girl Scouts represented Nagaoka at the dedication of Japanese artist Hiroko Tanaka’s Friendship Paintings which she had gifted to the City of Fort Worth.

#### Execution:

Brian Dalton and Noah Bass from Best Maid Pickles and Troy Robertson from Firestone & Robertson Distillery (makers of TX Whiskey) were recruited to join City Council Member Cary Moon and Carlo Capua, Business Exchange Lead in two days of discussions and tastings with members of the Nagaoka Chamber of Commerce and individuals from the Small Business Group.

Jay P. Horn, Executive Director, Office of International Education at the University of Texas at Arlington and Board member of Fort Worth Sister Cities carried out the University Exchange. He met with the Presidents and international education staff of Nagaoka University of Technology and the Nagaoka Institute of Design.

Libby Watson and Beth Weibel spent a lovely half day with Nagaoka Girl Scout Leaders. Discussions were had about the possibility of creating an exchange between Girl Scouts of Nagaoka and Fort Worth.

There were home hosted dinners which gave several members of our delegation an opportunity to engage personally and make new friends.

#### Impact on Nagaoka and Fort Worth:

This was a very successful exchange. We achieved our goal. The ground work for potential business and university collaborations and a future Girl Scout youth exchange has been laid.

#### Next steps:

We will continue the conversations and monitor the long term impacts this exchange has had in both our business and education sectors. We need to think more about how we recruit participants, especially from the Fort Worth business community and individuals who have not previously participated in Fort Worth Sister Cities activities. It is also possible that some of the lessons learned during the three business exchanges (during the October 2017 and February 2018 visits by Nagaoka businesses and the business exchange just completed in Nagaoka) will provide information that will help in the Soft Landings Project.



## NAGAOKA, JAPAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Post Exchange Impact Report

By Carlo Capua

Location of Exchange: Nagaoka, Japan

Date: May 7-10, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Outbound

Adult/Youth: 10

Councilman Cary Moon

Libby Watson, Nagaoka Chair

Carlo Capua, Business Exchange Lead & FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Jay Horn, FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Noah Bass, Best Maid Pickles

Brian Dalton, Best Maid Pickles

Troy Robertson, TX Whiskey (Firestone Robertson Distillery)

Julie Wilson

Harvey Yamagata

#### Goal:

- Share Fort Worth-based businesses and products with the Japanese market
- Develop key contacts in Japan for future potential partnership
- Understand the business climate and norms for working with Japanese businesses

#### Strategies:

- Use the Nagaoka Int'l Exchange Association to connect with key stakeholders
- Leverage Mayor Isoda's desire to forge business relationships between cities
- Capture the Chamber and CFW's momentum towards entrepreneurship, creating a small business ecosystem, and international business

#### Planning:

- Meet with the Chamber of Commerce to explore partnership potential

#### Execution:

- Pickle and whiskey tastings with Nagaoka Chamber and the Small Business Group.
- Received feedback forms for further consideration of product development

Information gathered along the way:

Small businesses are the backbone of the US economy. We define small businesses as 500 employees or fewer.

There are almost 28 million small businesses in the USA. Over 50% of the working population (120 Million people) works in a small business.

In the USA right now is the golden age of entrepreneurship. It is very easy to start a small business with low risk. Every month, 500,000 new businesses are started in the USA.

Texas is known for being a great place to do business. If Texas were a nation, it would have the 10th largest economy in the world. There is no corporate income tax or personal income tax.

Fort Worth is the 15th largest city in the US and one of the fastest growing cities for the past five years.

DFW metroplex is 7 million people, 4th largest metropolitan area in US. #1 spot in the nation for population growth each year.

In 2017 the US stock market was strong. However, 2018 has been a little turbulent. We are waiting to see how President Trump's corporate tax cuts will affect the economy.

Contacts made:

- Chamber of Commerce leadership and members
  - o Hiroyuki Kaizu, Hokuetsu Bank managing director
  - o Tetsuhiko Koide, Taiko Bank President
  - o Naoko Hoshino, Nagaoka Chamber Manager
  - o Satoshi Maruyama, Nagaoka Chamber Chair
  - o Ryuichi Sakai, eTrust CEO
- Local small businesses engaged in tech and food
  - o Yuko Koike, FARM8
- Nagaoka City and International Exchange Association Staff
  - o Shinki Takami, Deputy Mayor
  - o Mie Hokari, Assistant Division Director
  - o Yoshihiko Ito, Tourism Department Director

Impact on Nagaoka and Fort Worth:

This was an important first step to standardizing business exchange to/from Fort Worth. With this experience, we can better advise other companies how to set up their pitch to maximize global sales and partnership potential.

Everyone in Nagaoka thought this was a fruitful exchange and insightful window into the business culture of both countries. We learned that product size, importing fees and shipping logistics are major hurdles to reach competitive pricing.

Next steps:

We will stay abreast on the effects of this exchange, but have passed the baton to Best Maid and TX to continue to seek opportunity with their contacts in Japan. We can use these lessons learned to encourage other exchanges to develop a business exchange element within their larger delegation.



## NAGAOKA, JAPAN UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

### Post Exchange Impact Report

By Jay Horn, University Exchange Lead

Location of Exchange: Nagaoka, Japan

Date: May 7-10, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Outbound

Adult/Youth: Adults

Number of Participants: 7

Councilman Cary Moon

Libby Watson, Nagaoka Chair

Carlo Capua, Business Exchange Lead & FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Geisel, FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Jay Horn, University Exchange Lead, FW Sister Cities Board of Directors

Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Harvey Yamagata

#### Goal:

To create opportunities for research collaboration and student exchange between universities in Nagaoka and the University of Texas at Arlington.

#### Strategies:

Reached out to Nagaoka University of Technology (NUT) and Nagaoka Institute of Design (NID) to determine if there was interest and capacity for developing collaborative exchanges.

Polled UTA faculty on interest in collaborative activities with NUT and NID.

Worked with UTA faculty to identify specific areas of possible research collaboration based on a review of the university's website.

Met with upper level administration of NUT and NID to discuss options.

Follow up after the meeting with next steps.

#### Execution:

Jay Horn met with the Presidents and international education staff of NUT and NID. Both Presidents expressed an interest in creating a collaborative relationship with UTA and working through their governing bodies to identify "early successes" and long-term objectives.

#### Information gathered along the way:

The best fit for UTA would be with NUT due to a shared focus in Engineering and Sciences. The barriers identified would be the English language capability of NUT faculty and students and associated funding needs for the activities. To mitigate the language concerns, NUT asked about a possible exchange involving English language acquisition for students. After my return, I spoke with UTA Intensive English Program and they are willing to develop specialized summer programs tailored to the level and needs of NUT students. I will continue to work with identified UTA faculty to determine what faculty matches can be made, recognizing the importance of keeping NUT's international education staff involved in the process.

Contacts made:

Nagaoka University of Technology  
Dr. Nobuhiko Azuma, President  
Tami Nakata, Manager, International Affairs  
Chie Ikarshi, Chief, Section of International Exchange

Nagaoko Institute of Design  
Hiromu Wada, President  
Yoshimao Kushima, Secretary General  
Syogo Baba, Dean, Faculty of Design  
Seisuke Watanabe, Dean, Design Graduate School

Impact on Nagaoka and Fort Worth:

It is left to be determined as to what impact may occur from this initial meeting. It will depend on the development of faculty relationships and the support of NUT administration as to whether or not this relationship will flourish. UTA is committed to continue to explore possible avenues for successful collaboration.

Next steps:

I continue to receive follow-up communications from the NUT staff. I will continue to work with UTA faculty to encourage the development of this relationship.



BANDUNG, INDONESIA CONSUL GENERAL VISIT  
Post Exchange Impact Report  
By Beth Weibel

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth, TX

Date: May 24-25, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Inbound

Adult/Youth: 10 Adults

1. Consul General, Dr. Nana Yuliana
2. Consul Romanna Sirait
3. Fatimah Wiganti, Head of Yasarini Foundation
4. Lucia Frasca Latupeirisa, Secretary of Yasarini Foundation
5. Maulidia Iman Handojo, Head of Yasarini Foundation of Husein Sastranegara
6. Mimi Maryati, Principal of Husein Sastranegara High School
7. Johannes Kumiling, Principal of Husein Sastranegara Vocational School
8. Yati Heryati, Supervisor of Department of Education, West Java
9. Roedy Wiranatakusumah, liaison officer
10. Yuniati Chandra, liaison officer

Goal:

- Visit Fort Worth & attend the Mayor's International Dinner
- Visit Aviation school & learn more about their programs. There are currently Indonesian students enrolled in Skymates, a flight school in Fort Worth
- Visit a Fort Worth local school to learn more about our education system and develop potential future High School Ambassador school exchanges
- Meet with Fort Worth Sister Cities International staff to explore ways we can increase exchanges between Fort Worth and Bandung

Strategies:

- Organize meetings with Skymates, World Languages Institute, and Fort Worth Sister Cities to make introductions to key people and organizations who can help coordinate the future exchanges
- Attend the Mayor's International Dinner and meet Mayor Price and other elected officials

Planning:

- Consul General Yuliana and her staff met with Mae Ferguson in Beth Weibel earlier in the year to strategize about potential ways our cities can foster more exchanges between our cities, through education, art, and economic relations.

Execution:

- Consul General traveled to Bandung earlier in the year and met with the key leaders from the different schools and invited them to come to Fort Worth for the Mayor's International Dinner and for meetings with FW Sister Cities and local schools

Information gathered along the way:

The schools who visited us are most anxious to develop exchanges with Fort Worth. The Yasarini Foundation covers a large area of West Java. It is the official school of the Indonesia air force and covers 146 schools all over Indonesia. The Husein Sastranegara Vocational School is a trade school focusing mainly on mechanical, electric and automotive engineering.

Fort Worth Sister Cities staff also spoke with the guests about the International Leadership Academy and encouraged participation from the schools. They were most eager to participate. As of this date, no Indonesian students had registered for ILA. As a result of this meeting, the school administrators returned to Bandung and worked with Herman Benyamin, our High School teacher at Bandung SM 5 High School. They recruited 5 students and two teachers (including Herman) to come to Fort Worth for ILA. Unfortunately, the students did not get their visas approved after their second interview, so they were not able to participate in ILA after all.

The delegation met with the administration of the World Languages Institute, a middle and high school part of the FWISD school system. Principal Lupe Barreto gave them a tour and they were able to meet a biology teacher (and observe his tools in his classroom), a music teacher (and observe the students all playing guitars for them – it was a real treat) and an art teacher. The educators and other delegation leaders were most impressed with the school and the staff.

Contacts made:

- Guadalupe Barreto, Principal of World Languages Institute
- Marie-Lise Mosbeux, Assistant Principal, World Languages Institute

Impact on Bandung and Fort Worth:

The distance of our sister cities has been a challenge over the years, but clearly have good relationships with our friends in Bandung and both cities are eager for more people to people exchanges to occur. Fort Worth is planning an official exchange to Bandung in 2019 to celebrate 30 years of our sister cities partnership. Having the Consul General advocate for an increase in our exchanges is also extremely helpful, and Fort Worth Sister Cities is appreciative to her and her staff for making the effort. This visit with the school officials was positively received and helped establish new connections.

Next steps:

Fort Worth Sister Cities will continue to promote the International Leadership Academy participation with the new schools we connected with, as well as continue to work with Herman Benyamin and the city government to help recruit. The schools will continue their conversations with the flight school here in Fort Worth, and possible collaborations with the World Languages Institute will also be monitored. The Consul General was interested in sending an Anklung instrument choir to Fort Worth and they could possibly perform at WLI or at a FW Sister Cities event in the future.

Fort Worth Sister Cities will also continue to plan the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary exchange to Bandung in summer of 2019 (was recommended we visit after May, since there are state-wide elections then).



DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
Post Exchange Report  
By Mike Hyatt, Mae Ferguson And Tim Quigley, Mission Chairs

Location of Exchange: Moscow, Kolomna, St. Petersburg, Pushkin and Maryino, Russia

Date: May 27 – June 8, 2018

Number of Participants: 16

Delegation:

FWSCI Board Members

Michael S. Hyatt, *Director Emeritus*

Mae Ferguson, *President/CEO*

Rae Hyatt

Ronda Stucker

Walter Stucker

Melissa Thompson

SCI Board Members

Tim Quigley—California, *Chairman of the Board*

Mimi Barker—New York

Carol Robertson Lopez—New Mexico

Allen Dunaway—Arizona

Teresa Dunaway—Arizona

Barbara Walker—Texas

Rick Walker—Texas

Jon Wilcox—Texas

Center for Citizen Initiatives

Sharon Tennison, *President*

Volodya Shestakov, *Russian Associate*

Goal: Because relations between the US and Russia have deteriorated badly over the last few years, Fort Worth Sister Cities felt the time was ripe for citizen diplomats, from both countries, to step in and help reduce this non-tenable situation through education of each other's cultures and people-to-people connections.

Strategies: The visit was coordinated by Fort Worth Sister Cities International in partnership with Sister Cities International and the Center for Citizen Initiatives.

MEETINGS HELD:

President Mikhail Gorbachev

Tom Leary, US Embassy, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs

Validmir Pozner, media personality/expert

Andrey Davidovich, entrepreneur from Kolomna

Alexi Kozin, Ballistic missiles expert

Anton Pomogaev, St. Petersburg university student

Galina Stepanova, entrepreneur art gallery and owner of Stroganoff Estate

## OVERALL IMPACT OF THE MISSION

This was a successful trip to share cultures between Russia and the United States in a politically tense time in U.S. politics. Delegates were increasingly ready to step out, explore the cities, meet with Russians and spend quality time together.

The delegation met with Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss the goals of the delegation to begin facilitating a resolution between U.S. and Russian relations through citizen diplomacy. He appreciated the delegation's goals and praised the group for their efforts. He believed more missions, such as this one, would assist in repairing a time of crisis in global politics.

When the delegation arrived in St. Petersburg, the news of the summit between President Trump and President Putin caused more conversation between the cultures.

The mission demonstrated the importance of citizen diplomacy. The excellent speakers and contacts with Russians challenged the stereotypes created from the media and pop culture. The Russians were warm and considerate. Hearing the diverse views has changed opinions on what the real situation is between the United States and Russia.

## NEXT STEPS: WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT BECAUSE OF THIS MISSION?

It is important to keep the lines of communication open between the contacts established on the mission. There is interest to organize a US/Russia Mayor's Summit in Russia, or at the least continue to follow US Diplomatic efforts with Russia with the hopes that progress will be made. Since some delegates were with Sister Cities International, there was also interest in promoting Sister Cities Activities in Russia.

## CONTACT INFORMATION: Please add any contacts you made

Thomas Leary

[learyTM@state.gov](mailto:learyTM@state.gov)

Andrey Davidovich

[a.davidovich@market-agency.ru](mailto:a.davidovich@market-agency.ru)

Volodya Shestakov

[volodyashestakov@gmail.com](mailto:volodyashestakov@gmail.com)

Helena Golosovskaya

[hegolos@gmail.com](mailto:hegolos@gmail.com) (Gorbachev Foundation)



CITY OF TRIER & TCU INTERNSHIP  
Post Exchange Impact Report  
By Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Location of Exchange: Trier, Germany

Date: June 17-July 13, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Outbound

Adult/Youth: 1 Adult, Ms. Halle Leneghan

Goal: Dr. Andrea Sand (professor at University of Trier) and TCU German professor Jeffrey Todd worked together to organize an internship for TCU student Halle Leneghan. She is a political science major and is focusing on German as her foreign language. The goal of her internship experience in Trier was to improve her German skills and her understanding of how city government works in Trier.

Strategies:

- Dr. Todd and Dr. Sand coordinated to plan dates and strategize possible placements for the student
- Dr. Sand worked with Christian Millen and the sister cities volunteers in Trier to secure home hosting for the student
- Dr. Todd selected the student most appropriate for this experience from his German language classes

Planning:

-Dr. Sand and Christien Millen organized Halle's schedule and assignments

-Dr. Todd selected Halle as the student and briefed her about visiting Trier before she departed

Execution:

- Halle worked in different departments within Trier city hall. She shadowed two personal advisors, one of which is Mr. Bernsten, who has been to Fort Worth. His family home hosted her for part of the exchange. She observed meetings with the Mayor and his advisors, went to ceremonies with the Mayor, and helped Mr. Millen and others with small tasks such as preparing gifts and arrangements for other delegations.
- She also worked with the City Hall kids program and organized a cheerleading clinic for the kids, where she showed them how to perform jumps, cheers, and helped them choreograph a dance.
- Her internship was done for two TCU summer course credits—one for an upper level Independent Directed German Study that is for her international relations component and a Civic Literacy and Leadership course for a political science credit through Dr. Grant Ferguson. This exchange as is as much as an internship as it is a cultural exchange.

Information gathered along the way:

Halle learned about Trier city government and tourism and assisted with welcoming international visitors to their city. She also improved her German language skills and knowledge about the culture through her homestay.

Fort Worth Sister Cities learned about the possibilities of such exchanges for the future.

Contacts made:

- Halle Leneghan, TCU geography and political science major
- Dr. Jeffrey Todd, TCU German professor
- Dr. Andrea Sand, University of Trier Linguistics professor (and wife of Mayor Leibe)
- Mr. Christian Millen, Sister Cities Director and Tourism Coordinator for the City of Trier

Impact:

The citizens of Trier learned more about Fort Worth and American culture, and Halle strengthened her knowledge of German and the culture. It was definitely a win-win exchange.

Next steps:

We will remain in contact with Halle and will invite her to share her experiences with the Trier committee at one of their meetings. Fort Worth Sister Cities will also remain in contact with Dr. Todd and Dr. Sand about the possibility for future university student exchanges.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO NÎMES, FRANCE  
Post Exchange Report  
Prepared by Marvin Vann Griffith, Delegation Co-Leader

Location of Exchange: Nîmes, France  
Date: June 5-13, 2018  
Inbound/Outbound: Outbound  
Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult  
Number of Participants: 12

Participants:

Jay Kurima, Delegation Leader  
Marvin Vann Griffith, Delegation Co-Leader  
Heather Kurima, Delegation Member  
Stephanie Atkinson, Associate Delegation Co-Leader  
Michelle Chuah, Associate Delegation Co-Leader  
Kareli Olivo  
Karla Olivo  
Katherine Villegas  
Lilian Hicks  
Will Lourcy  
Sofia Camacho  
Hemmingway Simmons

Goals: Our goals were to promote cultural, educational and grassroots diplomacy between Fort Worth and Nîmes by encouraging mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultures; to establish enduring relationships between active citizens and representatives of Fort Worth and Nîmes, in part, by returning a visit to Mayor FOURNIER and his staff; and, to establish the first of a series of enduring exchanges between Fort Worth students and faculty and the students and faculty of the Lycée Albert Camus.

Plan: We met regularly prior to our departure to prepare our students for the trip to Nîmes. During our meetings, we used team-building activities to create a cohesive team. We benefited from a presentation on southern French culinary arts and on-site kitchen coaching by Heather Kurima, presentations on effective cultural exploration by Jay Kurima, and presentations on French language, cultural practices and institutions by Marvin Vann Griffith. Students practiced elementary aspects of speaking French and reported to the group on aspects of French history, culture, and geography.

Execute:

The principal of the Lycée Albert Camus excused teacher Stéphane Cohen and his 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from most of their normal responsibilities throughout the week of our stay so that they might accompany us on the fascinating activities Mr. Cohen arranged for us, which included visiting a ranch that raised bulls for bull fights, a tour of the Camargues wetlands, a boat ride through its canals, visits to Montpellier, Avignon and the Pont du Gard, as well as a tour of the city of Nîmes. The principal also arranged several receptions for us at the school, and the mayor gave our group a gracious reception, attended by a variety of community leaders, at City Hall. Students stayed in the homes of host families, ate meals with them, and commuted daily to the lycée for the resumption of group activities.

Post Exchange Evaluation:

In their post-exchange evaluations, students reported high rates of contentment with both the exchange activities and with their host families. All reported an intention to remain in content with their host families, and the great majority indicated the trip had inspired them to pursue foreign language studies, and to pursue further opportunities to visit, work, and study abroad.

Impact:

Ambassadors (both youth and adult) from both Nimes and Fort Worth had a tremendous positive impact on each other's cities, cultures and personal relationships. The relationship with Nimes is just beginning. Having a youth exchange before our cities have signed the sister cities agreement will have a strong, positive influence as we move forward with our Mayors and officials in the sister city signing agreement.

Next Steps:

Plans are already in place for a reciprocal youth exchange with the Albert Camus students and Mr. Cohen coming to Fort Worth in late January/early February (Stock show time). World Languages Institute and Fort Worth Country Day school will host 25 students and two delegation leaders.



## DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION CAMP

### Post Exchange Report

Prepared by Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

Location of Exchange: Fort Worth, TX

Date: June 8-29, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Inbound

Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult

Number of Participants: 12 international (from Toluca, Mexico) and 100 FWISD students and teachers

Participants: 10 university students and 2 professors from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM) in Toluca, Mexico, 100 FWISD Elementary school students from the dual language programs from FWISD and five FWISD teachers

Goal: To provide English & Spanish immersion and cultural enrichment program for FWISD students to continue and expand their level of language proficiency in both languages.

Plan: The ITESM students and their professors met regularly throughout the year (since February) and collaborated with the FWISD curriculum writers to develop the Dual Language immersion curriculum for the elementary school students for these schools. FWISD provided FW Sister Cities with a grant which covers the travel costs, stipends and supplies for the University students and professors. FW Sister Cities International provided the host families and a program coordinator intern to manage the two-week Dual Language Immersion Camp. The teams developed of theme of art, poetry and artists - teaching the students about Spanish and different cultures. They improved their proficiency and reading levels in both Spanish and English.

Execute: The Dual Language Immersion camp is now in its fifth year with FWISD and we have had the same professor from Toluca for the last three years, so the continuity and understanding of the program was important. FW Sister Cities program staff worked closely with FWISD Multilingual department on all logistics for the camp and it was an over-all success, with 100 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders from several elementary schools in the dual language program improving and further developing their Spanish and English language skills and cultural knowledge. The Toluca facilitators and professors divided into five groups, with two facilitators and a FWISD teacher in charge of each group. They worked with the students Monday-Thursday from June 11-28. The students learned songs, games, and activities all conducted in Spanish. There was a lot of hands-on activity, including a field trip to our own Kimbell Art Museum. The students learned about ancient Egypt and how those cultures used recycled materials in their daily lives. The camp was extended to three weeks this year due to the FWISD campuses being closed on Fridays in the summer. We wanted to give the students 12 instead of 8 days of camp.

Post Exchange Evaluation: The closing ceremonies on June 28 were quite impressive and it was wonderful to see the students speaking and singing entirely in Spanish. The Toluca facilitators also gained excellent leadership and education experience in working together as a team to develop and execute a program, and in how to teach young children their language and culture.

Impact: In addition to the elementary school students having an improved and increased proficiency in Spanish and English, our international students also had a United States cultural immersion. Since they were home hosted by Fort Worth families, USA and Mexico increased understanding of and appreciation for one another's cultures, which is part of the mission of Fort Worth Sister Cities. The

elementary school students also received more exposure to a different culture, which will impact the way they experience the world and appreciate other cultures and languages, hopefully for the rest of their lives.

Report:

Contacts made:

- Dr. Charles Carroll, Assistant Superintendent, FWISD
- Elda Rojas, Director Multilingual programs, FWISD
- Professor Rene DiazGonzalez Plata, Professor of English at ITESM Toluca
- Lucia Dominguez , Professor of English at ITESM Toluca
- Airam Ruiz, World Languages Specialist, FWISD
- T.M. Bigley, Principal, Burton Hill Elementary School, FWISD
- Shay Carson, Multilingual Programs Coordinator, FWISD

Next Steps: FW Sister Cities will remain in touch with FWISD and submit a proposal for another grant for 2019. The feedback from both FW and Toluca is to extend the camp to three weeks again instead of two (due to the FWISD campuses closing on Fridays during the summer months).

We hope this program will continue on the success of the last four years as an ongoing language and cultural camp beginning with Spanish and hopefully will expand into other key languages of the Sister Cities' network including French, Japanese, Italian, Chinese, and German.



MEETING WITH ITALY-AMERICA CHAMBER  
Post Meeting Report  
by Tom Law, Jr., chair, Reggio Emilia Committee

Location of Meeting: Fort Worth

Date: June 13-14, 2018

Goal: The purpose of this meeting is to provide FWSCI connections to Italian dignitaries who would direct companies interested in doing business in Texas to consider the North Texas area, more specifically Fort Worth.

Strategies: During a diplomatic visit to Washington, DC in mid-April 2018, FW Sister Cities staff and volunteers met with leaders of the Italian Embassy, including Andrea Cascone, First Counselor, Head of the Office for Economic, Trade and Scientific Affairs. Much of the conversation was about our goal, and we were given contact information for Alessia Paolicchi, Executive Director, Italy-America Chamber of Commerce located in Houston, Texas.

Staff contacted Ms. Paolicchi directly. She said that Italian businesses do contact her office for assistance in the North Texas area, but the Houston-based IACOC has not had a direct contact in this region. She kindly offered to come to Fort Worth for a meeting about this topic.

The Reggio Emilia Committee hosted an event at Midici the evening before the business meeting. She and the participants enjoyed conversation about not only our sister city, Reggio Emilia, Italy, but more importantly, in this case, Fort Worth culture.

The following morning, a meeting was held with at FWSCI offices, attended by Alessia Paolicchi, Executive Director, Italy-America, Chamber of Commerce of Texas  
Rebecca Young Montgomery, Sr. Vice President, Advocacy, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce  
Robert Sturns, Director, Economic Development Dept., City of Fort Worth

Fort Worth Sister Cities International representatives were:  
Michael Crain, Government Relations, Board of Directors  
Hannah Behrens, Trier, Germany Chair, Board of Directors  
Tom Law, Jr., Reggio Emilia, Italy Chair, Board of Directors  
Mae Ferguson, President/CEO  
Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager

The primary topic was about economic development in Fort Worth and how it would benefit companies wanting to do business here.

Next steps: Mae Ferguson shared the contact information with our colleagues in Reggio Emilia, Italy – Ms. Serena Forrachia, who is the Vice Mayor over International affairs for the city. Serena arranged a meeting while Mae was in Reggio Emilia for the Tricolore Sports Games.

Tom Law and Mae Ferguson met with several representatives from the Regione- Emilia-Romagna President's Cabinet in Bologna and had a good conversation. They met with:

Andrea Orlando, Chief of the President's Cabinet  
Rossana Preus, Head International Relations Unit  
Ruben Sacerdoti, Head of Unit Business Internationalization and FDI Attraction  
Morena Bellin, International Relations President's Cabinet  
Paola Maccani, ERVET

It was a very productive meeting and they were open to us proposing some kind of strategy to work together on a targeted economic program between our two regions. We shared our powerpoint of Fort Worth demographics which were translated for us and Paola Maccani (ERVET) sent us the presentation on Emilia-Romagna.

Our contacts in Reggio Emilia responded with the following plan:

In conclusion, as a follow up of the meeting held in July I would proceed as follows:

- internal skype chat between Reggio and Alessia Paolicchi on the data and reports to be provided
- review/sending of the slides and reports on opportunities of Northern Texas to the contact people
- definition of 1/2 events test opportunities



YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE TO NAGAOKA  
Post Exchange Report  
By James Gleaton & Courtney Smith, Delegation Leaders

Location of Exchange: Nagaoka, Japan  
Date: 20-29 June 2018  
Inbound/Outbound: Outbound  
Adult/Youth: Youth  
Number of Participants expected: 24 – 2 DLs, 2 ADLs, 20 students

Goal: From FW SCI web-site – “Youth Ambassadors from 8-12<sup>th</sup> grades represent Fort Worth and the USA in the cities visited while learning the importance of global volunteerism.”

Plan: To prepare and supervise student ambassadors to be good citizen diplomats as they, along with the delegation leader(s), represent Fort Worth, Texas, and the United States during a cultural exchange.

Execution: Overall, the students acted professionally and were courteous guests and exceptional diplomats.

Post Exchange Evaluation: Post-exchange surveys were collected from our students. We acknowledge that most of the exchange is developed by the Nagaoka staff and will pass on our suggestions to them, but we also wish to inform Fort Worth Sister Cities as well. As delegation leaders, we present the following:

1. Everyone involved did a fantastic job organizing cultural exchanges between our students and Nagaoka students. That being said, we do have some suggestions to improve the time spent with the Nagaoka students.
  - a. First, our students both appeared to and declared, both verbally and via survey, that they had better exchanges with the high school students than the middle school students. This was most likely due to the relatability and maturity of the students due to age.
  - b. Second, we did have a situation where one of our female students was teased by the middle school boys. The situation was handled appropriately by everyone involved, and the student continued to have a great time on the exchange. We also followed up with the student, and she expressed gratitude for how it was handled. As discussed, the maturity of middle school students in general may recommend for a focus on high school students.
  - c. Finally, the majority of the delegation enjoyed the exchange at the high school the most and expressed a desire to spend more time there. Unfortunately, we spent little time there by comparison, and the students spent very little time interacting during the extra-curricular activities at the school.

With all of this in mind, we propose developing the exchanges with Nagaoka students where the entirety of the time spent doing so is at the same high school. Using our past trip as an example, the students spent approximately two days interacting with three different groups of Nagaoka students (two half days and one full day). So, we propose that the students spend the two days (in total time) at the same high school. This would better facilitate the exchange and relationship building between our students and Nagaoka students. Additionally, this would also hopefully allow our students more time to interact in different extra-curricular activities with the Nagaoka students.

2. The time spent in Tokyo was a highlight of the trip for the entire delegation. While there were no problems, we do recommend additional structure be added. Ayumi was able to guide us all of the way to the location of the bus tour, but the return trip back to the hostel and trip to the airport the following morning were made without a guide of any kind. This involved purchasing tickets for all of the students, multiple different train rides, and step-by-step instructions provided by Ayumi. Having one of us already traveled to Japan and two amazing ADLs, this did not pose too difficult a challenge with all 20 of our students. However, for a first time traveler to Japan, this could foreseeably be difficult for even an experienced DL. Ayumi mentioned that she could request for a member of the staff to spend the time in Tokyo with the delegation up until the airport or last train ride to it. While this would be a preferred solution, we acknowledge it may not be feasible. Therefore, we propose the added structure of pre-purchased train tickets and maps/routes of the terminals and trains used. Should the train tickets not be eligible for pre-purchase, then a member of the Nagaoka staff would need to help the DLs purchase them for both days, as Ayumi did for us.
3. Relating directly to the bus tour, our students most appreciated the two times we were able to depart the bus and visit parts of the city. To that extent, we suggest looking into bus tours that drive by fewer sights but allow more departure time, similar to hop on hop off bus tours, should that be a possibility.
4. Finally, we recommend that future DLs to Nagaoka be made aware of the following suggestions:
  - a. Students should be informed that bathhouses and spas in Japan often have different clothing guidelines than what they may be accustomed to.
  - b. Students should pack a towel for the night at the hostel unless they would rather rent one or use a clean article of clothing to dry off.

Impact:

1. We were informed that this was one of the largest delegations to visit Nagaoka. We were honored when the Nagaoka staff informed us that our delegation was one of the most respectful and well-prepared to have visited Nagaoka, especially consider the group's size. We wished to pass on this complement of the students and everyone involved in their selection and preparation at Fort Worth Sister Cities.

Reporting: Nagaoka contacts made: All contacts related to the program already had a relationship with it. If there is any interest, we can provide any personal contacts made upon request. Additionally, an oral report was also made to Beth Weibel.

Suggested Next Steps:

1. Discuss and then pass on proposed improvements to cultural exchange with Nagaoka students.
2. Develop additional structure for the time spent in Tokyo.



## TRICOLORE YOUTH SPORTS GAMES TO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY

Post Exchange Impact Report

By Michael Jacobsson, Chair and Matt Graves, Vice Chair

Tom Law, 2018 Reggio Chair

Location of Exchange: Reggio Emilia, Italy

Date: July 5 – 14, 2018

Number of Participants: 62 athletes, 14 coaches and assistants and 5 leadership team.

Another 40 to 50 parents and family members also attended.

### **DELEGATION:**

#### Leadership

Tom Law, Reggio Chair

Michael Jacobsson, Tricolore Chair

Matt Graves, Tricolore Vice Chair

Pam Lea, Sports Coordinator

Dr. Justus Peters, Team physician

Mae Ferguson, President/CEO

#### Coaches

Girls Volleyball – Clint Plihal Coach and Rane Hoss Assistant Coach

Swimming – Michael Jacobsson

Baseball U12 – Jeff Dyer Coach. Todd Collinsworth and Keith Neill parent assistants.

Baseball U15 – Jarrod Vaught Coach and Parker Graves Assistant Coach

Baseball U15 – David Trimble Coach and John Hawpe Assistant Coach. Harvey Bourke and Joy Trimble Team Assistants.

Baseball U18 – David Akard Coach and John Allen Assistant Coach.

#### Athletes

Girls Volleyball – U16 eight

Swimming – Five boys 12 to 14 years old

Baseball U12 – Eleven

Baseball U15 (two teams) – 23

Baseball U18 - Fourteen

**GOAL:** Reggio's International Sport Games feature young athletes, aged 11-18 from 13 different European Countries (Italy, Poland, Croatia, Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Greece, Portugal, Malta, Romania, Netherlands, France), as well as Mozambique, Palestinian Territory, Israel, South Africa, China, Saharawi Republic, Unites States of America accompanied by their coaches and institutional representatives from their cities challenging themselves in almost 30 different sport disciplines, including traditional sports and Paralympic disciplines.

**STRATEGIES:** Recruit coaches from Fort Worth schools and clubs in 12 different sports to fill teams of youth between the ages of 11 and 18.

OVERALL IMPACT OF THE MISSION: As relayed to staff by one coach, the following quote from an athlete sums up the impact: “Coach, I believe this is the best experience ever in my life.”

The Tricolore stretched the participants’ own personal boundaries and expanded their cultural awareness. The experience helped lay a foundation in the life of each athlete that will promote further interest and engagement with people from other cultures throughout the years ahead.

In addition to competing athletically during this experience, the students also interacted with the athletes from the other countries in the Olympic village, the dining hall, and in the main city center. It was refreshing to see them playing ping pong and basketball with one another, and exchanging their hats and T shirts.

MEDALS:

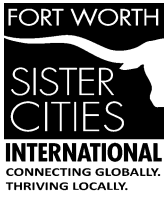
Girls Volleyball – GOLD

Baseball U12 - GOLD

Baseball U15 Team #1 – BRONZE

Baseball U18 - GOLD

NEXT STEPS: WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT BECAUSE OF THIS MISSION? A Tricolore Task Force is being formed by the FWSCI leadership to begin planning for the 2022 Games. The Task Force will be charged with developing new and revising old policies and procedures for future exchanges to include coach, athlete and parent guidelines and requirements, as well as travel requirements. A structure will be developed to insure the recruitment of athletes and coaches represents a broad segment of the community and the Task Force will look at the possibility of funding to assist the teams.



JR. INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (JILA)  
 Post Exchange Report  
 Prepared by Courtney Cannon, Leadership Academy Coordinator

Locations of Academy: University Christian Church (UCC)

Dates/Time: July 9 – 13, 2018, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Audience: Youth and Adult

Description of Participants: 44 local middle school participants from the Fort Worth area; 7 college facilitators from Toluca, Mexico (5 days); 2 delegation leaders from Toluca, Mexico (5 days); 1 FWSCI summer intern; 2 JILA Site Coordinators

JILA Theme: Meet the World in Fort Worth

Fort Worth Area Participants:

- |                         |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Ashley Aguilar          | Katherine Pearl Malonis | Lucia Torres-Moncayo |
| James Bain              | Olivia LeBlanc          | Delia Escamilla      |
| Rob Batton              | Avery Mooney            | Tara Forrest         |
| Anais Bayles            | Ife Nwoko               | Nancy Marchant       |
| Evan Bumgardner         | Madison G. Oby          |                      |
| Thelonious Xiujia Brown | Ashley Olmos            |                      |
| Beau Butler             | Kate Ponzo              |                      |
| Ward Butler             | Paul Ray                |                      |
| Hannah Cheng            | Gianna Razack           |                      |
| Trinity Chouchantararat | Natali Robledo          |                      |
| Christopher Clarin      | Holt Smith              |                      |
| Angelina Coates         | Ava Stubblefield        |                      |
| Ella Coffman            | Millard 'Luke' Tierce   |                      |
| Sophia Deng             | Julianna P. Tijerina    |                      |
| Simon Dickerson         | Clara Winburn           |                      |
| Ridwan Durosimi         | Jose Moreno             |                      |
| Grant Fackel            | Ximena Barrera          |                      |
| Ariana George           | Gabriel Mendoza         |                      |
| Natalia Glenn           | Luis Hernandez          |                      |
| Valdemar Gomez          | Josue Montoya           |                      |
| Journey Jacobs          | Natalia Saldivar        |                      |
| Jessica 'Jessi' Kelly   | Jonathan Salinas        |                      |

Area Schools Represented (21):

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| International Leadership of Texas | Summit International Preparatory        |
| McLean Sixth Grade Center         | Ousley Junior High                      |
| Fort Worth Country Day            | McLean Middle School                    |
| All Saint's Episcopal             | Tison Middle School                     |
| Cross Timbers Middle School       | George Dawson Middle School             |
| Westlake Academy                  | Aledo Middle School                     |
| Applied Learning Academy          | Cobb Middle School                      |
| Eubank's Intermediate             | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School |
| Daggett Montessori School         | Trinity Valley School                   |
| Como Montessori School            | Medlin Middle School                    |
| Carroll Middle School             |   |

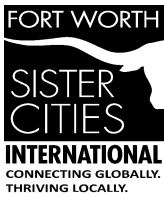
Goal: To encourage students to explore and focus on critical and current issues by strengthening their leadership and communication skills through cross-cultural activities.

Plan: In early Spring 2018, the ILA/JILA team began meeting to develop this year's program. After the theme, 'Meet the World in Fort Worth', was determined, Toluca, Mexico delegation leaders (Lucia Torres-Moncayo and Delia Escamilla) interviewed students from Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Toluca. From the students interviewed, seven were selected to begin diligent preparations for facilitating this year's JILA. It was through Skype sessions, phone calls, and emails, that the five-day Junior International Leadership Academy program and curriculum was organized, prepared, reviewed, and finalized.

Execution: Upon the arrival of the Toluca, Mexico delegation; they were shortly taken by their host families to University Christian Church (UCC) on Saturday, July 7 for the one-day facilitator training session. At the facilitator training day, the itinerary was reviewed by the leaders and facilitators. Through teamwork, supplies (which were gathered and secured by FWSCI) were organized in preparation for JILA. During this training session, rules, expectations, and anticipations were reiterated in order to ensure nothing but success for JILA.

The morning of Monday, July 9, all 44 local middle school participants were very eager and excited for the start of the Junior International Leadership Academy program. Each morning the students participated in Ice-Breaker activities which allowed them to learn more about each other and quickly became a favorite part of each student's morning. As each day went by, the students learned about culture and each one of FWSCI's sister cities through team building exercises and leadership opportunities. As Friday, July 13 came extremely too quick, the students could not be more thrilled to share and experience with the International Leadership Academy high schoolers. All students had a fun-filled day at Group Dynamix, a facility that offers multiple team building exercises through activities such as miniature bicycle races to the defying gravity ropes course. Upon their return from Group Dynamix, the students successfully put on their Closing Ceremony for their families, friends, and host families. The students planned out a great ceremony which used dance, song, speech, and theater skits to explain what they had learned this week. This was held at University Christian Church on Friday, July 13 for over 160 attendees. For the first time in the history of the JILA program, the ILA (high school group) joined us for the Closing Ceremony, followed by a cultural exchange in dance and song.

Execution and Impact: The 2018 JILA program was a huge success! With much thought, many elements were brought together to make an outstanding program for both participants and facilitators. Without the amazing support from the community and the JILA team, the program would not have such a great curriculum which consistently engulfs students with culture. The class sessions challenged stereotypes, highlighted cultures, developed leadership skills, strengthened communication skills, and explored critical and current global issues. The short-term impact of the JILA program welcomes many student friendships which last well beyond their high school years. Many students enjoy the program so much that most become alumni participants and reach out to FWSCI for volunteer opportunities. The students will take this knowledge about what they have learned in JILA of differing cultures to look at life in a positive perspective for their everyday lives. JILA is a powerful program that not only lays the foundation for students to learn critical and current issues all around the globe, but to encourage them to become leaders right in their own backyard of Fort Worth, Texas.



# INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (ILA)

## Post Exchange Report

Prepared by Courtney Cannon, Leadership Academy Coordinator

Location of Academy: Texas Christian University (TCU), Fort Worth, TX

Date: July 12-26, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Inbound

Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult

Number of Participants: 89

- Mbabane, Swaziland: 6 students and 2 Delegation Leaders
- Toluca, Mexico: 14 students, 7 Facilitators and 3 Delegation Leaders
- Reggio Emilia, Italy: 16 students and 1 Delegation Leader
- Budapest, Hungary: 4 students and 1 Delegation Leader
- Trier, Germany: 1 Facilitator
- Nagaoka, Japan: 11 students, 1 Facilitator and 2 Delegation Leaders
- Fort Worth: 12 students and 8 Facilitators

### Fort Worth Participants:

Savannah Antwine, IL Texas AGPHS

Gwendolen Bruce, Southwest High School

Audrey 'DJ' Carter, Arlington Height High School

Bela Gomez, Nolan Catholic High School

Rafael Gomez, Nolan Catholic High School

Niina Havia, Nolan Catholic High School

Isabel Pratt, R.L. Paschal High School

Saleem Razack, Trinity Valley School

Kathryn 'Katie' Russel, R.L. Paschal High School

Irene Strzhemechny, Harmony School of Innovation

Kimberly Wang, Westlake Academy

Adele Wilson, Fort Worth Country Day

Nancy Marchant, ILA Chair

Nelcy Cardenas, ILA Co-Chair

Jay Kurima, Curriculum Director

Courtney Cannon, ILA Coordinator

Mauricio Moreno, JILA Intern & Facilitator

Alexis Runyons, ILA Intern & Facilitator

Ameera Zaman, ILA Intern & Facilitator

Avalon Wolfe, ILA Intern & Facilitator

Matthieu Ferrero, Extended Program Intern

Megan Metersky, Facilitator

Chibuzor Ogbonna, Facilitator

Bogdana Oliynyk, Facilitator

Lauren Titsworth, Facilitator

Fabiha Mobin, Facilitator

Goal: To encourage students to explore and focus on critical and current issues by strengthening their leadership and communication skills through cross-cultural activities.

Plan: In early spring 2018, the ILA/JILA team began meeting to develop this year's program. After the theme was determined, Delegation Leaders from each of our eight sister cities began to interview students and facilitators. The ILA team put together the program on the TCU campus and throughout Fort Worth. The program was put together through meetings of the ILA team and through countless emails and phone calls. We also held two orientations for our Fort Worth students ahead of the program, so they would know what to expect and would be ready to interact with students from all our sister cities.

Execute: On the morning of July 12, all of the coordinators, local facilitators and students met at the TCU Moncrief dorm where we would be staying to help set up all the rooms. The 9 international delegations arrived at different times throughout the day and the previous week so once they were all present at TCU we began our program. We reiterated all the rules and guidelines of the program and ensured all the students were aware of the expectations for ILA.

We tried to make the next three days easy for all our students especially the international ones who were jet lagged and trying to speak English constantly for maybe the first time in their lives. We went to Group Dynamix the first day, held a Bastille Day Celebration at University Christian Church the next day, and on the third day, the students enjoyed the Fort Worth Stockyards. With activities such as playing blacklight dodgeball, learning to make crepes, and participating in dance lessons at Billy Bob's Texas; the students were able to form bonds through team building exercises. The night of July 15, we held a drum circle for all students to dance along with. We had two drum circle groups attend, the MONDO Drummers and the

Dondoko Taiko Drummers who both played for the upbeat students. Although each day's schedule differed, starting on Monday, July 16, most days were spent at University Christian Church to attend class team times. Each team had around a group of 10 students that were led by both international and local facilitators.

The session curriculum was set up to allow students to explore each other's cultures through critical and current issues in order to advance peace through lasting relationships and international understanding. For most of the schedule, the students would attend these sessions once or twice a day. But if they were not in a session, the students were around Fort Worth either exploring, doing leadership activities, or participating in team building exercises. Some of these activities included a trip to Sundance Square, community center visits, observing art at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and interviewing businesses at site visits. On Thursday, July 19, the students went home with their host families for the night and then spent the weekend with them from Friday, July 20 to Monday, July 23.

After returning from their hosting weekend, the students then prepared for the end of the program. While continuing with their sessions, the students also enjoyed fun activities such as shopping at Hulen Mall, the ILA Youth Ambassador Ball, and sporting activities at the TCU Recreation Center. With the end of the program, students held their closing ceremony the night of Wednesday, July 25. Host families, friends, family, and the Fort Worth community attended as the students thanked them for making ILA possible. The closing ceremony explained and showcased what the students had learned through skits, dances, video montages, and a keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Roemer. The last day of ILA, July 26, came too quickly for students as they were not prepared to leave their new lifelong friends. As international students, facilitators, and delegation leaders loaded the buses for their trip back home, many goodbyes, tears, and hugs were had. With ILA's ending, the students were determined to continue their learning to prove that through international understanding, regardless of where one may come from, lasting relationships can always be created.

Post Program Evaluation: ILA 2018 was an exceptional program that was able to be made possible through so many people who consistently put their all into the program each year. With there being so many minuscule details that need attention every step of the way, the organizers of the program do an amazing job to be on top of everything to ensure that ILA 2018 was a success. ILA 2018 was a team effort from your local Fort Worth team to our dedicated international Delegation Leaders. The ILA program would have not been possible without the help from our international Delegation Leaders recruiting students from their city and helping us along the way.

Impact: Although the 2018 ILA program was a mere two short weeks, the impact ILA has had through the friendships made and the lessons learned, will be a lifelong reward. This year's theme was 'Meet the World in Fort Worth' and it is amazing to see what all these students have learned about advancing peace all around the globe. The goal of ILA is to make a lasting impact on how students and adults alike gain cultural understanding for a different view of the world. ILA truly accomplishes this goal each and every year.

Many students were so grateful for what they had learned from the ILA program that the first thing they wanted to do was to tell all of their friends and family. Exploring and focusing on critical and/or current issues from all over the world, shows that wherever one may come from, we are all alike. I think that the students gained the most from ILA was their friendships they had created. Becoming friends with one another allowed students to dive deeper into conversations about the state of the world today. Through their many sessions, the students learned that many different people come from all around the globe and although they may be from different cultures, they are all alike in so many ways.

Next Steps: The 2018 ILA program was a huge success and I can guarantee that next year's ILA will be one as well. For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are hoping to hold ILA 2019 in Nagaoka, Japan for the first time ever. As we prepare for ILA 2019, we will work closely with Japan to come together and organize a great ILA abroad.



## YOUTH AMBASSADORS HARASHIN SCHOLARS

### Post Exchange Report

Prepared by Dawnelle Butler & Nicole Vallee, Delegation Leaders

Location of Exchange: Nagaoka, Japan & Fort Worth, TX, USA  
Date: Outbound: July 27-August 6; Inbound: August 9-17, 2018  
Inbound/Outbound: Inbound & Outbound  
Adult/Youth: Youth and Adult  
Number of Participants: 20

#### Participants:

Dawnelle Butler, Westlake Academy IBO World School, Delegation Leader  
Nicole Vallee, Tarrant County College, Delegation Leader  
Emily Pruitt, Marine Creek Collegiate High School  
Rebecca Chichock, Arlington High School  
Priscilla Gutierrez, Diamond Hill-Jarvis High School  
William Dibble, Trinity Valley School  
Samantha Cruz, Legacy High School  
Imani Kayembe, Richland High School  
Brigit Teschendorf, Timber Creek High School  
Katey Parham, Fort Worth Country Day School

Tomoko Asao, Delegation Leader  
Shigeki Koyanagi, Delegation Leader  
Kaito Koichi  
Shoichi Aoyagi  
Hinako Hirasawa  
Miku Kobayashi  
Kanon Nakamura  
Rana Hokari  
Ai Naito  
Seika Toyoda

Goal: To promote grassroots diplomacy between Fort Worth and Nagaoka by promoting mutual understanding and appreciation between the people. To extend the hospitality and gift of friendship to our friends in Nagaoka for the reciprocal part of the exchange.

Plan: This is a special scholarship given to 8 students and 2 teachers from Fort Worth and 8 students and 2 teachers from Nagaoka, Japan to experience cultural understanding and growth of friendship between the students and educators of Nagaoka, Japan and Fort Worth, Texas, USA. The scholarship is completely funded by the Harashin Corporation in Nagaoka, Japan. The students were selected through a competitive application and interview process. They all met as a team monthly from December 2017-end of July 2018. They learned about Japanese culture, language, and planned the itinerary for their new friends.

#### Execute:

The Nagaoka staff met the delegation at the airport and took such good care of the group for the whole exchange. Our Fort Worth students had the opportunity to share the Fort Worth culture with their new friends, but we were completely immersed in Japanese Culture. The Hanabi parade and learning the Hanabi

dance, seeing the fireworks at the celebration, and meeting Mr. Hara of the Harashin headquarters were among the exchange highlights.

#### Post Exchange Evaluation:

The trip to Nagaoka was full of first time experiences for everyone. We began by learning about the rich history of the area. We then got to see the community celebrate its history in the Hanabi festival. We were able to participate in the festival in many ways through attending the peace ceremony and placing a chrysanthemum on the remembrance altar to dancing in the parade with the Harashin employees. The program in Nagaoka was absolutely amazing and the students formed incredible bonds with one another. That bond was only strengthened by the inbound part of the exchange August 9-17, 2018. The Fort Worth students had the opportunity to host their brother/sister from Nagaoka and lifelong friendships were strengthened. The Fort Worth hosts shared their city with the Japanese guests – taking them to the Stockyards to see the cattle drive, eat Texas Barbeque, and experience the unique shopping. They also attended a Texas Ranger game at the Ball Park and got to meet both an American and Japanese baseball player. They also did a community service project together – they shared about their exchange, and taught origami to the home school group at the FW Public Library.

#### Impact:

Love of Japanese and American culture, strengthening of friendships, and better understanding of every-day lives and families were greatly impacted and improved. Personal growth and development for both the students and the educators were observed as traveling, culture shock and becoming friends with strangers can be a challenge for some. The participants all took away valuable lessons and experiences, and gained many new friends in the process.

#### Report:

##### Contacts made:

- Ayumi Kamimura, staff, Nagaoka International Affairs Division
- Yuri Takahashi, staff, Nagaoka International Affairs Division
- Yurie Sato, staff, Nagaoka International Affairs Division
- Chikako Jinnai, staff, Nagaoka International Affairs Division
- Chihiro Oseki, staff, Nagaoka International Affairs Division
- Kazuhiko Hara, CEO of Hara Enterprise
- Masako Hayakawa, Translator and tour guide
- Ariko Tuschida, Nagaoka International Exchange Association lead staff
- Wendy Dunn, Fort Worth Public Teen Programming Librarian Educational
- Asako Cosby

#### Next Steps:

This exchange will hopefully continue for years to come. Students and educators are all still in touch with each other. The Fort Worth students all are serving on the Fort Worth Sister Cities International Youth Board as at large members and have been active in serving in fundraisers for youth scholarships and activities to educate their fellow students about sister cities, Japanese culture, and youth exchanges.



## CITIZEN AMBASSADORS TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

### Post Exchange Impact Report

By Greg Jackson, Board Member & Budapest Chair

Location of Exchange: Budapest, Hungary

Date: August 22-31, 2018

Inbound/Outbound: Outbound

Number of Adult/Youth Participants: 12 Adults

#### **Participants:**

Ann Zadeh, Fort Worth City Council Member, Budapest Liaison, Delegation Leader

Greg Jackson, FWSCI Board Member and Budapest Committee Chair, Delegation Leader

Michael Parker, FWSCI Board Member, Delegation Leader

Melissa Thompson, FWSCI Board Member, Delegation Leader

Mae Ferguson, FWSCI President & CEO, Delegation Leader

Joe Bailey, Fort Worth Ambassador

Una Bailey, Fort Worth Ambassador

Gale Caveness, Fort Worth Ambassador

Claudine Jackson, Fort Worth Ambassador

Jeff Smyth, Fort Worth Ambassador

Teri Smyth, Fort Worth Ambassador

Jim Zadeh, Fort Worth Ambassador

**Goal:** To build and foster our relationship with Budapest, Hungary. We invited the mayor of Budapest to attend the Mayor's International Dinner in 2017. The mayor was unable to attend, but Deputy Mayor Gabor Bagdy and his assistant Szabina Nagyvaradi accepted the invitation. Our hope was to strengthen our relationship with Budapest officials to enable more meaningful personal interaction in future exchanges with Budapest. We also wanted to showcase Fort Worth to Budapest officials who had not previously visited Fort Worth or Texas.

#### **Strategies:**

(1) Follow-up on the visit of Budapest Deputy Mayor Gabor Bagdy and his assistant Szabina Nagyvaradi to Fort Worth in May 2017. Dr. Bagdy and Szabina spent several days in Fort Worth and attended Fort Worth Sister Cities' Mayor's International Dinner. It was important to spend time with them to continue to build the relationship established with them in 2017.

(2) Follow up on the visit of Kristóf Tóth to Fort Worth in July 2018. Kristóf works in the Mayor's office in Budapest. He visited Fort Worth with his wife Virag Russell as a pre-cursor to our trip to Budapest. It was important to build upon his effort to visit us during his summer holiday and foster this new relationship.

(3) Meet with City of Budapest transportation officials to gain information regarding their public transportation system for use in Fort Worth.

(4) Engage in home or restaurant-hosted dinners with citizens of Budapest. Budapest's sister cities program in the recent past has involved the Mayor's office, and few citizen volunteers. We wanted to meet with and interact with citizens of Budapest to broaden and strengthen our relationship with Budapest as a sister city.

**Recruitment:** We recruited Fort Worth City Council Member Ann Zadeh and her husband Jim Zadeh to travel with us. Councilmember Zadeh is the City Council liaison for our relationship with Budapest, and public transportation is of vital importance to her. Councilmember Zadeh was essential to the success of the exchange. We also recruited Zsuzsanna Kozák, Executive Director of Visual World Foundation in Budapest, to arrange our home-hosted dinners. These dinners, some in homes and some at restaurants, were also essential to the success of the exchange. The other members of the delegation were recruited mainly from the membership of Fort Worth Sister Cities.

**Planning:** We scheduled and held two orientations related to the visit. Fort Worth Sister Cities staff planned an excellent itinerary for our trip with tour company Cityrama.

**Post Exchange Evaluation:** Held October 16, 2018 at the home of Una and Joe Bailey.

**Impact:**

I travelled with the FWSCI delegation to visit Budapest in June 2014. We had a great trip, but our time with the Mayor's office and city officials felt very formal, even a little awkward. We had lunch and there was very little conversation between Hungarians and Americans. It was not intentional – it just seemed that nobody knew what to say. This visit four years later was exactly the opposite. Deputy Mayor Bagdy, Szabina Nagyváradí and Kristóf Tóth all visited Fort Worth between 2014 and this visit, which clearly warmed the relationship between the cities. Our visit and lunch with the Mayor's office were friendly. Lunch seemed like a family reunion. There was very little conversation from Hungarian to Hungarian or American to American. Most of the conversation was between Hungarian and American. The relationship between Budapest and Fort Worth is clearly moving in the right direction.

The other major impact were the home and restaurant-hosted dinners with Hungarians who are not associated with the Mayor's office. In 2014, no home-hosted dinners took place. Part of the reason was that our visit occurred during the summer holiday season, but part of it surely was hesitancy on the part of the average Budapest citizen to invite a stranger into their home for dinner. Zsuzsanna Kozák, Executive Director of Visual World Foundation, arranged the home and restaurant hosted dinners for this visit in 2018. Zsuzsanna explained to us the sanctity of the Hungarian home. Those of us who were home-hosted felt extremely privileged. Those of us who were restaurant-hosted enjoyed the one-on-one time as well, and it certainly laid the foundation for more home-hosted dinners when we visit Budapest again.

Budapest contacts made/strengthened:

1. Dr. Gábor Bagdy, Deputy Mayor of Budapest
2. Szabina Nagyváradí, City of Budapest Foreign Relations Officer
3. Kristóf Tóth, City of Budapest Foreign Relations Officer
4. Árpád Szabó, Advisor to Deputy Mayor Bagdy
5. Mária Pap, Budapest Festival and Tourism Centre
6. Zsuzsanna Kozák, Executive Director of Visual World Foundation
7. David Kostelancik, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission
8. Daniel Babinsky, U.S. Embassy Economic Officer
9. Christopher Machin, U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché
10. Laszlo Vizsy), U.S. Embassy Cultural Specialist
11. Dóra Kovács, U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Assistant
12. Melinda Mondovics, BKK (Budapest Transport Center) International Affairs Officer
13. Tamás Kajdon, BKK International Affairs Officer
14. Máté Lénárt, BKK Innovation Officer
15. Zsolt Denke ,PhD, BKK Senior public transport expert

16. Irisz Lippai-Nagy, American Chamber of Commerce Hungary (AmCham) CEO
17. Farkas Bársony, AmCham President, Price Waterhouse Coopers partner
18. Home/dinner hosts
  - a. Anna Banhegyi (Zadeh)
  - b. Adam Marot (Zadeh)
  - c. Andrea Jádi Németh (Jackson)
  - d. Luca Jádi (Jackson)
  - e. Peter Aradi (Bailey)
  - f. Katalin Aradi (Bailey)
  - g. Attila Sükösd (Smyth)
  - h. Gabriella Szász (Smyth)
  - i. Máté Gáspár (Parker/Caveness)
  - j. Dóra Sárdi (Parker/Caveness)
  - k. Balázs Végh (Thompson)
  - l. Beáta Ambrus (Thompson)
  - m. Mae Ferguson \* Zsuzsanna Kozák

**Next steps:**

(1) Encourage Budapest to send a delegation to Fort Worth.

Follow up from Budapest 10/15/18:

**Recruiting a small Hungarian delegation to visit FW**

It is realistic for a small group (5-6 people) to go to FW if there is a concrete project and outcome in FW. (For general visit, just to learn about another culture and make friends in FW, it would be too expensive for most Hungarians. That's why we need to design a pragmatic goal. A specific project helps also to get sponsors and to raise visibility)

We suggest *The Neighbor's Window* project of VWF to be the good reason. It is a small travelling exhibition with deep content of empathy created mainly by schools/university in Budapest. The project contains media literacy workshops to help young people to think responsibly. We could develop a Sister City project of it. Then we would cancel the plan to bring it to Dallas too, we would keep it only in Fort Worth.

Ann Zadeh explained to me how much relevant a project about neighbors' relations is in the city of FW where hundreds of people move every week. She also showed me TCU's coinciding project on the city website "Neighbor to Neighbor"! Adam McKinney, professor at TCU is eager to have our project. We could exhibit it at TCU and to organize a beautiful Sister City event by bringing it to the Modern. for the last day.

Some of your Hungarian hosts (Aradi, Ambrus, Sükösd) beyond me and one of my colleagues would probably be interested in visiting FW to prepare such valuable, win-win project.

(2) Reach out to newly opening Hungarian Consulate in Houston and schedule a visit to meet with the consul general to discuss opportunities for more exchanges between Budapest and Fort Worth.