



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 25-1920, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

9/11/2025

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of a one-year contract with Austin Sister Cities International for the purpose of coordinating a program for Austin's sister cities in an amount not to exceed \$200,000. Funding: \$200,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget of Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment, through the Hotel Occupancy Tax, a non-general fund source.

Lead Department

Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget of Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment in the amount of \$200,000, which is funded through the Hotel Occupancy Tax (non-general fund).

For More Information:

Morgan Messick, Assistant Director, Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment, (512) 974-7873.

Additional Backup Information:

The City of Austin's Sister Cities Program fosters friendly relations and understanding between the residents of Austin and our sister cities around the world. The program promotes Austin's educational, cultural, and economic presence in the international community. Our program is run in partnership with Austin Sister Cities International.

Austin Sister Cities International is a member of Sister Cities International, the federal non-profit organization that coordinates sister cities relationships between participating United States cities and international cities.

In the U.S., Sister Cities International was founded in 1956 and has been a formal program in Austin since 2012. The sister city designation is a citizen-driven process built upon existing relationships between individuals or institutions in Austin and the sister city.

Today, Austin has 13 Sister Cities: Adelaide, Australia; Angers, France; Antalya, Turkey; Chiang Mai, Thailand; Gwangmyeong, Korea; Koblenz, Germany; Lima, Peru; Limerick, Ireland; Maseru, Lesotho; Oita, Japan; Pune, India; Saltillo, Mexico; Taichung, Taiwan.

The Sister Cities Program and contract were previously managed by the Economic Development Department. On February 24, 2025, the City Manager established the Office of Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment (ACME), centralizing those functions around the city. The Sister Cities Program is joining ACME to centralize international cultural efforts, complementing other programs of work that are ongoing.