



## History of Exchange

### Mexico City, Mexico Chicago's Sister City Since 1991

**Chair:** Alejandro Silva

**1991**

**Focus: Signing Agreement**

Chicago and Mexico City became friendship cities in October 1991, when Mayor Richard M. Daley and Mexico City Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis signed a Friendship Cities Agreement at a reception hosted by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. While in Chicago, Mayor Solis addressed the University of Chicago's Mexican Studies Department, visited the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and toured Chicago's Mexican communities. Prior to the signing, Mexico City officials Hesiquio Aguilar and Xavier Casillas participated in the 1991 Sister Cities International Conference held in July.

**1992**

**Focus: Culture**

Helen Valdez, Chair of the Mexico City Committee, presented slides and information on the Archaeological Treasures of Tenochitian exhibit.

**Focus: Culture**

Chicago poets participated in the Poem for Mexico City contest where the prize for the winner was a trip to Mexico City and the opportunity to perform. Poets from Mexico City, Prague and Shenyang attended the finals.

**1993**

**Focus: Culture**

The Mexico City Committee sponsored The Art of the Other Mexico: Sources and Meanings. This exhibit, produced by the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum opened in November 1993 and featured contemporary artwork of 20 artists of Mexican descent from across the U.S.

**Focus: Culture**

Artist Monica Castillo participated in the O'Hare International Airport Terminal mural project. The mural representing Ms. Castillo's impression of Chicago, titled El Viento (The Wind), was permanently installed in the arrival corridor of the International Terminal at O'Hare Airport.

**Focus: Culture**

The Mexico City Committee participated in the CSCIP poetry competition.

**1997****Focus: Government**

The Mexico City Committee welcomed former Mayor of Mexico City, Oscar Espinosa Villarreal and a small municipal and business delegation to Chicago. The visit included a viewing of the Chicago premier of the Imax film "Mexico", followed by a reception at Navy Pier's Crystal Room. They also toured of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and the 911 Center and attended a ceremony for the installation of the Eagle Sculpture in the Pilsen community. In addition, an internet linkup was established between a Chicago elementary school and a school in Mexico City.

**July****Focus: Environment**

Two environmentalists from Mexico City visited Chicago to explore the possibilities of creating a Xochimilco Ecological Park in Chicago. They were hosted by representatives of the Department of Environment.

**Focus: Business**

Mayor Richard M. Daley's trade and investment trip to Mexico City was a success. The delegation met with the President of Mexico, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Commerce and Mayor Espinosa. The trip generated many exchange ideas.

**1998****Focus: Government**

An eagle monument was dedicated by former Mexico City mayor and current Minister of Tourism Oscar Espinosa Villareal and Mayor Richard M. Daley. It was unveiled at its permanent location in Pilsen.

**Focus: Government**

Newly elected Mexico City Mayor Cardenas led a delegation to Chicago.

**Focus: Culture**

A World in a Weekend featured Mexico City.

**1999****Focus: Education**

The Mexico City Committee donated refurbished computers to two schools in Mexico City.

**Focus: Medical & Social Service**

The Mexico City Committee facilitated a meeting between representatives of Mexico City's HIV/AIDs program and the Chicago Department of Public Health that resulted in an ongoing collaboration.

**Focus: Medical & Social Service**

The Mexico City Committee shipped refurbished medical equipment to Mexico City.

**Focus: Culture**

University of Chicago professor of Mexican history and author Dr. Frederick Katz gave a lecture on his book Poncho Villa, in conjunction with the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, the Mexican Fine Arts Museum, and the Mexican Consulate General.

**2000****Focus: Culture**

The Mexico City Committee hosted a celebration of the contribution of Mexican American culinary artists from some of Chicago's finest kitchens. The celebration, emceed by Rafael Romo of Channel 66/Univision, took place at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, where guests sampled the variety of specialties provided by five Mexican American chefs from some of Chicago's finest restaurants. The committee awarded a culinary scholarship for Mexican American students at Illinois Institute of Art.

**Focus: Culture**

The Mexico City Committee solicited artwork by Chicago children to be included in a children's art exhibition in Mexico City featuring artwork from Mexico City's sister cities.

**2002****September 26****Focus: Education**

Through the Sister Schools Abroad Program, Stone Elementary School submitted ten paintings to Sister Cities Student Art Exhibit at the "Papalote Museo del Nino" in Mexico City.

**2003****September 17****Focus: Culture**

In collaboration with the Mexican Passion Festival, a gala was held to kick-off the Mexican Market held at Daley Plaza September 22-24, 2003.

**September 22-24****Focus: Cultural**

A traditional Mexican Market was held at Daley Plaza

**2006****December 29****Focus: Social Service**

Kathleen Borland, Board Member Chicago Sister Cities International met with the Mexican Consul General Carlos M. Sada to discuss Social Service Exchange.

## **2007**

### **May 23**

#### **Focus: Business**

Samuel Podolsky, President of the Economic Council of Mexico City Competitiveness and Economic Development, visited Chicago to participate in the WiFi conference and begin strengthening the Chicago-Mexico City relationship. CSCIP also arranged for Podolsky to meet with officials from the National Museum of Mexican Art and CPS to discuss potential partnership in art, culture and education.

### **March 27**

#### **Focus: Business**

Alejandro Silva, Chair of the Mexico City Committee, met with Samuel Podolsky, President of the Economic Council of Mexico City Competitiveness and Economic Development, at the Industrial Club in Mexico City to discuss how to further the Chicago-Mexico City relationship. Prior to this, a meeting was held at Boeing headquarters to discuss goals and recommendations for Mr. Silva's trip.

### **September 15-29**

#### **Focus: Social Service**

Twelve Mexico City social work professionals attended a 2-week exchange. The Mexico City delegates visited several Chicagoland social service sites. Additionally they attended and presented at the statewide 3-day conference of the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter with over 500 Illinois Social Workers in attendance.

### **October**

#### **Focus: Education**

The principal from Ogden School, (Kenneth Staral) visited his Sister School in Mexico City taking the Sister School document to be signed by the Principal in Mexico City.

### **October 29-30**

#### **Focus: Business**

Joel Ortega Cuevas, Secretary of Public Security of Mexico City, and Jesús Villarreal Gallegos, Technical Coordinator of the Secretary, visited Chicago to access the city's emergency management, in efforts to implement a similar institution in Mexico City.

## **2008**

### **April**

#### **Focus: Education**

Licenciado Flores Suaste, principal of CCH-UNAM Plantel Sur, Mr. Luis R. Aguilar, assistant principal, and María Elena Ruíz, English Department Chairperson came to Chicago to meet with counterpart administrators at Roosevelt High School, Little Village High School and a visit to the UNAM Chicago Campus.

### **November**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Chicago Cultural Center displayed a Mexico City Day of the Dead Altar in honor of Dia de Los Muertos.

## **2009**

### **October 1-4**

#### **Focus: Medical**

Dr. Fernando Cordera from ABC Medical Center in Mexico City participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

#### **Focus: Government**

His Excellency Arturo Sarukhan, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States visited Chicago for meetings with city officials and business leaders.

#### **Focus: Education**

McKinley Park Elementary and Ogden School of International Studies have had an ongoing working partnership with Escuela Secundaria Annex, a la Normal Superior de Mexico focusing on teacher and student exchange as well as curriculum focused arts programs using technology infused curricular systems.

## **2010**

### **March 10**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Consulate General of Mexico in cooperation with The National Museum of Mexican Art and The Mexico City Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a Kick Off Reception for Mexico 2010, commemorating the Bicentennial of Mexico's Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution.

### **March 26**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Consulate General of Mexico in cooperation with The Mexico City Committee of Chicago Sister Cities and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra hosted a reception for Mexican Pianist Alondra de la Parra to inaugurate a series of concerts she would perform with the Chicago Sinfonietta.

### **April 26**

#### **Focus: Sister City Reaffirmation**

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard renewed their city-to-city partnership with a sister cities re-signing on April 26, 2010. Chicago and Mexico City have been sister cities since 1991. "This signing reaffirms our commitment to do even more. To reach across borders and create even stronger partnerships that will help our residents and our economy," said Mayor Daley at the signing ceremony. This sister cities re-signing was part of a series of celebrations commemorating the Year of Mexico in Chicago 2010.

### **November 20**

#### **Focus: Education**

The Mexico City Committee collaborates with Project META, a non for profit formed by a group of CPS teachers) to adopt a needy school in Puerto Vallarta Mexico and donates \$1,000 for purchase of school supplies.

## **2011**

### **February 8**

#### **Focus: Government**

CSCI staff visits Mexico City to meet with educators and government officials and cultural officials to establish new contacts and plan future projects dealing with education and a culinary exchange between Mexico City and Chicago.

### **March**

#### **Focus: Education**

ESANS visited Ogden International and Hancock High School.

### **October 6**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Mexico City Committee hosts a reception at the Cultural Center to welcome the more than 2,000 Mexican Marathon runners to Chicago.

### **October 9**

#### **Focus: Sports**

Mexico City Committee hosts a Marathon Cheering station at the Mexican Consulate (mile 13.5) to cheer on local and Mexican runners during the race.

### **October 19**

#### **Focus: Culinary**

Mexico City Committee hosts a fundraising dinner featuring top rated chefs from Mexico City and Chicago providing a total of 10 diverse tasting stations. The event was held in collaboration with Kendall College whose students provided a variety of dessert options.

## **2012**

### **September 23**

#### **Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Mexico City Committee co-sponsored a reception and awards ceremony for the Mexican Film Festival of the Americas at the Chicago Cultural Center. Attendees were served authentic Mexican delicacies and had a terrific opportunity to interact with actors and filmmakers.

### **October 4-7**

#### **Focus: Medical**

Dr. Rodrigo Arrangoiz from the ABC Medical Center Sociedad Quirurgica represented Mexico City and participated in the 14th Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

### **December 24**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Benjamin Kelner, Communications Manager of CSCI was featured on ABC 7 Chicago talking about Christmas traditions in some of Chicago's Sister Cities. A traditional Piñata was highlighted in the segment representing the culture and heritage of Mexico City.

## **2013**

### **August 5-9**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival transformed Daley Plaza into an international village filled with merchants, food, music, and dance from Chicago's 28 Sister Cities. Merchants E & J Designs and No Manches Clothing sold traditional and authentic Mexican merchandise representing the culture and heritage of Mexico City.

### **September 25-29**

#### **Focus: Medical**

The Chicago Sister Cities International Medical Initiative Program took place in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Cynthia Villarreal-Garza of Instituto Nacional de Cancerologia participated and represented Mexico City in the 2013 symposium.