



History of Exchange

Bogotá, Colombia Chicago's Sister City Since 2009

Co-Chairs: Marcelino Garcia and Ruben Ocampo

2009

April 28

Focus: Signing Agreement

Chicago signed 28th Sister City Agreement with Bogotá, Colombia, the city's first South American Sister City when the Honorable Samuel Moreno Rojas, Mayor of Bogotá visited Chicago in April 24-28, 2009.

October 1-4

Focus: Medical

Dr. Rafael Andrade from the Hospital Universitario Fundacion Santa Fe de Bogota participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

Focus: Government

His Excellency Francisco Santos Calderon, Vice President of Colombia visited Chicago.

2010

April 28

Focus: Education

The Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a breakfast in honor of Carlos José Herrera Jaramillo, Secretary of Education of Bogota, Colombia, at the AIA Chicago offices on Wacker Drive, in which the Secretary shared his experience in designing and implementing cultural and educational projects related to the peace process, multicultural coexistence and conflict resolution in Colombia to an intimate audience of 30 people.

July 20

Focus: Culture

The Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago in partnership with the Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, celebrated the Colombian Independence and Bicentennial on Tuesday, July 20th with a one-hour ceremony at Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion featuring presentations by American Baritone, Matt Carroll from the Chicago Lyric Opera House, Colombian-American Soprano, Kathryn Carroll, Colombian Classic Guitarist, Nilko Andreas, and Cuban-Brazilian Soprano, Angélica de la Riva. In attendance were several members of the Chicago Consular Corps, Bogota Committee Members, and the supporting community.

July 20 – October 4**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities international hosted a cultural contest that consisted of a web-based questionnaire with fun facts about the cities of Chicago and Bogota. The goal was for Chicagoans to get to know their Sister City of Bogota and make them aware of the new Sister City relationship. Each person who took the quiz was entered into a drawing to win various prizes, with the winners selected randomly on October 4.

August 23-27**Focus: Arts & Culture**

Bogota was represented at the 5th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival in Millennium Park, via Macondo Colombian Empanadas & Coffee as a food vendor, and via Grupo Cumbé as a performer.

October 25**Focus: Health, Arts & Culture**

On October 25, the Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago in conjunction with the Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a sponsorship “Thank You” reception in the 5th Floor Millennium Park Room of the Chicago Cultural Center, to close out the Bi-national Health Weeks and present the Cultural Contest winners with their prizes.

December 14**Focus: History, Culture**

On December 14, the Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago in conjunction with the Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a lecture in Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center, by Colombian Historian, Diana Uribe, in which she detailed the history of the Bicentennial and how all Latin American country histories are interconnected.

2011**June 5****Focus: Arts & Culture**

On June 5, 2011, the Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, in conjunction with the Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago and in collaboration with the Latino Cultural Institute of Chicago, held a public film screening of the Colombian film, El Paseo (The Trip) in the Chicago Cultural Center’s Claudia Cassidy Theater. There was a reception before the film with traditional Colombian appetizers provided by Las Tablas Restaurant. Funds raised via entrance fees went towards the costs associated with the July 20th Independence Day reception.

June 20**Focus: Government**

On June 20, 2011, the Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a private welcome reception for Sergio Jaramillo Caro, National Security Advisor to the President of Colombia, in the Chicago Cultural Center’s G.A.R. Rotunda. Mr. Jaramillo Caro is the recipient of the 2011 Gus Hart Fellowship awarded by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and was in Chicago for one week to interact with a range of Chicago-based business, civic and media professionals as part of the fellowship.

July 20**Focus: Arts & Culture**

On Wednesday, July 20, 2011, the Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, in conjunction with the Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago, hosted a public Colombian Independence Day reception in Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center. The buffet was provided by Las Tablas Colombian Restaurant and entertainment was provided by Monica Restrepo and Sensación Vallenata from New York City.

2012

April 3, 2012

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Bogota Committee sponsored an opening reception for the architecture exhibit titled, Colombia Transformed, at the Instituto Cervantes.

August 6-10

Focus: Culture

The 7th 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. Bogotá was represented by the excellent restaurant Las Tablas, who served Colombian delicacies to visitors all week long.

October 4-7

Focus: Medical

Dr. Mauricio Borrero from the University of Antioquia represented Bogotá and participated in the 14th Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

2013

August 5-9

Focus: Culture

The 8th 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. Food Vendor Las Tablas served traditional and authentic Colombian food and merchandise vendor Pally Crafts sold Colombian merchandise, both representing the culture and heritage of Bogota.

2014

April 25

The Bogota Committee of CSCI sponsored a performance and reading with featured poets Hugo Mujica and Piedad Bonnett, celebrating two momentous occasions one hundred years in the past: the publication of Carl Sandburg's "Chicago" in the March 1914 issue of Poetry, and the birth of Octavio Paz.

April 28

Focus: Culture

The Bogota Committee hosted a dinner with committee members at Las Tablas Colombian Restaurant to celebrate the 5-year anniversary of the sister city relationship between Chicago and Bogota.

May 30

The Bogota Committee of CSCI sponsored a presentation by Nancy Pulecio Velez, member of the Bogota Committee, on her new book, *The 4 Dimensions of Love*.

The 4 Dimensions of Love is a book that aims to facilitate people to reconnect with themselves through their own divine essence; to recognize how the mishandling of love can affect your health and overall life forever; and to obtain the management of their feelings to find their true inner happiness, with happiness of those around them.

June 25

Colombian restaurant and Bogota Committee favorite Las Tablas is hosted viewing parties throughout the World Cup.

July 20

Over 400 hundred guests celebrated Colombia's National Day with the Bogota Committee of CSCI, in partnership with the Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago at the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall. The event included a speaking program, cultural performances and food and beverage.

Sept 29 – Oct 3

The Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International joined forces with the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment in a trade mission to the International Fair of Bogota from September 29 to October 3, 2014. A total of 12 Illinois companies joined them on the trade mission.

2015**Feb 20**

Members of the Bogota Committee of CSCI met with Colombia's Minister of Culture, Mariana Garcés Córdoba, and Consul General of Colombia in Chicago, Bladimiro Cuello Daza, to discuss the importance of cultural ties between Chicago and Bogota and ways to collaborate in the future.

May 12

The Bogota Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International received a private tour of the Doris Salcedo exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA). This is the first retrospective of the Colombian artist, who resides and works in the city of Bogota. Salcedo's work is deeply rooted in her country's social and political landscape, including its long history of civil conflicts.

July 26

The Bogota Committee of CSCI, in partnership with the Consulate General of Colombia in Chicago, hosted a Colombia's Independence Day Celebration at the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall. The event included appetizers, a speaking program and cultural performances.

December 13

The Bogota and Mexico City Committees of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a pre-screening reception before the screening of the Chicago premiere of the documentary *Gabo: The Creation of Gabriel Garcia Márquez*.

2016**May 5****Focus: Health**

Beltone continued their commitment to "helping the world hear better" with a \$200,000 donation of hearing aids, software and training to the Colombian Institute of Audiology and Language (ICAL), a non-profit which promotes the education and rehabilitation of deaf and hearing impaired children aged 0 to 17 in Chicago's sister city of Bogota, Colombia and its neighboring city of Chía. The Bogota and Humanitarian Committees of CSCI worked together to secure the donation and identify ICAL as the recipient of the donation.

