



History of Exchange

Gothenburg, Sweden
Chicago's Sister City Since 1987

Chairs: Don Ahlm and Annette Seaburg

1987

March 8

Focus: Signing Agreement

Harold Washington, Mayor of Chicago and Lars-Åke Skager, Deputy Mayor of Gothenburg signed the sister cities agreement in Chicago 1987.

1988

Focus: Sports

The Chicago Bears visited Gothenburg and displayed American Football for the Swedish audience in 1988.

1991

Focus: Business

As a direct result of the 1991 Sister Cities International Conference, Chicago-based companies Waste Management, Inc. and Nalco traveled to Gothenburg in November 1991 for a three-day seminar to explore business opportunities in Sweden.

Focus: Education

University of Illinois at Chicago collaborated with Volvo Corporation, Gothenburg's largest company, to set up a co-op program to sponsor a student and faculty member to work in Sweden.

Focus: Education

The Gothenburg Committee promoted an exchange of gifts and congratulations between the University of Chicago and University of Gothenburg which celebrated their 100th anniversaries on the same day.

Focus: Environment

A delegation of city officials from Gothenburg, which included Deputy Mayor Lars-Åke Skager, attended the 1991 Sister Cities International Conference and led a pre-conference seminar on waste management and environmental technology.

Focus: Government

A contract was concluded with the City of Gothenburg to analyze Chicago's solid waste systems, heat distribution and low-income housing management.

1992**Focus: Government**

The Gothenburg Committee welcomed Lars- Åke Skager, Deputy Mayor of Gothenburg to Chicago and held a reception in his honor.

Focus: Education

The "Educating Cities" Conference was held in Gothenburg, where Jim Law, Director of Planning for the Department of Cultural Affairs, presented a paper and slide lecture on Gallery 37.

Focus: Government

Gothenburg continuously worked with the City of Chicago in developing the People Moving System, Gothenburg's mode of transportation.

Focus: Culture

A Gothenburg student's entry to the Chicago Sister Cities Young Artist Contest was displayed at the Daley Civic Center during the month of June.

Focus: Culture

The "New Chicago Architecture Exhibit," organized by the Chicago Athenaeum, opened in Gothenburg in April 1992.

Focus: Medical & Social Service

A noted geriatrician from the University of Gothenburg was placed on staff at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

1993**Focus: Government**

Gothenburg artist Denice Zetterquist participated in the 1993 O'Hare International Airport Mural Project commemorating the new international terminal.

Focus: Culture

"Sweden Next," a joint venture of the Gothenburg Committee, Chicago Athenaeum, Swedish American Museum and Swedish Consulate included exhibits and promotions such as Swedish glass at Nieman Marcus and Swedish food at Treasure Island.

1994

Focus: Government

King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden visited Chicago in October 1994. He attended the WEFTEC '94 Conference and Exposition at McCormick Place involving technical developments in water and waste-water processes. Mayor Richard M. Daley held a dinner in His Excellency's honor at the Chicago Cultural Center.

1995

Focus: Government

A business delegation from Gothenburg met with CTA officials to discuss ideas on public transportation.

1996

Focus: Education

Eric Erling, a television producer and animator from the Swedish Educational Broadcasting Co. came to the LaSalle Language Academy to train students in producing a video film documenting the 150th anniversary of the Swedish mass migration to the Midwest.

1997

Focus: Business

The Gothenburg Committee organized a procurement seminar for automotive supplies with executives.

1998

Focus: Business

The Gothenburg Committee assisted with Governor Edgar's trade mission to Sweden.

Focus: Education

The Gothenburg Committee Chair participated in "Principal for a Day" program.

Focus: Government

Mayor Linder and Gothenburg's Deputy Mayor visited Chicago.

Focus: Business

The Gothenburg Committee led a trade mission to Gothenburg and Stockholm, which focused on the automotive industry. A return trade mission to Chicago was planned for February 1999.

1999

Focus: Business

The Gothenburg Committee organized a seminar for representatives of the automotive industry to meet with representatives of Volvo-Sweden.

Focus: Culture

The Gothenburg Committee sponsored the Johan Stengard concert.

2000

Focus: Culture

The Gothenburg Committee sponsored the Lucia Singing Group's holiday performance at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Focus: Culture

The Gothenburg Committee sponsored Rilke Ensemble performers in a free concert at the Chicago Cultural Center. The ensemble composed of six women and six men delighted an audience of 100 with a live performance style that challenges traditional concert form. Several of the foremost composers of Scandinavia have dedicated pieces to the Rilke Ensemble. Among them were Åke Hermanson, Bo Holten, Anders Hultqvist, Sven-Eric Johanson, Arne Mellnäs, Per Nörgård and Sven-David Sandström.

Medical & Social Service

The Gothenburg Committee hosted the Mid-Winter Swedish Dentists' reception in conjunction with the annual ADA conference in Chicago.

2001

Focus: Culture

The Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra performed at Orchestra Hall.

Focus: Culture

An award winning Israeli and Swedish pianist duo gave a free performance at the Chicago Cultural Center.

October 27-31

Focus: Environment

The Chicago Sister Cities International Program organized an environmental services mission to Sweden, being that Gothenburg is one of the foremost leaders in environmental development. Mayor Richard M. Daley placed the environmental services industry among the City of Chicago's top economic development priorities. Chicago has established itself as a "green city" with ambitious projects such as the City Hall rooftop garden and the south side energy farm. The municipal exchange resulted in both a heightened awareness of environmental issues and an exchange of ideas on how to address them.

Focus: Culture

The Lucia Singers performed at the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, the Drake Hotel, and the Swedish American Museum's Christmas Bazaar, as well as Rockford at the Illinois Lucia Pageant.

2002

February 21 -23

Focus: Medicine

A dental technology conference was held in Chicago. A reception for Swedish attendees was hosted by the committee.

2008

March 10-19

Focus: Education

A group of twelve educators and students from Gothenburg, Sweden's District of Torslanda were in Chicago. While in Chicago, the group was involved with a music exchange with Ogden Elementary School and an informational session on the Swedish School System at Volta Elementary School. They also visited the Art Institute of Chicago, Shedd Aquarium, Swedish American Museum, St. Patrick's Day Parade and other Chicago attractions.

2009

January

Focus: Education

Roger Ted Johnson, Principal Volta Elementary and teachers from the same school visited counterparts in Gothenburg.

2010

March 19

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Swedish American Museum of Chicago and the Gothenburg Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International held the opening of the "Sweden Through My Glasses" exhibit.

May 26

Focus: Leadership

Agneta Rosenberg of Chicago was officially appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley as the chair of the Gothenburg Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International.

June 27-30

Focus: Government & Business

Anneli Hulthén, Mayor and Chairman of the Executive Board of the City of Gothenburg, visited Chicago along with Gerda Roupe, International Officer of the City of Gothenburg and Camilla Nyman, Director Business Development and International Collaboration of Göteborg & Co to

meet with Mayor Richard M. Daley, City officials and business leaders. The Gothenburg Committee hosted a welcome reception at the Swedish American Museum.

November

Focus: Environment

The Gothenburg Committee of Chicago Sister Cities in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden, the Consulate General of Sweden in Chicago, the Swedish Trade Council in Chicago and the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in Chicago co-hosted a Green building conference including a Swedish-American discussion panel.

2011

April

Focus: Culinary

The delegation of the Gothenburg Restaurants Association visited Chicago to discuss the *Delice* network membership and to develop culinary cooperation projects between Gothenburg and Chicago. The Gothenburg Committee and The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce Chicago co-hosted the presentation of the Business of Gourmet Cities. The Gothenburg Committee also facilitated various working meetings with the City and the Swedish-American community.

May 4-11

Focus: Education

A group of students from Svartedalskolan, an elementary school in Gothenburg visited Chicago and was hosted by Alessandro Volta Elementary. The program was facilitated by the Gothenburg Committee and is part of an ongoing school exchange. The visiting group of students performed at the various locations, engaged in educational programs and various cultural activities.

May 5-9

Focus: Government

The Gothenburg committee hosted Lars-Göran Larsson, Head of International Relations, City of Gothenburg and Gerda Roupe, International Relations Officer, City of Gothenburg, along with staff of the Gothenburg Emigrant Museum, who visited Chicago for meetings with Chicago Sister Cities International, Chicago Restaurants Association, Swedish American Museum, and local community representatives.

October

Focus: Medical

The 13th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Niklas Palm from Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg participated and represented Gothenburg in the 2011 symposium.

2012

March 8

Focus: Celebration

The Gothenburg Committee hosted a cocktail reception in celebration of Chicago's and Gothenburg's 25th anniversary as Sister Cities at Maxim's: The Nancy Goldberg International Center. Memories from the past and future projects were discussed over a smorgasbord of Swedish delicacies.

June 5

Focus: Celebration

The Gothenburg Committee co-sponsored a ceremony to honor the Swedish diplomat and humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg for his courage and actions that saved thousands of Jewish lives in Hungary 1944.

The one-hour ceremony featured a beautiful flag raising ceremony, greeting from Honorary Consul General Ulf Anvin, and traditional summer songs by Swedish choir Merula at Daley Plaza.

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. Nordic Folk Dancers of Chicago performed traditional and beautiful dance representing the culture and heritage of Gothenburg.

September 9-12

Focus: Government

Anneli Hulthén, Mayor and Chairman of the Executive Board of the City of Gothenburg, visited Chicago accompanied by Lars-Göran Larsson, Director of International Relations of the City of Gothenburg, and Stephanie Toro, International Relations Officer of the City of Gothenburg to further strengthened the ties between the cities and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary.

September 10

Focus: Culinary & Education

The Gothenburg Committee co-hosted Taste of Chicago Sister Cities: Gothenburg with Kendall College. Michelin starred Swedish Chef Håkan Thörnström flew in from Gothenburg to create an epic 5-course meal in cooperation with students from the culinary school. Lars-Åke Skager, former Deputy Mayor of Gothenburg attended and shared stories from the original signing agreement 25 years ago.

November 10

Focus: Recognition

At the Swedish American Museum's Gold Ball, Annette Seaberg, member of the Gothenburg Committee of CSCI, was given the Order of the Polar Star. Awarded by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, the Order of the Polar Star is a Swedish order of chivalry created by King Frederick I of Sweden in 1748 and is given to those individuals who have shown exemplary service to Sweden.

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. Traditional Swedish Glögg and Tomtar were highlighted in the segment representing the culture and heritage of Gothenburg, Sweden.

2013**May 2****Focus: Recognition**

Gothenburg Committee member Kerstin Lane was named as an Outstanding Community Leader at the 4th Annual MOSAIC Fundraiser benefiting the Chicago Cultural Alliance (CCA).

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. Performer Nordic Folk Dancers of Chicago performed traditional and authentic Swedish dance representing the culture and heritage of Gothenburg.

June 27**Focus: Delegation**

The Gothenburg Committee of CSCI held a meeting with Anna Ljungdell, Mayor of Nynäshamn, Sweden as part of a trip across the U.S. that also took her to Washington D.C., Cleveland, Chattanooga and New York. While in Chicago, Mayor Ljungdell met with the Gothenburg Committee of CSCI, World Business Chicago, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, the DuSable Museum and other Chicago leaders.

September 25**Focus: Culinary**

The Gothenburg Committee of CSCI hosted a reception at the Swedish American Museum for a delegation from Gothenburg in Chicago for the annual meeting of the Delice Network and Chicago Gourmet. In particular, they hosted Thomas Sjögren, chef at Swedish Taste in Gothenburg; Camilla Claesson Karlsson, assistant restaurant manager at Gothenburg's Fond; Stefan Karlsson, chef at the Michelin-starred Fond; Camilla Nyman, president of Göteborg & Co.; Bengt Linde, chairman of the Gothenburg Restaurant Association; and other talents from both Sweden and Chicago's restaurant scene.

September 29**Focus: Culinary**

Chef Stefan Karlsson of the Michelin-starred Gothenburg restaurant Fond partnered with Chef Homaro Cantu of Moto/iNG Restaurant to present tastings at Chicago Gourmet's Grand Cru and lead a live cooking demonstration.

October 7-11

Focus: Delegation

Lars-Göran Larsson, Director of International Relations of the City of Gothenburg visited Chicago to learn about security and safety issues in schools. He also attended the 2013 National Refugee and Immigration Conference.

2014

The Gothenburg Committee and the Principal Ted Johnson of Alessandro Volta Elementary School hosted 9 students and 4 teachers from Svartedalsskolan, Gothenburg. This exchange has been ongoing and successful for several years. The students from Gothenburg performed traditional Swedish songs for the Chicago students and held sold-out performances at Mosaic, Chicago Cultural Alliance fundraiser and at the Swedish American Museum.

May 19-23

Focus: Sustainability

Pernilla Rydeving, Chief Sustainability Officer and Yvonne Wennerstrom, International Officer visited Chicago to attend and present at GreenTown Chicago. They also met with Aaron Joseph, Sustainability Officer, City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, and toured charter school Academy of Global Citizenship.

May 4-10

Focus: Education

Nine students and four teachers from Svartedalsskolan in Gothenburg, Sweden visited Alessandro Volta Elementary School from May 3-10. The program was facilitated by the Gothenburg Committee of CSCI and is part of an ongoing school exchange.

The visiting group of students performed at the various locations, engaged in educational programs and various cultural activities. In addition, Principal Lena Naperotti of Svartedalsskolan in Gothenburg participated in meetings regarding crime prevention and school violence.

May 9

Focus: Culture

The Gothenburg Committee of CSCI presented a special evening on May 9 at the Swedish American Museum with music by teachers and students from Svartedalsskolan, located outside of Gothenburg, Sweden. The students performed traditional Swedish spring songs. There also was a brief presentation about a new musical "The Dream of a Better Life" by Roger Bodin, director of Emigranternas Hus (the House of Emigrants) in Gothenburg, followed by a performance of selections from the musical.

"The Dream of a Better Life" is about a couple who emigrated in 1927 by boat from Gothenburg to New York and came to Chicago. Musically, it's Swedish folk music meets American jazz and blues. It was created by the Emigrants' House in Gothenburg, the group Wavemakers and the Charles Unger Experience.

The musical will be performed when Gothenburg celebrates 400 years in 2021. This is will be the first time portions of the musical will be performed in the United States. This event was cohosted with the Swedish American Museum.

May 19-23

Focus: Sustainability

As the first ever international participant, Pernilla Rydeving, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Gothenburg was invited to speak at GreenTown Chicago on Thursday, May 22, 2014. During this session, representatives from the Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden and the City of Gothenburg discussed the innovative Swedish SymbioCity sustainability planning approach, which provides a conceptual framework to sustainable urban development, along with case study examples from Gothenburg of how the approach has been successfully applied.

GreenTown brings together the public sector and the private sector to connect the dots, to inspire and to work together to remake our communities. From healthy living to local food, energy to green infrastructure, water to outdoor space, GreenTown helps make the healthy choice the easy choice.

Yvonne Wennerström, International Officer, City of Gothenburg was part of the delegation and she met with Jenny Cizner, Director of Strategic International Initiatives, City of Chicago, Lesli Fowler, Director of Nutrition Support Services, Chicago Public Schools, Aaron Joseph, Deputy Sustainability Officer, City of Chicago, Anne Gillespie, Principal, Academy for Global Citizenship and Ted Johnson, Principal, Volta Elementary School.

October 9- 12

Focus: Medical

The Chicago Sister Cities International Medical Initiative Program took place in conjunction with the 16th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Anna-Karin Tzikas, Sahlgrenska University Hospital participated and represented Gothenburg in the 2014 symposium.

Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium
Anna-Karin Tzikas, Sahlgrenska Sjukhuset

October 10

Focus: Tourism

Swedish Runners Reception
139 Swedish Runners

2015

2016

February 25**Focus: Co-Chairs**

The Advisory Board of Chicago Sister Cities International approved a resolution to require each sister city committee to have two individuals serve as co-chairs. Annette Seaburg became the Co-Chair of the Gothenburg Committee.

May 14

Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a Eurovision Song Contest viewing party at Old Crow Smokehouse. Since 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest has been one of Europe's most popular television programs and one of television's longest running music shows. Over 200 people came to cheer on their country.