



History of Exchange

Mexico City, Mexico

Chicago's Sister City Since 1991

Co-Chair: Alejandro Silva

Co-Chair: Adriana Escarcega

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

May 16

Focus: Education & Culture

There was a lecture and discussion of Mexico's growth and commitment to social development as it competes in the global economy, entitled: Mexico City: Mexico Rising.

May 29

Focus: Education & Culture

The Mexico City Committee of CSCI sponsored the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' program "Mexico on the Rise" with His Excellency Eduardo Medina Mora Icaza, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States at the Chicago Club.

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. 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 15th 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 Cancerología participated and represented Mexico City in the 2013 symposium.

November

Focus: Economic Development and Tourism

In November of 2013, Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago and Miguel Angel Mancera, Mayor of Mexico City, signed an economic partnership Memorandum of Understanding. And in May of 2014, Don Welsh, President and CEO of Choose Chicago and Miguel Torruco Marqués, Secretary of Tourism for Mexico City, signed a tourism Memorandum of Understanding.

2014

May

Focus: Economic Development

In May of 2014, the Mexico City Committee worked alongside World Business Chicago and the Brookings Institute on the planning and execution of a 4-day, 50-person delegation visit, led by Salomón Chertorivski Woldenberg, Secretary of Economic Development for Mexico City. The Mexico City Committee hosted a welcome reception for the delegation and local Chicago counterparts on the Pritzker Pavilion Stage of Millennium Park.

May 9

Focus: Government

The Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago hosted a reception in honor of the cities of the consular district who have sister cities agreements with cities in Mexico.

Aiming to recognize the importance that the Sister Cities Program has in the bilateral relationship, Consul General Carlos Jimenez Macias reaffirmed the importance of the work being done to expand and strengthen relations between the two countries and across sister cities.

2015

June 10

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Mexico City and Prague Committees of Chicago Sister Cities International, the City of Prague, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic, and the Consulate General of Mexico kicked off the Prague Days Chicago with a celebration of the history and heritage of Pilsen from its Czech origins to its largely Latino present. People enjoyed music and art from Prague and from the local community, discovered the neighborhood's past through the eyes of its early residents, and experienced the vibrant cultural life that continues to define Pilsen today.

June 18

Focus: Award

Award recognizes Global Cities Economic Partnership between Chicago and Mexico City. Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) has been awarded Sister Cities International's 2015 Innovation Award for Economic Development for a city with a population greater than 500,000. The 2015 Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Economic Development recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. The award will be presented during a special ceremony on Saturday, July 18, 2015 during Sister Cities International's 59th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

October 11

In celebration of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, the Gothenburg, Hamburg, Osaka, Paris and Vilnius Committees of Chicago Sister Cities International joined with international organizations and foreign consulates to cheer on and celebrate international runners at points along the marathon route. The Birmingham, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Mexico City and Paris Committees also hosted welcome receptions for runners from the respective countries they represent.

December 13

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Bogota and Mexico City Committees of CSCI hosted a pre-screening reception and screening of the Chicago premier of the documentary *Gabo: The Creation of Gabriel Garcia Márquez*.

2016

February 10

Focus: Anniversaries

Chicago City Council passed resolutions to mark the anniversaries of four of Chicago's sister city relationships: 25 years with Kyiv, Ukraine; Mexico City, Mexico; and Toronto, Canada; and 20 years with Paris, France. The resolutions were presented to the Honorable Larisa Gerasko, Consul General of Ukraine; the Honorable Carlos Martín Jiménez Macías, Consul General of the United Mexican States; the Honorable Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada; and the Honorable Vincent Floreani, Consul General

of the French Republic. Mayor Rahm Emanuel was present to congratulate the Consuls General and the respective sister city committees chairs.

February 25

Focus: Co-chairs

The Advisory Board of Chicago Sister Cities International approved a resolution to require each of our sister city committees to have two individuals serve as co-chairs. Adriana Seaburg is now the co-chair of the Mexico City Committee.